

# Fingerprint Biometric Based SIM Card Registration System Deployed in Nigeria

## Challenge

The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) was looking for a biometric solution to register SIM Cards users throughout the country. The unregulated use of mobile phones in Nigeria has been known to aid in robberies, kidnappings, internet banking fraud, and terrorism throughout the country.



The NCC was looking to adopt an identification technology that required civilians to register for SIM Card purchases creating an accurate user database and tracking SIM card usage to prevent fraud and stop criminals from selling pre-activated SIM cards.

## Solution & Benefit

When our Nigerian partner Amoreg Nigeria Ltd. came to us with the NCC requirements, we offered them a combined solution of our Bio-Plugin™ image capture system and M2-EasyScan™ fingerprint reader. The solution was capable of taking fingerprint images of SIM card owners and can be kept on file for future ownership verification.



Since Nigeria is turning into a largely cashless society, registered SIM cards will become the most credible and verifiable source to secure transactions so it becomes important for the NCC to establish an accurate and comprehensive civilian user database. Adoption of the M2SYS biometric identification solution has helped telecommunications companies and the NCC create a centralized database that includes over 140 million SIM card user fingerprint biometric templates to more easily trace and track mobile activities.



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Effortlessly integrated into other similar identity registers for additional economic programs and benefits distribution, the SIM card biometric user database has helped the NCC to accurately track SIM card usage and directly identify criminals who were exploiting the system through fraud and corruption. The program has helped to deter the illegal sale of SIM cards on the street and tighten security for the NCC to prevent mobile phone crimes. Here are some additional benefits the Bio-Plugin™ image capture system provided:



- Designed specifically for the capture and creation of a raw image file from a scanned fingerprint
- Designed for use with the M2-S Reader fingerprint scanner
- Can be effortlessly integrated into any type of identity register software
- Windows based architecture

## About M2SYS

M2SYS Technology is U.S. based, biometric research and development firm. Since our inception, we have worked closely with our clients with the goal to enable them to capitalize on the benefits of using biometrics for security and identity management by accelerating their return on investment (ROI).

Working directly with the five major telecommunications companies and The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), M2SYS is set to collect more than 140 million fingerprint templates for 35 million civilian mobile phone SIM card users. With registration now set up through 11,500 M2SYS fingerprint readers spread throughout the country, the purpose of the deployment is to assemble a database of known mobile phone SIM card users to prevent fraud and corruption of the system. Each civilian who purchases a SIM card is required to register with the NCC through the major telecom providers to avoid having a third party obtain the card in order to commit a crime. The operators have collected an excess of 20 million fingerprints as of last month.



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