Virtual Badge®

Port of New Orleans:

Secure Access Control

About

Virtual Badge® (VB) is a software platform that leverages the power of smartphones and tablets to provide increased business intelligence for mobile operations. Virtual Badge® turns smartphones into full-functioning badges, which also double as a workforce management platform. In the hands of the Port of New Orleans, this platform will successfully identify entrants and their legal statuses, provide a reliable safeguard against ID forgery, locate and track individuals as necessary, increase the coordination of the workforce in the event of emergency, and allow for accurate and real-time documentation.

Virtual Badge® combines identification management with actionable data reporting

Secure Port Access Solutions

Continuity of operations is of utmost important to maritime shipping ports, making access security a top priority. Access processes must be able to positively identify authorized individuals, determine authorization eligibility of individuals, ensure that unauthorized individuals are denied access, and identify individuals who have failed to maintain eligibility requirements and revoke their permissions.

Virtual Badge® successfully fulfills all access process criteria, and can even allow background checks to be attached to VB profiles. Each individual receives an electronic, custom badge on their smart device (or lacking a smart device, receives a print out). Each badge is encrypted with a system generated QR code, ensuring positive identification of individuals. Virtual Badges are customizable from the command center,

and as such can display any number of useful criteria beyond name and photo, such as access level, team, contractor, designated location, and background check information. Using the secure, web-based Virtual Badge® Control Center, badges are also remotely editable and revocable. Remote command reassignment of access level, location, or team, and badge revocation upon VISA expiration or terror threat update, are possible at all times. As badges are scan-verifiable by other badge holders via the smart device camera, mobile security checks are also possible at any point in time.

Disaster Solutions has found the electronic badging solution to provide a number of benefits to access processes. QR encryption provides a strong failsafe against fraudulent or stolen identification. Remote registration of identities facilities the speed of new badge acquisition. Given the high rate of turnover for contracted employees, a facilitated badging process will greatly increase operational efficiency. Badge scans capture data reliably, and electronic badges are not subject to deteriorating, breaking or being lost, and can be remotely registered and created. As Virtual Badges® are continuously remotely customizable and update new information in real-time, they accurately express the updated VISA, criminal, terror and access statuses of their users, removing the possibility of falsely "frozen" ID authorization. Providing more comprehensive identity management allows for better accountability and more efficient use of resources.

Port Whole Community Interoperability

The Port of New Orleans involves a widely diverse group of authorities, contractors and employees. Shipping lines and their associated crew and passengers, port and harbormaster employees, truckers, government agencies, and assorted contractors and vendors enter and exit ports daily. Naturally, port identification systems must be standardized despite the presence of disparate agencies. The Virtual Badge platform is capable of standardized badging for all in attendance, and is interoperable in the event that other companies and agencies possess the platform as well. By creating a command-and-control hierarchy, Virtual Badge® ensures that administrators have access to all associated groups & companies.
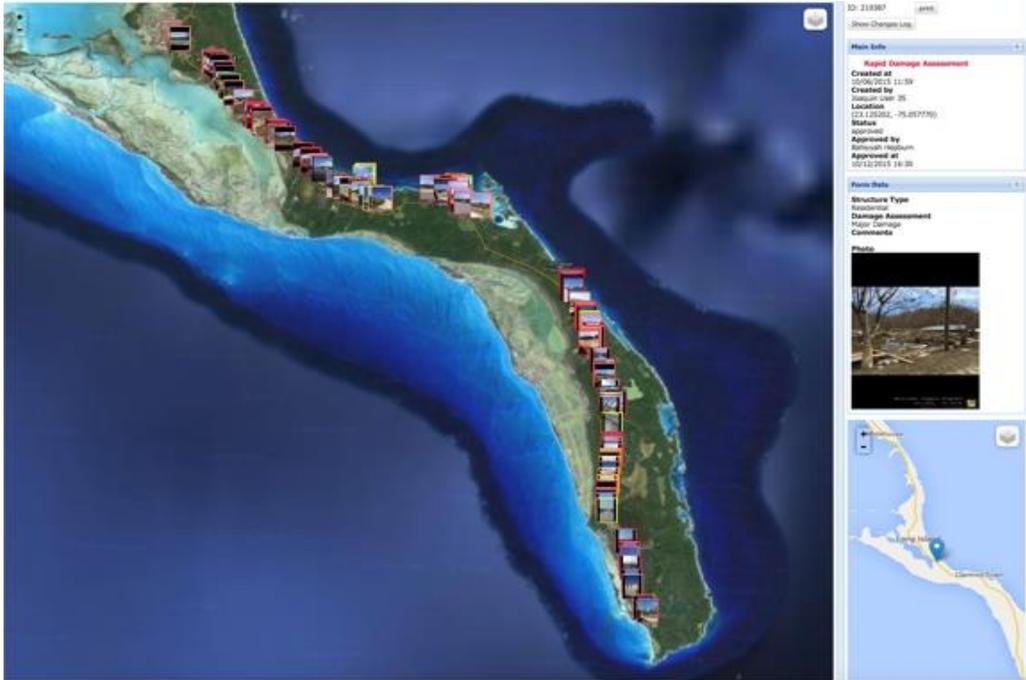
Tracking and Life Safety

Knowing the location of individuals within the port area provides an added layer of security. Each badge holder's smart device is (optionally) capable of GPS tracking and location monitoring. In the event that a background check was not fully comprehensive or an authorized individual has become problematic, location tracking gives security forces an extra measure of containing the problem. Fire incidents are a not uncommon occurrence in port areas; tracking workers allows management to help steer workers to safety. If there are concerns about worker compliance and workforce efficiency, tracking provides increased incentives for employees to comply with objectives in a timely manner.

The Virtual Badge® system enables push notifications from the command center to all or individual badge holders. Fire safety, accident or terror warning directives to workers, in tandem with GPS tracking, enables management to coordinate endangered individuals away from threats. Instead of using a separate badging and notifications system, Virtual Badge® unifies communications with one cohesive platform.

Remote reporting and data gathering

Badge holders may submit standardized, customizable forms to the Control Center complete with selectable data, photo evidence, time/date stamps and geotagging. Within the logic of port operations, this feature can be used to thoroughly document, among other concerns, cargo checks, successful docking, illegal goods discovery, accidents, compliance issues, risk identification, and deliveries. Data travels directly to the VB Control Center where security administrators can view real-time situational awareness and actionable data.

The Port of New Orleans can use Virtual badge® to map and document desired criteria and incidents

About:

Disaster Solutions, LLC (DS) is a HUBZone certified small business located in Florida and specializing in disaster response consulting services and disaster response software development. DS has seven approved US Patents which enforce intellectual property protection for a variety of disaster software scenarios. DS has completed a FedRAMP-Moderate Pre-assessment audit by an authorized Federal third party assessor and currently has two Cooperative Research and Development Agreements with the Federal Government. DS also has a valid 5-year GSA Schedule 84 contract. A history of response operations can be viewed at www.disastersolutions.cc/history.html

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