

## *LETIX LAUNCHES FIRST NATIONAL COLLABORATIVE SYSTEM TO COMBAT IDENTITY THEFT*

**San Mateo, CA – Dec 14, 2006** - The Law Enforcement Technology Information Exchange (LETIX) announced today the launch of their newest initiative against fraud, the LETIX Universal Case Identification Database (LUCID). LUCID is the first national system that links law enforcement agencies at the local, state and federal level together with retailers and financial institutions in the on-going battle against credit card fraud and identity theft. One of LETIX's early partners is the northern California REACT task force ([www.reacttf.org](http://www.reacttf.org)) who has been testing and refining the LUCID system. Sherman Hall, Atherton police department detective and REACT task force member says, "LUCID promises to help connect not only law enforcement officers, but also private sector institutions who suffer financial losses. It will clearly help facilitate the investigation of fraud and rapidly lead to more arrests."

The new system is geared toward investigators in both law enforcement agencies and private enterprises, giving them access to the data necessary to investigate financial crimes – in particular, credit card fraud and identity theft. The structure and secure nature of the system allow private industry and law enforcement personnel to engage each other collaboratively with no introductions required regardless of the cross-jurisdictional nature of a case [an inquiry] allowing agents and investigators to be more productive by simply focusing on investigating and closing cases.

LUCID was developed partially using information gained by a national survey of the practices and needs of the largest metropolitan police departments' and federal agencies' fraud investigative units. Additionally, leading financial institutions, financial services companies, and credit reporting agencies provided input regarding specific data and operability requirements to support enhanced fraud and identity theft investigative efforts and prosecution. LETIX completed the survey in 2006, and selected results may be released to qualified financial institutions and financial services companies.

“In addition to proprietary collaborative technologies, LUCID can also provide highly useful search results across many data sets from different sources – making the process of seamlessly incorporating data from participating state and federal agencies, financial institutions, retailers and local law enforcement agencies a very quick and easy process” said Charlie Marshall, Executive Director of LETIX. “This is the single most important need identified in our national survey of law enforcement. LUCID helps investigators build their cases and to assemble related offenses committed by the same suspects into a larger overall case to help ensure more effective prosecution.”

“The launch of the LUCID system today significantly reduces the risk that any one individual will become a victim of credit card or debit card fraud as a result of identity theft by providing a 21<sup>st</sup> century tool to law enforcement at all levels”, said Patrice Motz, Of Counsel at Bryan Cave LLP, and a former official at the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), U.S. Department of the Treasury. “LUCID constitutes a means to avoid the investigative roadblock of state/federal jurisdictional issues and gives local law enforcement, often the first agency notified and involved in credit/debit

card theft and identity fraud cases, the ability to participate fully and effectively in collaborative investigative efforts by government and industry” added Motz.

Scott Loftesness, Managing Partner of Glenbrook Partners says, “Effective multi-issuer case management is the next step in dealing with the ‘broken windows’ of card fraud and identity theft. LETIX is taking an important step in enabling a solution that we all need in place and effective.”

LETIX has received support from numerous organizations, including TimeWarner, Equinix, Netgear, Belkin, Comodo, NSI and Cooley Godward LLP. Equinix has provided data center collocation and network exchange services to LETIX through the company’s state-of-the-art and secure Internet Business Exchange™ (IBX®) data centers operated by Equinix around the world. With security features that include interlocking "mantrap" doors, multiple layers of biometric hand-geometry scanners controlling access, 24-hour security officers and hundreds of surveillance cameras, Equinix's centers provide a key value to LETIX in ensuring data and systems security. LETIX selected Equinix because of their excellent reputation in providing a secure and redundant environment for the IT operations of government, financial services and other entities.

“With our strong focus on physical security, redundancy and reliability, many of the top financial institutions and other businesses currently rely on Equinix for their IT and Internet operations,” said Lane Patterson, chief technologist for Equinix. “We are pleased that the physical environment of Equinix’s centers will play an important role in supporting LETIX’s innovative LUCID system for combating identity theft and credit card fraud.”

Law enforcement agencies interested in participating in LUCID should contact [leo@letix.org](mailto:leo@letix.org). Basic access to the system is provided at no cost to approved local law enforcement agencies.

Financial institutions interested in learning more about LUCID and LETIX, or participating should contact [fi@letix.org](mailto:fi@letix.org).

To interview Charlie Marshall, Executive Director of LETIX about LUCID, email [info@letix.org](mailto:info@letix.org).

About LETIX:

Founded in 2003 and headquartered in San Mateo, California – the Law Enforcement Technology and Information Exchange (LETIX) is a not-for-profit 501©3 charitable organization dedicated to providing information and technology to law enforcement agents and agencies nationwide. LETIX has created innovative web-based systems for identity theft investigations, as well as deployed hardware and software for use in other police investigations.

For more information, email [info@letix.org](mailto:info@letix.org) or visit [www.letix.org](http://www.letix.org).

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