



F16 WinID on the Web

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand the use of computers in mass disaster human identification efforts.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by assisting the forensic community in appreciating the use of computers in human identification.

A beta version of WinID on the Web was released in April 2006. WinID on the Web or WotW will be the successor to WinID3.

WinID3 is a widely distributed computer program that assists in the identification of individuals. WinID3 has helped identify victims of the World Trade Center, Pentagon, and United Airlines Flight 93 terrorist acts of September 11, 2001.

WinID3 can also be used in maintaining missing person/unidentified body data systems for governmental and non-governmental organizations.

WinID3 has been linked to a digital radiographic system to store, manipulate, and display digital images. The most common digital images are dental radiographs, but other images with identifying content have been used successfully. WinID3 was used in a paperless mode at the Carville, LA morgue by DMORT personnel in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The totally digital environment allowed for very rapid processing of the hurricane victims.

The WinID dental coding system has primary, secondary, and text descriptors for describing an individual's dentition. This well known coding system is used in WotW. WinID3 has non-dental fields available to hold other information useful in human identification. The WinID3 data-fields have been expanded in WotW to make a robust human identification database.

WinID3 is written in Microsoft Visual Basic and uses a Microsoft Access database. These development and database programs represent mature technologies. Information systems are migrating to the World Wide Web (WWW) to facilitate the exchange of ideas and data. WinID on the Web makes use of ASP.NET 2.0 with code behind in C#, using a Microsoft SQL 2005 database.

Extensible Markup Language (XML) is a method for organizing and storing data that lends itself to use by computers. In late 2005 an ongoing research study was launched. The purpose of the study was to find and catalog the complete data terminology useful in human identification. The results-to-date of the study have been encoded in XML, and used as data- fields in WotW.

WotW incorporates many of the well-known features of WinID3. The Beta version is available online at <http://www.winid.com/Home.aspx>. WotW allows users anywhere in the world to view images and data, and to access and add to the current human identification database. The user is able to find best matches between antemortem and postmortem records by using automated searches and by sorting and manipulating data.

It is envisioned that WotW will allow internet-connected users in diverse geographical locations to enter antemortem data for suspected victims of mass disasters. Workers at the disaster site will examine recovered human remains and enter postmortem data into WotW. WotW has many comparison and sorting algorithms that facilitate human identification and enable comprehensive report generation.

In a real disaster situation WotW will be available on a website specific to the incident. Access to the website will be limited to authenticated users with appropriate authorization.

Mass Disasters, Computers, Human Identification