



# DMV – The Gateway to Identities Misuse

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The Department of Motor Vehicles, or The Registry of Motor Vehicles, or The Bureau of Motor Vehicles, regardless of the naming convention of a state's agency overseeing vehicle registrations and licensing, the job is difficult and important. This is a challenging responsibility in any state with varied laws and enforcement, in addition to changing rules and added responsibilities to support other agencies. Overseeing and enforcing driver testing, license issuance, vehicle registration, and suspensions and revocation. Now add in the new requirements such as the licensing of illegal aliens, the constant demand to cut costs, labor, and reduce waiting time; the pressure is enormous.

Of all of the responsibilities tied to a DMV the most important is the **verification and authentication of an individual's identity** when issuing a license. Why is this so important? Well, did you know that 18 of the 19 9/11 terrorists held a total of 35 legitimate US driver's licenses in the names of others, and the licenses were issued by five different states? These licenses allowed the hijackers to avoid the terrorist watch list, and board the planes on that fateful day.

A driver's license enables the holder a variety of privileges by linking the displayed "identity" – name, address, and DOB - in conjunction with the picture on that license. A license is used to verify age, driving privileges, travel abilities, and can be used to obtain documents such as passports, birth certificates, SS Cards. Additionally, licenses are also legitimate forms of identification used to create bank accounts, obtaining student loans, buy property and/or vehicles, order credit cards, and even file for government benefits. Therefore, issuing a license with the picture of one person and the identity of another person is the golden ticket to identity theft, and is a basic building block to downstream fraud and deception.

Why would an individual pose as someone else, or why would an individual try and obtain a second license? There are a variety of reasons; a few are listed below:

- ❁ **The desire to travel, but maybe on a national or terrorist watch list, thus going undetected at the airport.**
- ❁ **To gain government benefits such as unemployment, food stamps, housing, etc.**
- ❁ **To evade law enforcement when a warrant is issued on ones' real identity.**
- ❁ **Helping illegal aliens to stay in the US under a false identity and to drive and travel.**
- ❁ **To buy or obtain a car, truck, or property under another name, for criminal intent.**
- ❁ **Rental of a property as a drug drop house.**
- ❁ **Enable driving while faced with a suspended or revoked license**
- ❁ **A commercial license holder that wants a backup license in case of DUI or tickets, thus protecting his livelihood.**
- ❁ **Commit drug offenses or trade as a drug dealer under the radar (**Opioid Crisis**)**
- ❁ **Enabling underage drinking.**
- ❁ **Voter fraud**

As stated above, there are a number of reasons for an individual to desire a second or even a third license under another identity, and all of them are illegal. Through this activity criminals and terrorists can move about with anonymity, thus cloaking their plans and

efforts via someone else's identity and helping them to defraud and or harm US citizens. The challenge facing licensing agencies is that they are tasked with determining identities often with incomplete, inaccurate, and misleading information. Here are some of the challenges that they face:

### **Self-Reported Information**

Who are you and where do you live? This is generally the first question asked when applying for a license or state government ID. This information is submitted and substantiated by a birth certificate for identity, or a license from another state, or perhaps a passport. The address is substantiated by a recent bill to the address in the applicant's name or a lease or title on an apartment or home. Most of these documents can be easily created or modified to reflect fraudulent information.

### **Dynamic Identities/Synthetic Identities**

Identities change over time. Names can change, but addresses change much more frequently. The US Census Bureau reports that 14.1% of the US population, or 44,200,000 people moving every year. Therefore, the ability to obtain a duplicate license using a dynamic identity increases dramatically. In addition, your SSN even though very unlikely to change, it can be accidentally or deliberately modified to appear as someone else. DMV see the applicant as a static identity. Elizabeth Smith gets married and moves to a new address while simultaneously changing her name to Beth Jones. Beth now lives in another state and gets a second license while holding a license in the first state. While applying for the second license she changes one digit on her SSN. If the new state does not check via the SSA's **Social Security Online Verification (SSOLV)** system, she will have a new legitimate license under a synthetic identity.

### **Boundary Blindness**

States only know what happens within their state. In other words, a state has information on the citizens within its own borders. As soon as a new citizen appears, there is no historical information, within the state's database regarding this new entrant. They may have a license from the previous state, which is usually not checked but taken as legitimate information. Thus, there is not a consistent system of checks and balances.

