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## **USR Secures Patent for 3+ Factor Security**

Universal Secure Registry (USR) has been awarded patent US 8,001,055 B2 by the US Patent and Trademark office (USPTO).

The patent covers key aspects of USR's proprietary technology for secure financial transactions: authenticating an individual's identity using three standard identification factors (token, secret, biometric) plus an additional biometric – a digital photo of the purchaser, sent from a remote secure server to a vendor. According to the company, this 3+ FACTOR SECURITY system authenticates identity swiftly, conveniently and securely. The technology can also be extended for use with multiple transactions such as peer-to-peer, individual-to-vendor and multiple traditional credit cards. The original patent application was filed in February 2006 by Kenneth Weiss, CEO and founder of USR, and an expert in identity authentication and computer security.

Building on the two-factor security he pioneered for the SecurID token in 1984, the 3+ FACTOR SECURITY system generates, after three factors are satisfied, a time-synchronised, 16-digit, pseudo-random number to identify the purchaser. As an extra safeguard, an image of the purchaser is then sent to the vendor's system or point of sale device. The funds are transferred using the remote secure server as a trusted agent only after the identity of the individual is positively established.

The new patent includes a design for a unique undefeatable handshake from a secure remote server to vendors, which requires the server also to be positively authenticated before any transaction occurs. The company says this approach helps prevent computer-based fraud, exacerbated by activities such as spoofing, which exploit the vulnerabilities of both internet- or cloud-based platforms.

"USR was developing technology for the electronic wallet six years ago, long before the current stampede of interest in mobile wallets," says Weiss. "USR not only anticipated the significance of cloud computing for both businesses and individuals, but also identified a new class of potential security exposures. The electronic handshake component of the new patent enables the technology to address these previously unaddressed security vulnerabilities."

USR's electronic wallet technology is available to third parties including credit card companies, wireless carriers, banks, retailers and others for licensing purposes.

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<http://www.planetbiometrics.com/article-details/i/793/>