



## **Hand Scanning and your Privacy**

To whom it may concern:

This is in response to your inquiry concerning privacy. Hand geometry records the three dimensional shape of the hand using infrared light and optics. The devices do not scan surface details such as lines, fingerprints or color. **Hand geometry technology is not used for personal identification.** It is only used for verification. A hand scanner maintains a nine-byte template in its memory resident database for one-on-one comparison to a hand placed on the scanning platen. A template cannot be used to identify the user, even when compared to other templates, therefore rights to privacy are not violated. Templates can be stored on computer disks or other media, but they are useless without a one-on-one comparison to an actual hand. Because hand geometry templates are a result of a mathematical algorithm they are not suitable for use in litigation as evidence.

We have approximately over 20,000 units in the field since 1986 and have not been named or even threatened in any privacy or safety litigation. International travelers, hospitals, day care centers, athletic clubs and airports use our scanners. During the 1996 Olympic games, our hand scanners recorded over a million transactions by 65,000 athletes, coaches and volunteers from around the world. At LL Bean, Inc., over 3000 telephone operators use our scanners to gain entry to the facility. 5000 students at the University of Georgia use our scanners three times a day. A thousand Hewlett Packard Inc. employees use a hand scanner to gain access to the company's athletic facilities. All of these applications, and many more, function daily without a single privacy challenge. I have attached a partial list of our customers and two nearby users for your reference. If you have further questions concerning this matter, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

**Recognition Systems Management**

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