Even more challenging are the new laws requiring states to give licenses to illegal aliens. Documentation to confirm identities may come from a foreign country, which cannot be verified. In addition, if they just arrived, they may not be able to verify an address. Thus, the new license will ONLY verify that the person in the picture has passed the testing and is allowed to drive.

### **Internal Threats**

**Virtually every state has had rogue employees** that have gone into business for themselves at the cost of the general public. In most cases, it is the creation of a real license containing false identification information, sold to criminals and illegal aliens that are truly the largest threat. Other forms of employee enrichment schemes include helping the applicant to cheat on the exams or the driver's test, filling out the application for them with a current driver's information with slight modifications to the SNN, or arranging to be at certain DMV counter to just accept any application from specific people who have paid a "fee" in advance to the DMV employee.

## **Enablement**

Licenses issued under a false identity result in criminal enablement. These false documents become the building blocks of downstream crimes, enabling the holder to work without fear of consequences. Legal ramifications will be left to the innocent victim. Below are some examples of crimes within Homeland security, social services, and public safety.

## **Homeland Security**

Now knowing that 18 of the 19 9/11 terrorists held multiple legitimate licenses with names of innocent US citizens, issued by multiple DMV, we essentially enabled these criminals to access our vital transportation system and exposed our citizens to harm.

A 2012 GAO report studied the current methods of surrendering a current license from one state and obtaining a new license from a second state. The GAO had fraudulently licenses created and used them to obtain new licenses in a second state. It was determined that all three states accepted, and never checked the validity of the surrendered licenses. Thus, they traded a fake for a real license and allowed the fake identity to pass onto the new license along with the photo of the imposter. The GAO went on to say that this is a significant flaw in the cross-border system, **but that it will not be fixed unit 2023.**

- ***In November 2012, foreign student Khalid Ali-M Aldawsari was convicted in Texas for attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction. Aldawsari planned to attack nuclear power plants, reservoirs, dams, and New York City streets during rush hour. His "important steps" included obtaining a forged U.S. birth certificate to apply for a U.S. Passport and then obtain multiple valid drivers' licenses. Aldawsari lacked only a single chemical to complete his explosives before he was arrested by the FBI.***

## **Social Services**

Social Services include numerous benefits programs, the majority of which only require a simple check of a license or a license number as "proof" of residency. A license becomes that Golden Ticket which is assumed to be a) legitimate, b) accurate, and c) assures residency. Here are some of the programs that a fictitious license will help the holder to defraud; Unemployment, Food Stamps (SNAP), Women, Infants and Children (WIC), Public Housing, Welfare, Social Security, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, Medicare, Worker's Compensation, and Veterans Benefits. All of these programs give out benefits to the assumed resident, and all are assumed to be the people on the license. We have collected hundreds of articles, many of which can be found on [www.fraudoftheday.com](http://www.fraudoftheday.com), that highlight the theft and deception in order to defraud programs, while quietly mentioning the use of a fraudulent license for eligibility determination.

August 25, 2013

**'Jane Doe' used stolen SS number to rent multiple apartments.**

***Francheska Vega-Collazo lives in Morovis, Puerto Rico, and has never been to Massachusetts or even the continental United States. She was surprised to find out that her Social Security number was used to rent apartments in Methuen, Lawrence, and Chelsea. The woman who rented them in Vega-Collazo's name identified herself as Franchezka Vega, 24 — spelling her first name with a "z" instead of an a's" and dropping the second half of the hyphenated last name.***

***"Vega" is now in federal custody facing charges of identity theft and misuse of a Social Security number.***

***In what has become an all too familiar pattern, authorities say, the apartments were likely rented using stolen identification for purposes of drug trafficking. While identity theft is widespread across the country, the theft or sale of Puerto Rican birth certificates, Social Security numbers, and other identification is soaring. Because Puerto Ricans are American citizens, such identification can be used to more easily obtain entry to the United States and to obtain driver's licenses, welfare benefits, tax refunds, mortgages and more.***

**Public Safety**

The most basic element of becoming licensed to operate a vehicle is that the applicant has taken and passed both the written and physical driving test. Illegally procured licenses placed in the hands of illegal aliens and criminals create a true hazard to public safety, as they do not possess the necessary skills or knowledge to drive safely. The avoidance of a license suspension or revocation through the use of a secondary license again puts the public at risk. Another problem is the issue of underage drinking and driving. Usually, the outcry on this issue takes place after a deadly accident involving a teen that has been drinking with the help of a fake ID. Lastly, criminals use fictitious licenses to hide their identities, thus avoiding arrest. Therefore, enabling the nefarious activity to continue.

