

## **Radio Frequency Identification The “RFID” Chip**

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Radio Frequency Identification is a new technology based on a tracking system that is rapidly spreading. This new technology is definitely amazing, but how is our individual privacy protected? This is the question amongst many Americans.

Some businesses are jumping on this new technology to keep track of products. One particular company, Marks & Spencer, have extended the use of RFID chips in their stores. Marks & Spencer claim that this particular technology will help them stay accurate with inventory. They state that the chip will be placed in the removable price tags on their clothing. Although, I feel this may be a good thing for the store, I am also concerned about the consumer. What I wonder is can these particular chips be used as a stalking device? Can someone use this technology to trace a particular individual? They say they are placing the chip in the removable price tag, but what if that changes to where the chip is actually embedded into the fibers of the clothing? If the wrong individual finds a way to use this technology for stalking purposes, will they have enough time to track someone to their home, before the tag is removed? Will the tag be removed before the purchased product leaves the store?

Source: <http://www.news.com/>

[http://news.com.com/2102-1008\\_3-6135347.html?tag=st.util.print](http://news.com.com/2102-1008_3-6135347.html?tag=st.util.print)

When I say this new technology is rapidly spreading, I mean it! Homeland Security is also taking advantage of the RFID chip. They are now constructing new

digital passports which include an RFID chip that holds all the users information. All the countries that participate in the VISA program are changing from original passports to the new digital passports. I am happy with the idea that this will help more so in keeping terrorists out of our country, but how easily will it be for the wrong person to use this technology to know everything about me? Can somebody use this idea to steal my identity or stalk me?

Source: <http://www.news.com/>

[http://news.com.com/2102-7348\\_3-6130016.html?tag=st.util.print](http://news.com.com/2102-7348_3-6130016.html?tag=st.util.print)

Let's go a little further. The RFID chips are also being placed in credit cards without the consumer's knowledge. CASPIAN (Consumers Against Supermarket Privacy Invasion and Numbering) are warning people to get them replaced because some are easy to trace. This definitely has me concerned. They are saying that your card can be easily scanned through a purse or wallet with a device that cost as little as \$50 to assemble. How far is this going to go? I wonder if this so called chip will be required in the future for all things and whether or not we will have the right to choose not to use them.

Source: <http://www.spsychips.com/press-releases/flawed-credit-card-security.html>