



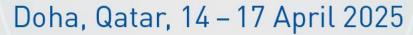








# ICAO Facilitation Conference













#### ICAO Facilitation Conference

Doha, Qatar, 14 – 17 April 2025





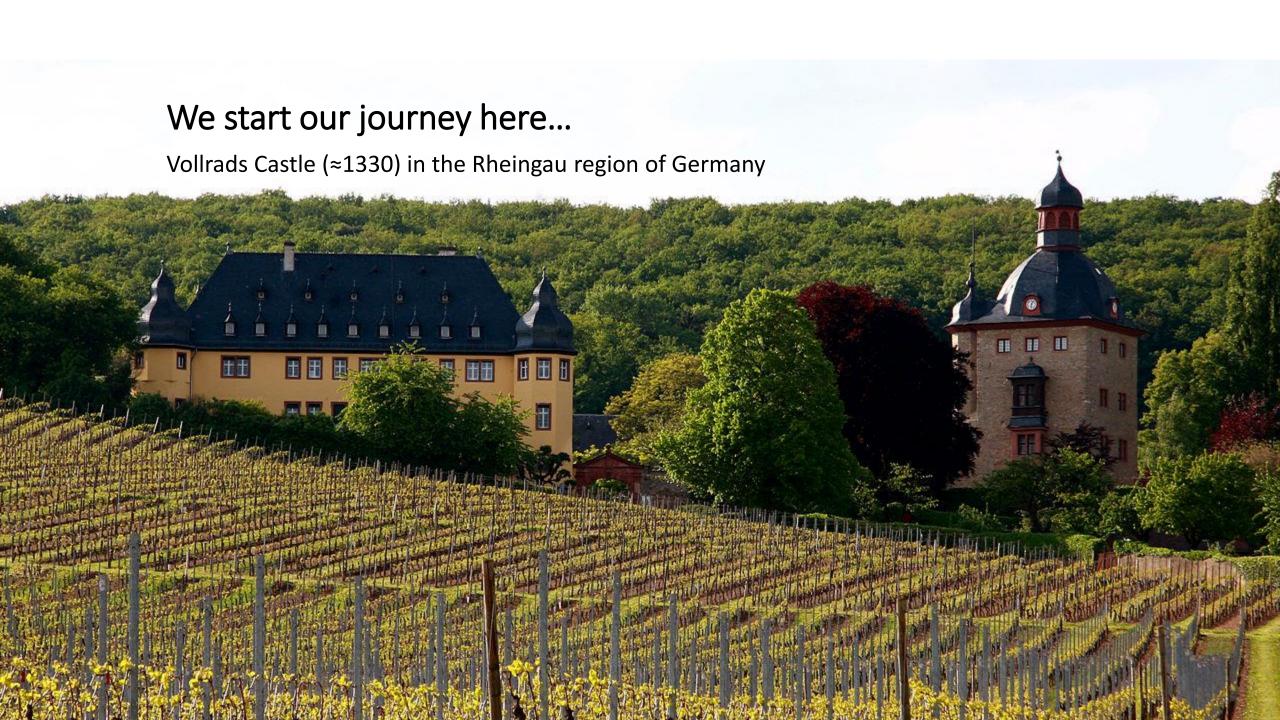




# **Travel Document Integrity and Border Control**

#### Dr. Uwe Seidel

Head of Department IT Forensics & Documents, German Federal Criminal Police Office Chairperson, New Technologies Working Group (NTWG) of TAG/TRIP



#### Document security dimensions

Passport 1796

Document Security

Security printing, exclusive material

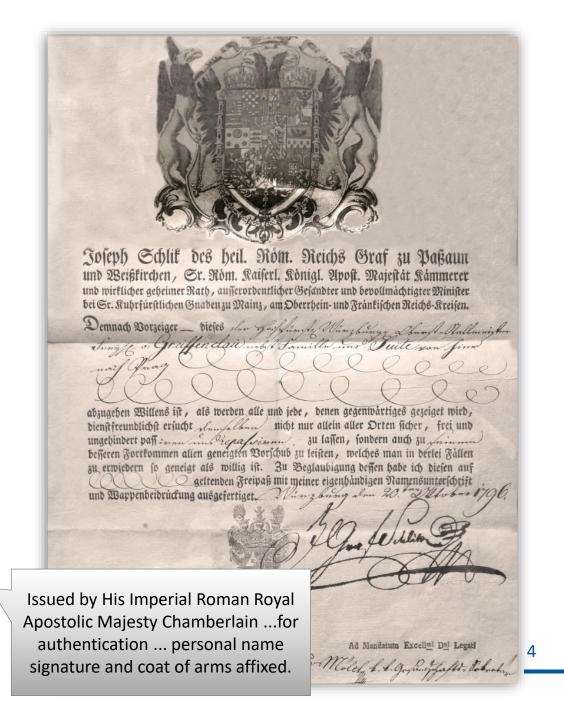
- → Physical Security Features
- Binding it to the holder

"...v. Greiffenclau nebst Famille und Suite..."

