



Redaction technology protects constituents by removing social security numbers from commercial loan records

The Challenge

Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Secretary of State) William Galvin recently faced the challenge of protecting access to publicly filed documents while still protecting the individuals identified in those documents from identity theft.

The Risk

The office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth maintains hundreds of thousands of commercial loan records (UCC filings) that include details of purchases ranging from furniture to farm machinery. Between 2001 and 2005, social security numbers were sometimes used to identify borrowers. An average of 85,000 filings per year were recorded and more than 5,000 contained social security numbers. By law, documents pertaining to loan origination are considered public records and are accessible via the internet. The office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth needed a way to quickly cull through hundreds of thousands of documents, find those with social security numbers, and remove or redact the SSNs.

The Solution

One of Galvin's goals is to make government more efficient and accessible, and he has focused his efforts to fight fraud in the financial services industry as well as bringing new technologies to basic governmental functions. ID Shield software from Extract Systems allowed his office to quickly and cost effectively redact the social security numbers while continuing to provide public access.

ID Shield Redaction Technology

Extract Systems' automated data capture software solutions use a sophisticated combination of optical character recognition (OCR), clues, rules logic, and zonal recognition to accurately find and capture field data on structured and unstructured documents. ID Shield allows government and other organizations to protect their constituents by automatically redacting sensitive data from publicly available recorded documents.

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The Technology Behind ID Shield Redaction Software

OCR output is critically important to any redaction process. The better the quality of the OCR output file, the greater the accuracy of the redaction. ID Shield starts with the industry-leading OCR engine and layers additional recognition technology into the software to find data within complex and unstructured documents, including:

- Magnetic Ink Character Recognition (MICR) engine to detect routing and bank account numbers on checks
- Intelligent Character Recognition (ICR) engine for handwritten content
- Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) for forms and surveys
- Optical Barcode Recognition (OBR) technology for capturing sensitive information present in the form of barcodes

Beyond OCR technology, ID Shield adds state-of-the-art data detection rules to find and redact all sensitive data types including: social security numbers, dates of birth, credit card numbers, CVV codes, account numbers, check numbers, expiration dates, names, postal and email addresses, and virtually all types of personal information within structured and unstructured documents. This core competency is a proprietary formula that incorporates pattern recognition logic, phrase context proximity, and keywords into the software based on the data that needs to be captured and secured. ID Shield redaction zones are burned in, making it impossible for identity thieves to retrieve private information. All hidden metadata associated with the original document is eliminated. The original document remains unaltered.

About Extract Systems

Extract Systems is a leading provider of advanced data capture and redaction solutions that drive operational efficiency and secure private information for government, healthcare, and other commercial sectors. ID Shield Advanced Redaction Technology has processed more than two billion documents for over 275 customers without a single breach in data protection. Extract's data capture products automatically find and incorporate manual data entry fields into designated information systems as structured data. Automating the capture of information trapped in paper-reliant workflows reduces costs and optimizes the intelligent collection of data.



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