

Introduction to the Center for Identity at The University of Texas at Austin

The University of Texas at Austin established the Center for Identity to serve as a center of excellence for identity management, privacy and security. The importance of the identity of a person, organization, or device, and the management of that identity has become critical to all aspects of our society, including public safety, commerce, healthcare, governmental services, and national security. The growth in everyone's digital presence, as well as the attractiveness of identity as a target and the increasingly sophisticated threats, have created an urgency for a cross-disciplinary understanding of identity management threats, solutions, and gaps across industry, government and academia.

Trust is vital to successful transactions, yet trust is challenged everywhere by identity theft, fraud, breach, and the complexity of managing identity. Identity theft is one aspect of the problem that has received a great deal of public attention. "Identity theft...is the fastest growing type of fraud in the United States and the top consumer complaint to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) for 12 years in a row, with 9 million identities stolen annually and costing about \$50 billion each year. Nearly 1.5 million Americans have been victims of medical identity theft, with an estimated total cost of \$28.6 billion¹... Identity theft is often committed to facilitate other crimes such as credit card fraud, document fraud, or employment fraud, which in turn can affect not only the nation's economy but also its security" (Congressional Research Service, January 10, 2010). These shocking statistics are reflective of the societal costs of identity theft, which is only a subset of larger identity issues contributing to a wide range of crimes and social challenges – human trafficking, healthcare fraud, narcotics trafficking, and social networking abuses to name a few. The Center for Identity serves to support our nation's citizens and our nation's industrial, government, and academic institutions to aggressively combat current and emerging identity management threats and fraud.



The mission of the Center for Identity at The University of Texas is to deliver the highest-quality discoveries, applications, education and outreach for excellence in identity management, privacy and security. The research and education endeavors of the Center are breaking new ground to prepare its members to anticipate and mitigate current and future identity threats. Serving as a state and national treasure, the Center meets near-term research, application, and education needs while offering leadership, vision, and solutions for the future.



The Center for Identity is building a center of excellence in identity research. The Center offers innovations to uniquely define and protect the identities of people, organizations, and entities in both cyber and physical environments. From basic research to applied research, serving a wide range of industrial, government and defense applications, the Center is investigating identity definitions, best practices, lifecycle management and technology to ensure its Partners and the nation remain ahead of the growing identity challenges. The Center works specifically to identify and integrate the technological, legal, cultural, commercial, and public policy solutions required to translate identity management and protection research into deployed solutions.

¹ Ponemon Institute.

The Center for Identity values education. Central to the mission of the Center are educational programs, including short courses, seminars, certifications and degree programs to prepare working professionals, consumers, and new University of Texas at Austin graduates to develop and implement superior business processes, policies, and technologies to authenticate and safeguard identities throughout their organizations, their careers, and their lives.



The Center for Identity is an epicenter of identity solution excellence brought about by active collaborations to meet our community, business, state, and national identity challenges.

The Center pairs the depth and breadth of knowledge and talent at The University of Texas with its Partners from industry, government, and academia to offer the best thinking and solutions available to enroll, authenticate, and protect identities everywhere. The Center provides an unbiased public service, delivering trusted information concerning identity threats and protection.

The Center for Identity is comprised of thought leaders from government, industry, non-profit and academic organizations

who share a common interest in research and education for meeting current and future identity management challenges impacting individuals, public safety, commerce, government programs, and national security. The Center's Partners are leaders from industry (Acxiom, Coalfire Systems, CSID, Deloitte & Touche, FICO, Gemalto, IBM, ID Experts, InfoZen, Intersections, LexisNexis, Northrop Grumman, SRA International, TransUnion, Visa), government agencies (FBI, TX Comptroller of Public Accounts, TX Department of Public Safety, US Department of Defense, US Marshals Service, US Secret Service), and non-profit organizations (Identity Theft Assistance Center, Identity Theft Council, National Cyber Forensics Training Alliance, TechAmerica, Indiana University, Syracuse University, The University of Texas at Austin, The University of Tulsa and University of Arkansas at Little Rock).

The Center for Identity membership delivers real return on investment. The Center endeavors to:

1. Foster collaboration between Partners and academia – enabling researchers to develop a deep understanding of identity management challenges and, in turn, enabling our Partners to gain insight into innovative research and education.
2. Enable Partners to play a key role in shaping and prioritizing the Center's research and education pursuits.
3. Provide Partners with visibility and priority access to the Center's faculty, staff, and students.

The Center's Strategic Partner Program is the mechanism by which Partners and academia collaborate and innovate. The Center leverages the talent and resources of The University of Texas to ensure that the best business practices, policies, technology, legal and cultural knowledge are available to the Center for Identity membership to predict, thwart and prevent identity threats. (LONG sentence) Center members join a team of research and education pioneers committed to transforming identity management barriers into opportunities.

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