- → Biometrics
- Integrity and Authenticity

"Sr. Röm. Kaiserl. Königl. Apostol. Majestät Kämmerer …zur Beglaubigung … eigenhändigen Namensunterschrift und Wappenbeidrückung ausgefertigt."

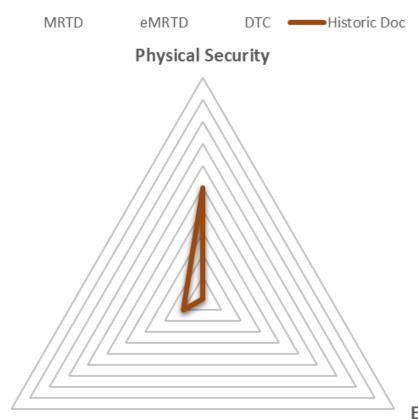
→ Electronic Documents



# Document security dimensions – historic travel document

- Some physical document security
- Very little "biometrics" (description of the holder)
- No electronics





Biometric Security

**Electronic Security** 

# ICAO Machine Readable Travel Document (MRTD)

MRTD security (e.g. German passport)

#### **Substrate materials**

• UV dull substrate, watermarks, sensitizers, fibers, threads ...

#### Security design and printing

 Guilloche/rainbow printing, microprint, special inks, numbering ...

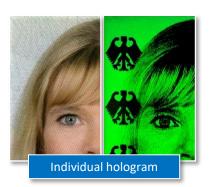
#### Protection against copying and alteration

Optically variable devices, multiple laser images, ...

#### **Personalization techniques**

 Integration of personal data in the basis material of the document, e.g. by laser engraving













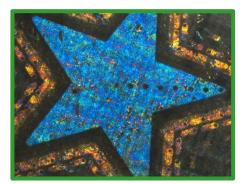
# ICAO Machine Readable Travel Document (MRTD)

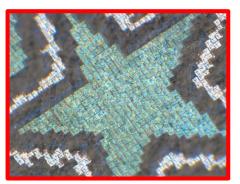
Challenges: Crime as a service

#### Increasing counterfeit pressure

- Document fraud today is highly diverse: printing, personalization and security features are provided by specialized entities.
- The darknet, but also the open web provides numerous opportunities to purchase counterfeit documents and components.
- Alterations become more subtle: only small parts of the data, e.g. the portrait, are overprinted to show a (slightly) different person.



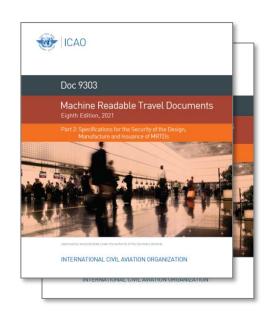


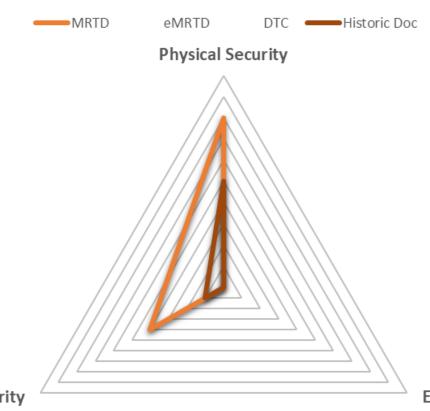


**DOVID EU Residence Permit** 

## Document security dimensions – ICAO MRTD

- Complex physical document security
- Printed portrait (biometrics)
- No electronic features (yet)

