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December 28th, 2009 (THAINDIAN NEWS)

The Washington Post

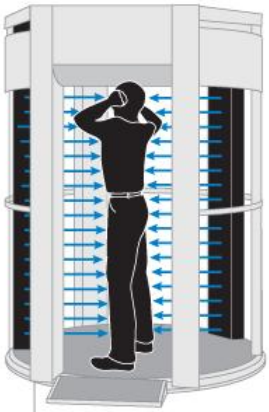
January 5th 2010

How full-body scanners work

Security experts say high-tech imagers that detect objects beneath our clothes are vital to safe air travel. Opponents say they are intrusive and too revealing. For now, the process is an optional alternative to a traditional pat-down at airports across the country, including Reagan National and BWI. These are the two types of full-body imaging technology in use or on the way:

Millimeter wave

40 of these machines are in use at 19 U.S. airports



Manufacturer: L-3 Communications

What you do: Passengers step into a circular, transparent booth. Scanning panels that look like revolving doors move across front and back of booth.

How it works: The scanner emits radio waves small enough to pass through clothing but bounce off skin. Anything that is not human skin will show up as a contrasting object. The officer can zoom over parts of the images for a better look.

Time it takes: In a TSA demonstration, the scan took about a second. The entire process took 20 to 40 seconds.

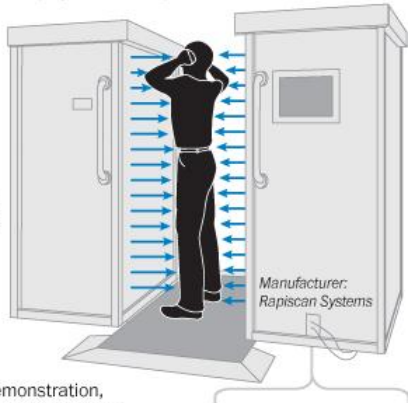
Actual millimeter-wave scan of a man

Backscatter

150 of these machines will be deployed in U.S. airports in 2010

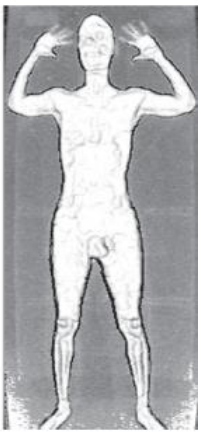
What you do: Passengers stand sideways between two scanners. There are no moving parts.

How it works: Two low-level X-rays are shot. Materials either absorb or reflect the rays, so objects are obvious against skin. Radiation emitted is less than 10 microrem, about the amount a person gets flying at altitude for two minutes.

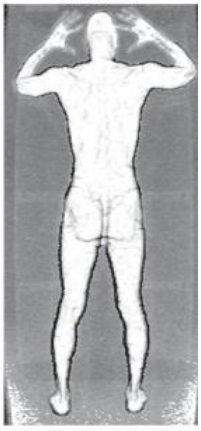


Manufacturer: Rapiscan Systems

Time it takes: In a TSA demonstration, the scan took about five to seven seconds. The entire process took 10 to 20 seconds.



Actual Rapiscan image of a man



BASIC PROCESS

1. Passengers remove their shoes and empty their pockets.
2. They step into the machine and raise their arms.
3. Once scanned, they step out and wait with the checkpoint TSA officer while the scan is reviewed by another officer elsewhere. The officers are connected by wireless headsets.

If no anomalies are found . . .

4. The officer viewing the scan tells the checkpoint agent that all is well.
5. Passengers leave the checkpoint, and the image is automatically erased.

If something suspicious shows up . . .

4. The officer viewing the scan tells the checkpoint agent where the problem is.
5. The checkpoint officer gives passengers the option of removing the object or being patted down.
6. Passengers may be rescanned.

PRIVACY SAFEGUARDS

» Images are viewed by a TSA officer in a locked booth away from the checkpoint so that the agent at the checkpoint never sees the image and the **agent who sees the image never sees the passenger**.

» **Software obscures faces** in the millimeter-wave image and reduces the backscatter image to a kind of chalky-looking sketch.

» The TSA and manufacturers say **images cannot be saved, printed, transmitted or uploaded**. Once passengers are cleared, their images are erased.

THE FUTURE

» The TSA has funding to buy **300 more full-body imaging machines**, and it is looking at new technologies that would make this type of screening more efficient.

» Smiths Detection, a company that makes X-ray machines and other security items for airports, is working with the TSA on a millimeter-wave system that would take up less space and would **not require passengers to stop** and stand still.

» Software is in the works that would **recognize anomalies automatically** rather than depending on humans to interpret images.

SOURCE: Transportation Security Administration, Rapiscan Systems, Smiths Detection | Bonnie Berkowitz and Laura Stanton/The Washington Post

BTS IRIS 2 Full-body scanners Worksheet 1

GENERAL COMPREHENSION

What sort of document is this?
What for?
In your opinion, who is it aimed at?

Where will the device be used? Why?

Look at the drawings **(not the text)** and complete the grid

	Scanner 1	Scanner 2
Name		
Position of the person		
Description of the device		
Difference?		

VOCABULARY

1. Find the translation of these words in the text::

§ 1 Sous :
Fouille au corps:
Déjà ou bientôt utilisés :

§ 2
Cabine :
Traverser :
Ne pas traverser :
Procédé :

§ 3
Etre apparent :

§ 4
enlever :
vider :
entrer :
sortir :
effacé :

§ 5
comme un dessin à la craie :
financements :

2. Compléter le tableau avec des mots du texte dérivés des exemples

Verb	Noun	Adjective
oppose		
revolve		
1. 2.	1.Scanner 2.	
	1.Image 2.	

3. Deviner le sens de:

Panels:
Front and back:
Waves:
Zoom over:
X-rays:
Checkpoint:
Saved:
Printed:
Uploaded:

BTS IRIS 2 Full-body scanners Worksheet 2

DETAILED COMPREHENSION

§1

1. Why do security experts advise full-body scanners?

2. Right or Wrong: Everybody agrees that they are necessary for the travellersôsafety.

3. What will they replace?

§2 and 3

4. Compare the two scanners

Similarities	Differences

5. Make sentences with:

Similarities: Both é , just like.., the same
Differences: unlike, contrary to, whereas, comparatives (adj-er+than, more +adj+than)

§4

6. Complete the text to describe the process.

The process is _____.
First the passengers must _____ and _____. Then they _____. At the end of the _____, they just _____ . In the meantime, another officer _____.

7. What happens after the scanning?

8. Right or Wrong. Suspicious passengers are immediately arrested

§5

9. Right or Wrong. Justify your answers.

There are two different officers to check the images.

Only one security officer sees the passenger.

The passengers are easily recognized on the images.

All images are kept in a data bank.

10. Number of scanners to be bought:

11. What sort of improvements are expected in the future?

BRANCHING OUT

What are the advantages and disadvantages of this new technology?

Do you think think these scanners will prevent terrorist attacks in planes? Why or why not?