

## ID Cards And Security

Retired New York City policeman Bruce DeCell **gained entry** to the headquarters of the US Homeland Security Agency, using an ID card which:

- was forged;
- would not entitle him to entry even if it was real;
- cost him \$20 in a California street.

Mr De Cell's experiment illustrated that a security system is only as strong as its weakest link. The British government should take note. If just one criminal finds a way of faking ID cards – through some combination of forgery, hacking of government computers, suborning of one of the tens of thousands of new employees who will be running the system, and so on – then the ID card system will fail. If British police, borders and security services fail to institute systems of checking the cards that are both secure and workable, or if some of them are too lazy to follow those systems scrupulously, then the ID card system will fail.

In fact, the only things that ID cards are guaranteed to do is damage civil liberties by branding all British citizens as suspects and allowing for many new forms of petty bureaucratic oppression, divert the effort and attention of the security services towards ordinary citizens and away from terrorists, cause massive inconvenience, and cost a very large fortune.

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## What Would You Recommend?

Portable iris scanners?

by a reader on Thu, 06/15/2006 - 21:42 | [reply](#)

## Recommendation

I would recommend looking for people who **act like terrorists**.

by [Alan Forrester](#) on Thu, 09/21/2006 - 21:38 | [reply](#)

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