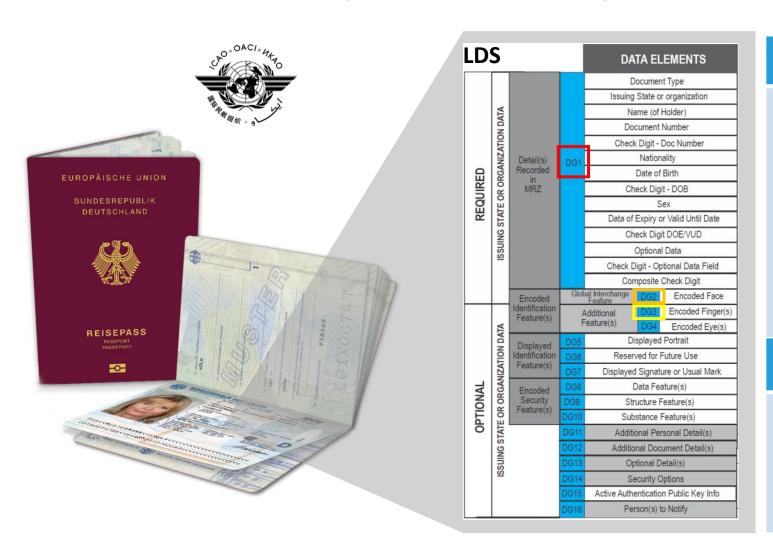




**Biometric Security** 

**Electronic Security** 

# ICAO eMRTD = Physical MRTD + Chip (data structure with biometrics)



#### DataGroup 1



DataGroup 2



- Document Type
- Issuing State
- Name of Holder
- Document Number
- Nationality
- Date of Birth
- Check Digit DOB
- Sex
- Date of Expiry





• 2 Fingerprints







# ICAO Electronic Machine Readable Travel Document (eMRTD)

Challenges: High tech crime using the technology almost perfectly

#### The story of the UK e-passport 2008

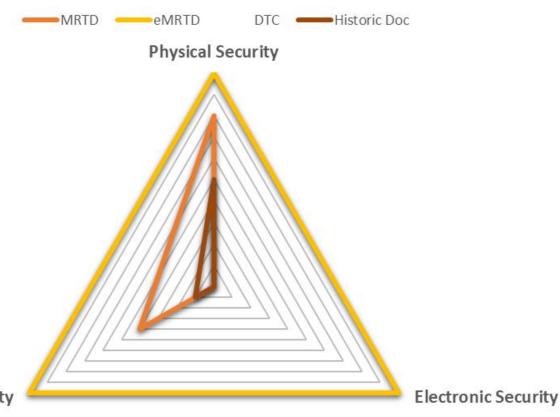
- 3.000 blank passports were stolen from a transport van in the UK
- Press release: "highly complex task to personalize the documents"
- A few month later, this passport was stopped in Frankfurt airport after having travelled half the world
- The original (blank) chip was destroyed, a new chip added containing data matching the (fraudulent) personalization.
- What gave it away: the missing digital signature of the UK (and the SLTD entry)



# Document security dimensions – ICAO eMRTD

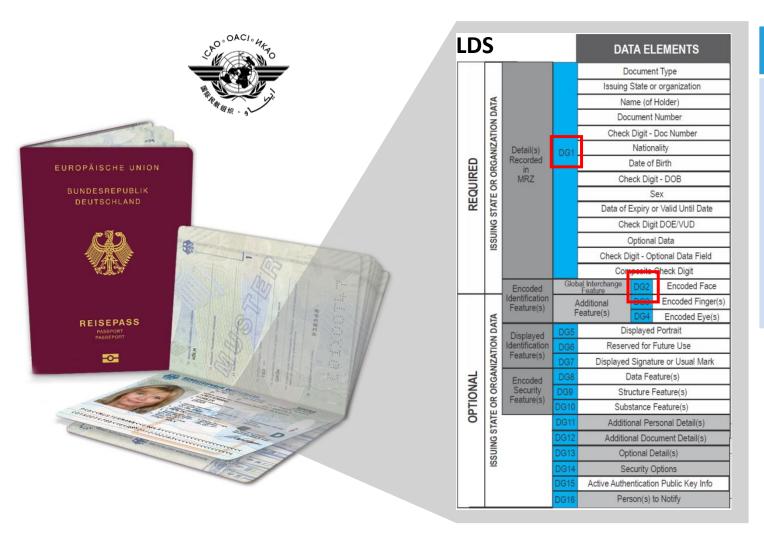
- Complex physical document security
  + chip features
- Printed portrait and digitally stored biometrics
- Complex electronic features





**Biometric Security** 

# Digital Travel Credentials (DTC)



#### DataGroup 1



DataGroup 2



- Document Type
- Issuing State
- Name of Holder
- Document Number
- Nationality
- Date of Birth
- Check Digit DOB
- Sex
- Date of Expiry
- ...

