Department of Homeland Security

Customs and Border Protection

Biometric Entry-Exit Program
Life Cycle Cost Estimate (LCCE)

VERSION 1.1

July 19, 2017

LCCE Summary

The Biometric Entry-Exit Program's goal is to verify the traveler's identity upon departure from the United States. The design of the Biometric Entry-Exit Program is not limited to collecting biometric information from a departing passenger; the system must also support efforts to ensure that the passenger actually departs from the United States. CBP's top priority for deployment of Biometric Entry-Exit Program capabilities is in the air environment. Air will require the deployment of a Biometric Entry-Exit solution at or near the departure gate to provide the highest assurance of traveler departure. Working in partnership with the air travel industry, CBP will lead the transformation of air travel using biometrics as the key to enhancing security and unlocking benefits that dramatically improve the entire traveler experience. CBP will re-architect data flows and data systems to pre-stage biometrics data throughout the travel process.

CBP will partner with airlines, airports, and TSA to build a device independent, vendor neutral back-end system called the Traveler Verification Service (TVS) that allows for private sector investment in front end infrastructure, such as self-service baggage drop off kiosks, facial recognition self-boarding gates, and other equipment; this service will ultimately enable a biometric-based entry/exit system to provide significant benefits to air travel partners, in addition to establishing a biometric air exit system. The TVS will also be able to support future biometric deployments in the land and sea environments and throughout the traveler continuum. Figure 1 shows the different environments and touchpoints that will interact with the TVS.
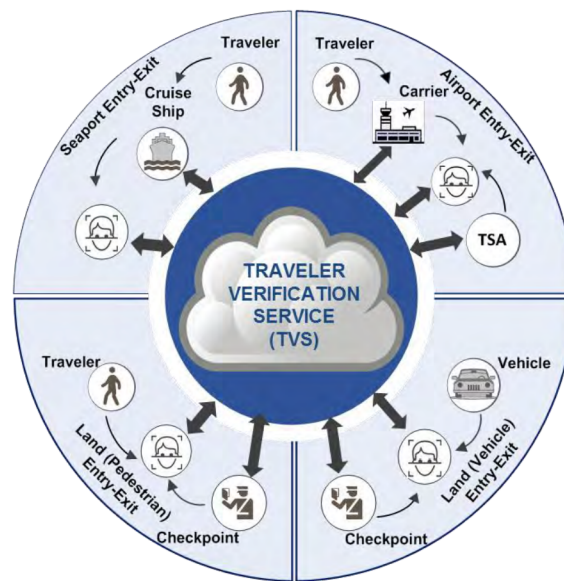

Figure 1: TVS Support across Environments

1.0   Introduction

The primary mission of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agency is to safeguard America's borders from dangerous people and materials while enhancing the nation's global economic competitiveness by enabling legitimate trade and travel. Part of this mission is to enforce U.S. immigration laws. A key aspect of U.S. immigration laws is that most foreign nationals enter as a "nonimmigrant" or on a temporary basis with a fixed period of admission time, and are required to depart the United States before that admission time expires. In order to effectively enforce U.S. immigration law, CBP must have the ability to 1) record departures of foreign nationals from the United States and 2) do so in a way that provides the highest assurance of travelers' identity. If CBP is unable to determine if and when foreign nationals depart from the United States, its ability to enforce a major piece of existing immigration law is limited.[1] The Biometric Entry-Exit Program's goal is to verify the traveler's identity upon departure from the United States. The design of a Biometric Entry-Exit solution is not limited to collecting biometric information from a departing passenger; the system must also support efforts to ensure that the passenger actually departs from the United States.

CBP's top priority for deployment of biometric exit capabilities is in the air environment. Air will require the deployment of a biometric exit solution at or near the departure gate to provide the highest assurance of traveler departure. Therefore, the initial focus of the Biometric Entry-Exit program will be implementation in the Air environment, but will also cover Biometric Entry-Exit within the land and sea environments in the future. Working in partnership with the air travel industry, CBP will lead the transformation of air travel using biometrics as the key to enhancing security and unlocking benefits that dramatically improve the entire traveler experience. CBP will re-architect data flows and data systems to pre-stage biometrics data throughout the travel process.

CBP will use a traveler's face as the primary way of identifying the traveler and facilitating their entry to and exit from the United States, while simultaneously leveraging fingerprints for watch list checks. This will create the opportunity for CBP to transform air travel by enabling all parties in the travel system to match travelers to their data via biometrics, thus unlocking benefits that address CBP's border security mandate and enhances the entire traveler experience.

The CBP "Biometric Pathway" will utilize biometrics to streamline passenger processes throughout the air travel continuum, and will provide airport and airline entities with the opportunity to validate identities against DHS information systems using the data available. CBP will partner with airlines, airports, and TSA to build a device independent, vendor neutral back-end system called the Traveler Verification Service (TVS) that allows for private sector investment in front end infrastructure, such as self-service baggage drop off kiosks, facial recognition self-boarding gates, and other equipment; this service will ultimately enable a biometric-based entry/exit system to provide significant benefits to air travel partners, in addition to establishing a biometric air exit system.[2] The TVS will also be able to

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[1] Standard Bio Entry-Exit Program Language

(b) (5)

support future biometric deployments in the land and sea environments and throughout the traveler continuum. Figure 4 shows the different environments and touchpoints that will interact with the TVS.
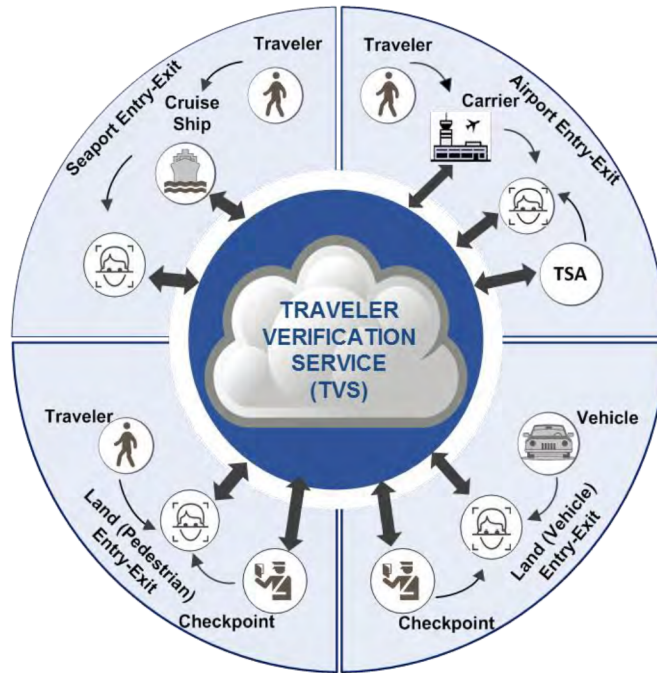

Figure 4: TVS Support across Environments