***"Counterfeit documents pose serious vulnerabilities that often contribute to other crimes"***

*Former DMV Senior Motor Vehicle Technician Alfonso Casarez, 51, of Fresno, has been sentenced to five years and one month in prison for his involvement in conspiracies to sell official California drivers' licenses to ineligible individuals.*

*Mr. Casarez electronically altered DMV records to reflect that applicants for "Class C" or "Class A" commercial licenses had passed required written and behind-the-wheel tests when in fact they had not passed those tests, prosecutors said.*

*But based on the information that he entered into the DMV records, the DMV issued official California drivers' licenses to the applicants.*

*His sister, Rosemary Fierros, passed information and money from the applicants to him for the licenses. She was convicted of the scheme and was sentenced to four years in prison. Other co-conspirators recruited individuals to apply for the fraudulently issued driver's licenses.*

*"We depend on the honesty of public employees to apply the laws that are designed to keep our roads and highways safe," says U.S. Attorney Benjamin Wagner stated.*

*"This sentence should serve as a wake-up call to any public official who thinks nothing of jeopardizing public safety and security in order to feed his or her own greed," adds Mike Prado, resident agent in charge for Homeland Security Investigations, Fresno. **"Counterfeit documents pose serious vulnerabilities that often contribute to other crimes, such as identity theft and financial fraud."***

## **Solving the problem – What can be done?**

Most DMVs utilize the Social Security Administration's Social Security Number, as the recognized identifier for US citizens and legal aliens. The SSN ties an individual's name, DOB, and place of birth together to create an identity that is supposed to be unique. Over the last ten years, theft and misuse of SSN's have become commonplace and the uniqueness of the SSN is no longer valid. Identity fraud is the basis for the majority of crimes being perpetrated against government programs through the misuse of stolen SSNs. SSNs and critical identification information have become easy to obtain from schools, medical facilities, athletic departments, and places of business.

In addition, modified identities or synthetic identities have also become common. A synthetic identity is one where some of the identity information is modified allowing the new identity to look like another person, thus creating difficulty in resolving identities. Getting a license for a synthetic identity creates serious issues: who is the real party, where do they live, how can authorities contact them?

CommSmart Global Group's Risk Solutions Partner, LexisNexis (LN) tracks 585 million unique identities in the US. In addition to most of the current citizens, this also includes the deceased, incarcerated, and foreign nationals. With all of this information, LN associates each identity with a 12-digit identifier called a **Lex-ID number**. This is an internal replacement for an SSN for everyone in the country. Why is this needed? Because so many identities have been stolen and SSNs are readily available to criminals thus a single SSN can have multiple people tied to it and not allow true identity uniqueness.

With national information CommSmart Global Group/LexisNexis has the ability to audit DMV records looking for the deceased, incarcerated, those that have never lived in the state but hold a license, live at a different address than claimed, SSN's that don't match the name of the license holder, SSN's that don't exist, etc. LexisNexis can run a general report for any state showing how many license holders fall into each category, with detailed examples of each category. Additionally, analyzing the total number of licensable drivers vs. currently issued licenses.