To proof integrity and authenticity of the data, the chip contains the Document Security Object

#### **EF.SOD**

Hash (DataGroup 1)

Hash (DataGroup 2)

Hash (DataGroup n)

**DIGITAL SIGNATURE** 

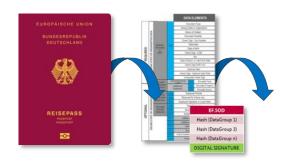
## Digital Travel Credential (DTC)

#### The Hybrid concept



<u>Hybrid Concept</u>: A DTC consists of a **Virtual Component** (DTC-VC) containing the digital representation of the holder's identity and one **Physical Component** (DTC-PC) that is cryptographically linked to the Virtual Component.

- 1. eMRTD bound: DTC-VC with the eMRTD as the (only) DTC-PC. Chipdata is read from existing travel document creating the VC.
- 2. eMRTD-PC bound: The physical device will serve as the DTC-PC, with the eMRTD as the alternate or as a fallback DTC-PC. Chipdata is read from existing travel document creating the VC, option to cryptographically link to a different PC.
- **3. PC-bound**: DTC-VC and DTC-PC but NO eMRTD as fallback anymore. Only the physical device will serve as the PC.







## ICAO compliant eMRTD and DTC

Challenge: certificate distribution for secure authentification

#### More than 150 countries issuing E-Passports

To validate an ePassport, you need the Root of Trust of that country (CSCA certs), CSCA exchanges are expected to occur bilaterally

Master Lists are secondary source of CSCAs:

- ICAO Masterlist contains CSCAs from 66 issuers; all Masterlists combined contain CSCAs from 104 issuer
  - → Still short of 150 countries!

Certificate Revocation Lists (CRL):

- ICAO PKD has CRLs from 47 countries; from CRL distribution point (DP), one can obtain another 16 CRLs
  - → Still short of 150 countries!

## ICAO compliant eMRTD & DTC

Challenge: Morphing of passport images

- Morphing combines two images into one resembling the facial features of two individuals: both visually and for facial recognition algorithms
- On Sept. 22, 2018, a group of activists announced that they put a morph image – also containing Federica Mogherini (the EU Foreign Ambassador) – into a German passport apllication to protest the use of passports to control asylum seekers
- Anti-morphing measures:
  - a) domestic: invest in live-enrolment
  - b) border: invest in research for detection technologies



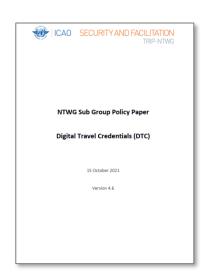


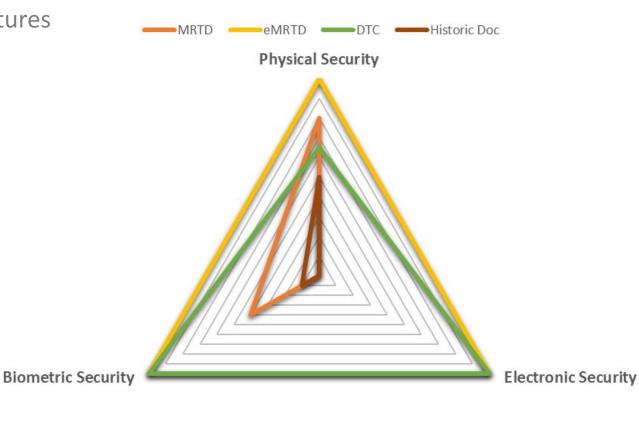
**SPIEGEL** ONLINE

# Document security dimensions – Digital Travel Credential (DTC)

- No physical document security features
- Digitally stored biometrics
- Complex electronic features
- Link to chip hardware when using authentication (AA, CA) protocols







ICAO Technical Reports and Policy Paper

## Summary

 MRTDs and eMRTDs are under constant counterfeiting pressure – high-tech crime-as-a-service fuels this trend, despite of technological advances of the issuer.

• Electronic MRTDs and Digital Travel Credentials are developing, its security depending on electronic authentification and biometrics (especially for DTCs).

• Facial image biometrics' use is growing, by the use of epassports, digitized identities and in large databases.

#### Therefore, key elements for secure travel documents are:

- ICAO compliant deployment of security mechanisms, including 100% global certificate exchange and its use
- Secure and reliable enrolment of biometrics



