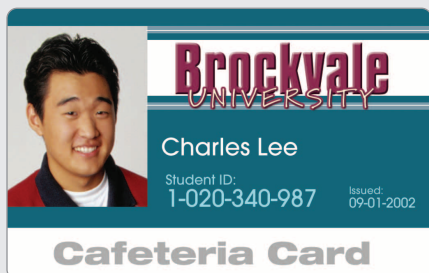
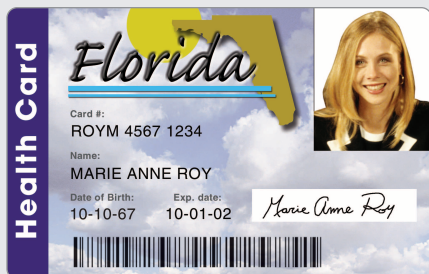


Software Selection Guide



Identification documents are nothing new. Your wallet is filled with them: driver licenses, passports, membership cards, debit cards, employee IDs, you name it. What's new is the technology behind the ID card. And it keeps evolving. With so many ID card software products on the market today, how do you choose the one that best suits your needs?

Before investing in a photo ID software package, there are six things you should consider:

Know thyself

Understand what you want your photo ID card to do and how you will manage the ID card production process internally before you start your software search. This process will help you determine the features and functions your photo ID software should have. Ask yourself:

- How many cards will I print in a year?
- Will I need one card or multiple cards for each person?
- Do I need the card design on one or both sides of the card?
- How many different card designs do I need to create?
- What language(s) do I need the software in?
- Will the software be run from a standalone workstation or will it be networked across an organization or across several facilities?
- Will one or several different people
 - a) enter names and other personal data

into the software b) design the cards and c) print the ID cards?

- Does my photo ID software need to "talk" to my human resource, time and attendance or other existing system?
- How will I use the card? If it is used purely for visual identification, your photo ID software may not require anything more than ordinary design capabilities. But if you need access control cards, your ID software may need to encode data into bar codes, magnetic stripes or smart chips.
- Do my cards need to include biometrics, such as fingerprints, facial images or both?

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No software is an island

Software alone isn't enough. To produce an effective photo ID, you also need a digital camera, an ID card printer, card stock and ink. For added security, you might consider including laminates, holograms or signatures to your ID. And there are a variety of other devices your photo ID software might need to be compatible with, depending upon how you intend to use your IDs. These devices could include: signature or fingerprint-capture devices, bar code readers and so on.

Hardware manufacturers will frequently release new versions of their cameras, printers and so on. So, you will need to ensure that the photo ID software you choose is not only compatible with current hardware devices, but is regularly tested and compatible with newer, emerging devices as they become available on the market.

It is also important to understand if the software works with your existing operating system and computer, or if you will need to update this equipment as well.

Your software company should provide you with a list products and systems that are compatible with its photo ID software. Or you can remove the guesswork by asking for a referral to a dealer in your area who is skilled in putting together a complete photo ID system that includes software and devices you require.

Room to grow

To maximize your investment in a photo ID software package, make sure your software has room to grow. Today your office might only need single-sided cards, each with a photo and signature. But tomorrow, you might need your ID card software to produce three visually different access control cards with biometrics encoded into magnetic stripes for five additional branch offices across the state. Take the time now to understand your needs today in addition to your needs tomorrow and ensure that the software you choose accommodates your future needs or can be easily upgraded to do so.

Safe and sound

Any photo ID software should come with some level of password protection to ensure that only authorized individuals are allowed to create or print your photo IDs.

You should also examine the software's auditing capabilities. Does it track who performed what function and when? Can you run a report to determine if multiple cards have been issued to someone who should only have one? Is there a guard station feature that allows guards or front office personnel to swipe an ID card and determine if the person holding the card matches the photo of the cardholder in the database?

These spot checks, reports and audits can deter fraudulent card use and keep your environment secure. You might consider going a step further and including biometrics into a card, which can prevent unauthorized individuals from using another person's card to clock in or out, or gain access to your facilities.

Easy as pie

Typically, the more features a product has, the more complicated it is to use. If you find that you need more sophisticated software, make sure that you run through a demo of the product before you purchase it. When doing so, check to see if the screens, menus and toolbars are intuitive and easy to find and understand.

Also, look for comprehensive documentation, which can be included in the software in PDF format, or may come in the form of manuals. Inquire about technical support, its costs and hours of operation. And ask about additional features that enhance usability. For example, some photo ID software comes with an automatic face finding feature that tells the camera to automatically center and crop each photo, ensuring all cards are perfectly proportioned and consistent.

Consider the source

The best way to choose the right photo ID system is to work with a skilled partner, like an IWS™ EPI™ Suite photo ID solutions provider. These knowledgeable professionals understand the intricacies of selecting, installing and managing photo identification systems of all levels of sophistication. With their expertise, you can rest assured that you will select the best photo ID software to secure your organization today and well into the future.

ImageWare Systems (IWS) is the global leader in identification, biometric and digital imaging software solutions. These solutions include IWS EPI Suite, the market's leading photo ID software



solution that enables users to design, print and encode highly secure, professional ID cards and credentials.

IWS EPI Suite is feature rich and incorporates ease-of-use and efficiency into every step. IWS EPI Suite's smart face-finding tool enables any camera to automatically locate, center and crop a face. As a result, users can create consistent, high quality photo ID cards quickly, with minimal training. IWS EPI Suite comes with pre-configured card designs—or users may create an unlimited number of custom, full-color, dual-sided card designs.

What truly separates IWS EPI Suite apart is its ability to efficiently manage large amounts of data, images and card designs, so users don't have to. As a result, searching for, sorting and creating multiple cards is much faster and easier. And to enhance security, IWS EPI Suite is password protected and includes the ability to encode data on cards with magnetic stripes, bar codes or smart chips.

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