

# Innovative Identification Tool Is the Key to Effective Loss Prevention

By Katie Hartley

In your experience as a security professional, you have no doubt questioned a suspected shoplifter, only to be provided with false personal information. This type of situation can prove difficult for security personnel to recover losses from shoplifting and reduce shrinkage from theft. Imagine how much easier it would be to prosecute offenders and increase effectiveness of loss prevention programs if you could be sure of who they are and where they live.

Statistics generated by the FBI listed shoplifting as the second highest reported larceny-theft crime in 2007. The agency reported 14.9 percent of larceny-theft crimes were from shoplifting, which is second only to theft of motor vehicles at 26 percent.

## The Answer to Identifying Shoplifters

Accurate Background provides a dynamic, preventative solution to identifying shoplifters with in-depth, real-time results.

“We have developed this solution as a means for the retail industry to improve the overall success of loss prevention programs,” says Dave Dickerson, president of Accurate Background. “This product forces a shoplifter to admit responsibility for their actions by largely reducing their ability to falsify their identity from the start.”

The National SSN/Address Locator is a proprietary database made up of more than 400 different sources, holding more than 20 billion records. This database is continuously updated and is the quickest, most comprehensive identification tool available.

The process is simple. Each user logs into a personal account on the Internet. Once logged in, it is just one easy step of entering the suspected shoplifter’s social security number, and their identity is confirmed. As a result, their current address along with an address history of 12 to 20 years is instantly returned.

This product not only validates a person’s claimed identity, it advises professionals on:

- Whether the social security number (SSN) is a valid number
- The state where it was issued
- The year it was issued
- Possible aliases or maiden names the person may have used in the past
- Whether or not death benefits have been claimed on the SSN
- An estimated date history of when the individual resided at each listed address

Clients on this system are able to print results from their desktop and add them directly to the shoplifter’s file.

“Identity theft remains one of the fastest growing crimes in the United States today,” says Dickerson. “With this useful tool, loss prevention professionals will avoid filing criminal charges and seeking restitution for shoplifting from the wrong person.”



## About Accurate Background

Accurate Background, located in Lake Forest, California, offers market-leading, intuitive technology designed to save your organization time and money. A leader in their industry, Accurate Background is ranked on the Deloitte Technology Fast 500 companies in North America and received the notable JCPenney Procurement Supplier Diversity Award for 2007. They use a highly experienced staff and a worldwide network of skilled researchers to comb the globe for background screening information. The company’s primary clientele is comprised of human resources and loss prevention divisions of large corporations nationwide and around the world.

Specializing in employment screening, Accurate Background’s products include compliance services, criminal searches, biometric fingerprinting, credit reports, drug testing, motor vehicle reports, and education and employment verifications. Information is gathered, processed, and returned to the client using Accurate’s flexible on-line technology solutions allowing for both applicant and client data entry. They also offer fast and convenient electronic processing as well as customized system integrations for their high-volume customers.

*For more information on the National SSN/Address Locator or other services offered, please contact Accurate Background at 800-784-3911 or visit their website at [www.accuratebackground.com](http://www.accuratebackground.com).* ■



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People you can trust.*