



AWARD-WINNING SOLUTION SETS THE STANDARD FOR AIRPORT SECURITY

BEN GURION AIRPORT AUTHORITY

/// CASE STUDY



With Israel air travel on the rise, the airport faced the dilemma of maintaining high levels of security while controlling crowds and cutting passenger wait times. EDS, an HP company, implemented a world-class biometric solution to automate the inspection of low-risk travelers so authorities could focus on identifying high-risk threats.

CLIENT PROFILE

www.iaa.gov.il/Rashat/en-US/Airports/BenGurion

Ben Gurion is the largest international airport in Israel and one of the most heavily secured airports in the world.

Industry: Transportation

Location: Lod, Israel

Annual Traffic:

9.2 million passengers

Domestic Movements:

8,969

International Movements:

67,766

Business Needs Addressed:

Productivity
Security

As air travel grew, so did long security lines and airport overcrowding

As the busiest airport in Israel - not to mention one of the world's most security-driven - Ben Gurion International Airport welcomes more than 2 million pilgrims to the Holy Land each year. And the number of travelers flowing through Ben Gurion has been rising exponentially, threatening to overwhelm airport services and heighten already high security concerns.

Ben Gurion wanted to maintain tight and thorough security while increasing walking speeds and decreasing wait times. Meanwhile, long lines and bottlenecks had become commonplace. Growing crowds forced airport authorities to devote as much time and energy to managing traffic as controlling security. Ben Gurion determined that the only way to accomplish efficient traffic flow without compromising security was to streamline and expedite passenger security procedures. The airport turned to EDS' expertise for a leading-edge security solution.

With biometric solution, frequent flyers pass security with a simple swipe of a card

EDS designed a pioneering biometric system for Ben Gurion that allows Israeli citizens to be inspected with a simple swipe of a card. Employing its Express EntrySM technology, EDS developed and implemented a pilot Ben Gurion Biometric System within a tight three-month schedule. The key to the Express EntrySM system is the use of biometrics, which identifies individuals by their unique personal characteristics, such as a hand, finger or retina. The Express EntrySM solution at Ben Gurion uses a nine-point hand-geometry biometric to quickly validate the traveler's identity.

Eight years after the pilot, more than 340,000 Israeli citizens enrolled - about 15 percent of the airport's total Israeli passenger traffic. And, in November 2004, Ben Gurion Airport opened a new terminal, which is able to receive 12 million passengers per year. With the opening of Terminal 3, EDS extended the Express Entry system to include 22 kiosks and three enrollment stations. The system has completed more than 5 million inspections since 1998. Today the biometric system is processing approximately 150,000 passenger inspections per month - up to 23 percent of the airport's total Israeli traffic. More than 1 million passengers pass through the system each year.

A NEXT-GENERATION SECURITY SYSTEM

EDS developed Express Entry with Microsoft Visual C++, using Distributed Component Object Model (DCOM) for interprocess communication. The Express Entry framework can be modified to address specific client requirements. The kiosk-based system uses biometrics to positively validate travelers' identities, corroborate information with security databases and print receipts to allow travelers to proceed.

Services featured

- Identity and Access Management Services

Solution dramatically improved airport security and border control

Ben Gurion's innovative Express Entry system has reduced, and in some cases altogether eliminated, waiting times for travelers. In fact, for every passenger that passes through the human inspection, three passengers pass through the biometric system with automatic inspection. And, most importantly, the system is foolproof and fair. Driven by data, security at Ben Gurion is no longer vulnerable to human error or judgment.

Since most of the travelers who use the system are considered low security risks, Ben Gurion and border security authorities are now free to focus their specialized resources on unknown, high-risk travelers - which ultimately improves airport and border control.

Housing the first, among only a few, fully operational airport biometric systems worldwide, Ben Gurion received the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association's inaugural Golden Link Award for excellence and innovation in the application of technology in government operations. As airports around the world follow suit, the EDS-designed biometric inspection system provides a model security solution that offers passengers both convenience and confidence in safe air travel.

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