

## **RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION TAGS: THEIR IMPACT IN TODAY'S WORLD**

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New applications for RFID (radio frequency identification) tags are emerging in many industries. At first, tracking of inanimate items in the supply chain was sought to help decrease business costs, initially relating largely to inventory. In general, asset tracking with RFID tagging became the goal. Then RFID moved to tagging living creatures, namely animals that can also be regarded as assets. Some applications have now made the transition to people and with this their personal information became involved.

The facts and implications in the application of RFID tagging especially in the human arena are presented in this session. Discussion will include medical, employer, government, and people applications along with privacy concerns. The new e-passports and border program are explained, along with their advantages and disadvantages. Examples of failed RFID applications are also included.

Legislation is already appearing in many states regarding RFID usage. Knowing about the pros and cons of this technology can aid one in knowing how to respond to legislators on the issue. Some applications come with an option to choose RFID or not. Again, information helps one know what to do.

Over the next decade, RFID applications will surely become a more integral part of business processes, and this will by default invade the human sphere. Being informed about this technology, its implications, privacy concerns, and its potential is a must to make informed decisions about RFID for both business and personal applications.

This workshop session is for all those who want to have a clearer understanding of the applications and implications for RFID tags in today's world. It will also provide an overview of the privacy and security concerns that surround their usage.