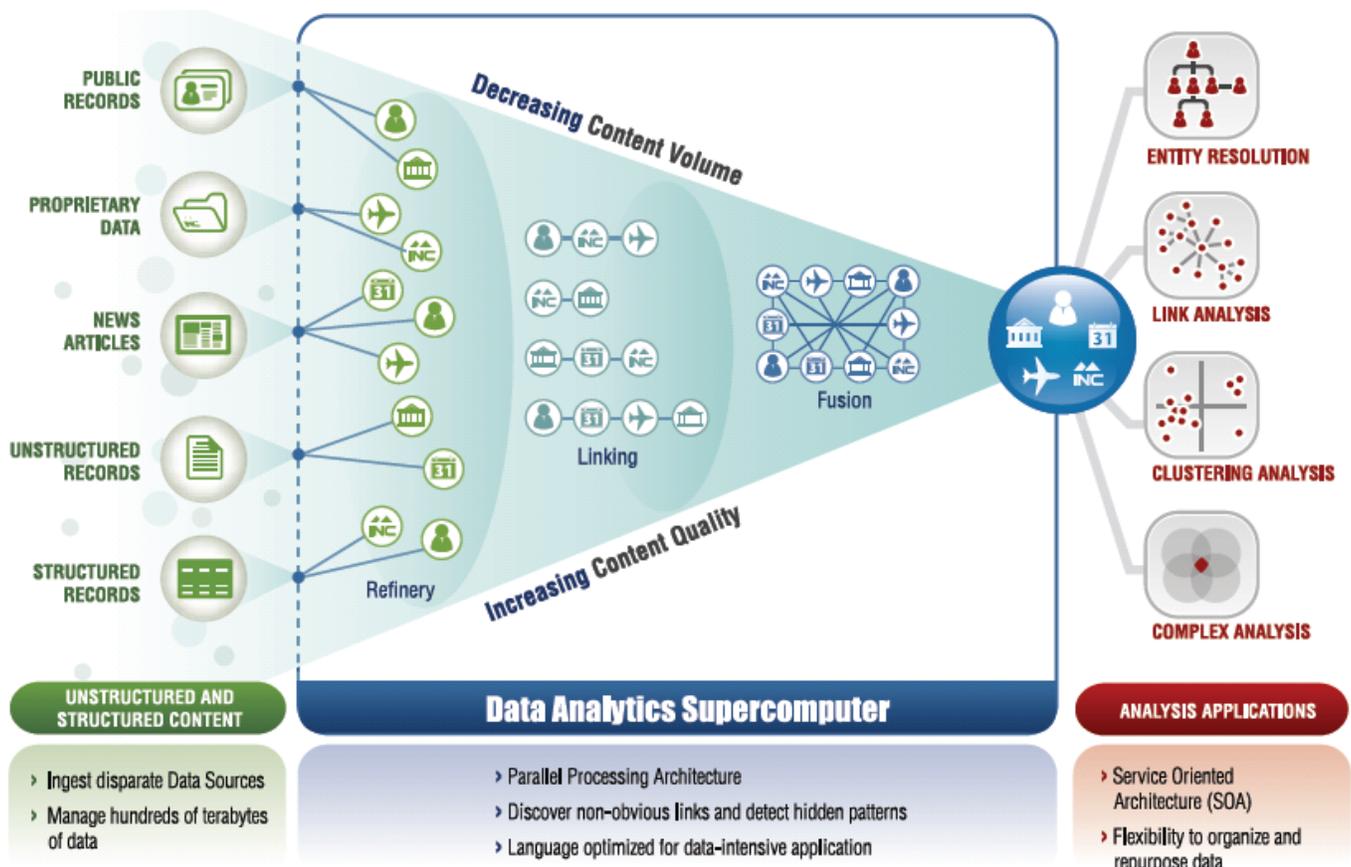
### **Augmenting existing DMV files with Lex-ID could solve a multitude of problems.**

- 1) Appending Lex-ID within programs will help catch individuals that register multiple times under similar AKAs with slightly modified SSNs. Example: Real full name = Laurence Kevin Benson. Modifications Larry Benson (123-00-6789), Lawrence K. Benson (128-00-6789), L. Kevin Benson (123-00-6787), Etc. Each submission looks like a different individual, attempting to defraud the system, but they will all share one common Lex-ID number.
- 2) Catch fraud tied to the use of identities from either deceased or incarcerated individuals on a state and national basis.
- 3) Eliminate Boundary Blindness by allowing parallel DMV programs to get rolled up reports on duplicate licenses across state lines, without sharing any PII.
- 4) Catch illegal aliens or criminals using false SSNs to obtain a license and to gain benefits.

Government DMVs are severely handicapped with old systems, lack of manpower, a dependence on self-reported data, and Boundary Blindness. Criminals are aided by the above government handicaps, plus they have the latest technology, access to or the ability to create false identities.

Agencies need to leverage their joint strengths in order to combat fraud, waste, and abuse. Appending Lex-ID to existing systems would provide that foundation block to begin winning the fight against FWA.

Below is a representation of how using Lex-ID combined with additional data can create new and unique analytics to find FWA within programs.



These services are now offered to local County Sheriffs and Police Departments on a per inquiry batch basis. Knowing your city and county residents via their personal driving license identification when matched with our vast public records will highlight those that are breaking federal law, which from a warrant perspective, is easier to obtain. These will be persons who are not only hiding their 'real identity', but committing other crimes, which you might have knowledge of, but unable to gain access to. **This now changes.**

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