

## Expert Uncovers Way To Hack Into Biometric Passports

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Las Vegas, NV (AHN) - A Computer expert from Germany has discovered a way to clone the information contained in the new biometric passports.

At the Defcon security conference in Las Vegas, Sunday, Lukas Grunwald, a consultant with a German security company demonstrated how the data from a biometric passport can be transferred onto blank chips, which could then be implanted in fake passports.

Although Grunwald was not able to alter the information, he said the flaw has seriously undermined the project. The revelation also puts into doubt the passport-upgrading scheme used by the U.S., UK and other countries.

Grunwald said his discovery was made within two weeks of first attempting to copy the data, and the equipment used cost 200 U.S. dollars.

UK has been issuing biometric passports since March and the United States has been planning to embed the RFID chips into the passports starting October.

Germany already used RFID in passports to help border officials guard against forgeries and automate the processing of international visitors.

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