

PRIVACY HORIZONS: TERRA INCOGNITA

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LES HORIZONS DE LA PROTECTION DE LA VIE PRIVÉE : TERRA INCOGNITA

29^e Conférence internationale des commissaires
à la protection des données et de la vie privée

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RFID – A Brief Overview

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What Is RFID ?

- Radio Frequency IDentification
- Can be used to identify items using radio waves
- Applications that you might have experienced so far: Premise Access, Highway Tolling
- Applications being worked on: Inventory Control, Asset Management

Key Issues

- Passive RFID tags can be interrogated without the knowledge of tag holders
- Technically, communication between the tag and the reader is not secured
 - Passive tags limitations
 - Uniqueness of RFID technology
- Diversity of RFID applications
- Existing policy that deals with end user privacy issues need to be updated

Why Should We Care?

- Applications of RFID are evolving at a rapid pace
- Encounters with the use of RFID in multiple applications are increasing
- An educated and calculated approach needs to be undertaken to design policies that would govern the use of RFID for the betterment of society

McMaster RFID Applications Lab

- Founded in 2006 to provide holistic research into RFID Applications
- Active interest in look at further technology research while addressing privacy issues by recommending policy changes as needed
- Involved with industry projects in Transportation & Retail (Case & Pallet level)

Is It All Bad?

- Are all the applications invasive?
- There are beneficial applications of RFID
 - Premise Access
 - Pandemic Planning (Policy environment needs to be updated)
 - Inventory/Asset Management (End user education and notification paramount)
- However, privacy issues can be real and need to be proactively addressed

Thanks