Stop the Fraudster's Oldest Weapon

A brief history of fake IDs and how we built an app to neutralize them

Creating fake identification documents is a sophisticated and lucrative industry. Individuals seek to pass themselves off as someone else for various reasons, some more nefarious than others.

Fake IDs have always been illegal, so why are they still so prevalent? Don't we have the know-how and training to spot one when we see it? What about ID scanners - can't they catch well-made fakes?



Historical Roots

The practice of using fake IDs can be traced back to the Prohibition era in the United States, where people employed false identification to purchase alcohol anonymously. While alcohol consumption is now legal, age restrictions have perpetuated the business of creating fake identities. The advent of stricter laws in 1984, such as the National Minimum Drinking Age Act, led to a flood of counterfeit IDs in the market. Over time, the methods and availability of fake IDs have become more sophisticated with the rise of online stores specializing in counterfeit documents.

Cultural Significance

Fake IDs have become intertwined with the cultural fabric of certain regions, particularly in the United States. They have become a part of drinking culture, almost a rite of passage, with numerous references in popular culture, such as hip-hop anthems, famous individuals getting caught with fake IDs and memorable scenes in movies. The ubiquity of fake IDs extends beyond accessing bars, clubs, or casinos; people also use them for purchasing restricted items like tobacco, cannabis, and alcohol and accessing age-restricted online games and casino platforms.

The Sophistication of Counterfeits

Counterfeiters have continuously evolved their techniques to stay ahead of detection measures. Initially, fake IDs could be easily identified with basic scrutinies, such as checking for misspellings, poor printing quality, or discrepancies between the bearer's appearance and birth date. However, counterfeiters have adapted, creating synthetic fakes virtually indistinguishable from the naked eye. They now employ advanced methods, including holographs and similarity fraud, where genuine IDs of individuals with similar facial features are used.

Synthetic Identity Fraud

Synthetic identity fraud is a relatively new and increasingly sophisticated form. Synthetic identities combine fabricated credentials, often utilizing potentially valid social security numbers (SSNs) and false personally identifiable information (PII). Manipulated and manufactured synthetics are the two main categories of synthetic identities. Manipulated synthetics involve limited changes to a real identity, while manufactured synthetics are composed of invalid information cobbled together from multiple sources, making them difficult to identify with traditional techniques.



Level up to instant verification

The old-school ID check isn't enough – today's fake IDs are perfectly crafted and indistinguishable from the real thing. Especially when we're talking about synthetic IDs – how can they be spotted by a well-trained eye or simple scanner if they look so perfect? They can't. If you are a business owner selling age-restricted goods and services and are still training your access control team to spot fakes with the naked eye, you are exposing yourself to unnecessary risk. Even if you have made the leap to ID scanners, they may not be protecting you from the most sophisticated fakes out there.

It's time to consider AI and ML-trained digital ID verification. What was once the domain of businesses with a relatively sophisticated cloud-based IT infrastructure with static verification operations can now be embraced by anyone selling goods or services that require serious ID verification. Implementation is as simple as downloading an app to your mobile device, customizing the interface to your business logo, and scanning the first ID.

Capture The front of your ID

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The Future of Identity Verification

The bottom line - compliance is good for business.

Arm your staff with the power of Al identity and age verification. Digital identity verification has become indispensable for efficient and secure interactions, minimizing the risk of non-compliance, financial loss, identity theft, and fraud by leveraging powerful technology. AU10TIX app makes this technology accessible now to everyone operating a business that provides age-restricted services and goods.

Mobility, speed, compliance. Want some? Let us take you on a walkthrough of the new app.

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