



Homeland  
Security

# Fact Sheet

## Upgrade to 10-Fingerprint Collection

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has upgraded from collecting two digital fingerprints to collecting 10 fingerprints from international travelers to the United States. This upgrade is one of the department's top priorities because it furthers DHS's ability to keep dangerous people out of the United States, while making legitimate travel more efficient.

On November 29, 2007, DHS began deploying new, faster 10-fingerprint scanners to U.S. ports of entry to more accurately and efficiently identify international travelers. As of December 31, 2008, the new fingerprint scanners are being used at all major U.S. ports of entry, and most travelers who experience US-VISIT procedures will use the new fingerprint scanners when they enter the



US-VISIT's innovative biometric technology enables officers to efficiently verify that international travelers are who they say they are and do not pose a threat to the United States.

United States. The Department of State (State) uses 10-fingerprint scanners at its visa-issuing posts, as well.



The transition to 10-fingerprint collection is being led by DHS's US-VISIT program. US-VISIT provides biometric identification and analysis services to federal, state and local agencies. The most visible part of the program is the collection of biometrics—digital fingerprints and photographs—from international travelers to the United States. This data is checked against information about known or suspected terrorists, immigration violators and criminals and helps facilitate legitimate travel, protect travelers against identity theft, prevent fraudulent document use, and keep our visitors and citizens safe from harm.

For more information on US-VISIT, please go to [www.dhs.gov/us-visit](http://www.dhs.gov/us-visit).

U.S. Department of Homeland Security officers use digital fingerprint scanners to collect up to 10 fingerprints from international travelers in order to identify them efficiently during the entry process.