



Diplomas Counterfeiting and the Internet

Impacts, Measures and Counter-measures

Hatem SOLTANI
Founder, GenuineDocs Ltd

UNIVERSITÉ
D'OTTAWA



UNIVERSITY
OF OTTAWA

The Senate of the University has conferred on

Hatem Soltani

who has fulfilled all the requirements and
passed the prescribed examinations, the degree of

Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.)

with all the rights, honours and privileges proper to that degree.
In testimony whereof we have hereto subscribed our names and caused
the seal of the University to be affixed to this document.

Given at Ottawa, this 30th day of May 1994.


Chancellor


Rector and Vice-Chancellor




Dean


Secretary

Scope

Our focus in this presentation will be on the role of the internet as it relates to academic credentials fraud and its various forms.

We will learn how the internet is both a friendly and unfriendly place for academic institutions and fraud artists alike.

Agenda

- The Internet: the “great tool”
- Extent and forms of fraud
- The ease of diploma counterfeiting
- Existing anti-forging measures
- New anti-forging measures
- Measures’ advantages and limits
- Conclusion

The Internet: a “great tool”

- It does not need an introduction
- A truly global reach tool
- A great marketing and distribution channel
- No limits: Access, Markets, Targets,...
- A tool made in heaven when it comes to fraud
- An excellent place to hide in plain sight
- A great complement to the advent in printing technology
- Is both an ally and an enemy

The Internet: role in fraud

- Created a boom in diploma fraud starting in 1990s
- Lead to a complex fraud industry:
 - Fake universities and schools
 - Diploma mills
 - Forgers of degrees of real institutions
 - Bogus credential verifications services
 - Fake accrediting organizations
- Industry went universal overnight
- Extremely accurate very fast

The Internet: Size

- Industry is difficult to size
- Estimates of over 300 top active websites
- Forgers & Buyers are on-shore and off-shore
- Almost every college or university degree worldwide is available
- Most active countries: USA, Russia, Ukraine, China
 - USA alone over 200,000 fake diploma per year (Dipscam)
 - China estimates having about 500,000 fake degree holders

Extent of fraud

- Both high schools and universities levels
- Both existent and fictitious institutions
- Diplomas, transcripts, thesis,...
- Even verifications services (1-800 #s)
- Any degree: Bachelor's, Masters, PhDs, HS, GED
- Any graduation year (to match buyer's age)
- Accurate down to the registrar's signature who was in office

Forms of fraud

- Do-It-Yourself at home
- Distribution of degrees of fake universities
- Forging of degrees of genuine institutions
- Lost replacement services of originals
- Fraudulent verification services

The ease of diploma counterfeiting

Sellers:

- Software: Specialized or Photoshop
- Source security paper and emblems
- Affordable printing equipment
- Maintain a website

Users:

- Buy DIY software
- Use free online templates
- Choose and order online
- Pay with credit card, money order or western union
- Receive via mail

www.diplomadr.com



Deluxe Diploma and Transcript Kit - Fake Diploma - Fake Degree - Fake College Transcripts - Mozilla Firefox

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http://www.diplomadr.com/

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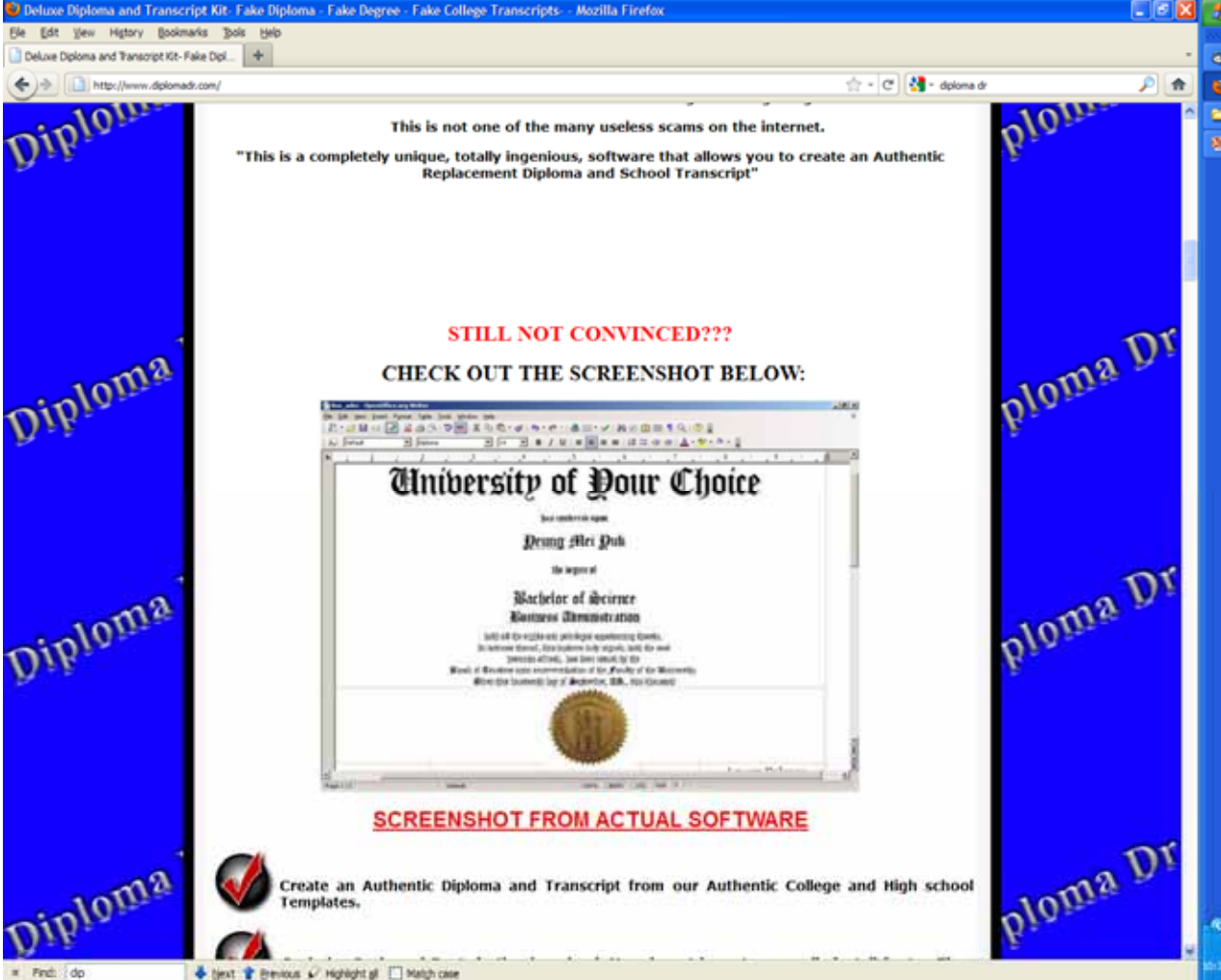
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www.diplomadr.com



Deluxe Diploma and Transcript Kit - Fake Diploma - Fake Degree - Fake College Transcripts - Mozilla Firefox


Deluxe Diploma and Transcript Kit - Fake Dipl...

http://www.diplomadr.com/

This is not one of the many useless scams on the internet.
"This is a completely unique, totally ingenious, software that allows you to create an Authentic Replacement Diploma and School Transcript"

STILL NOT CONVINCED???

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SCREENSHOT FROM ACTUAL SOFTWARE

Create an Authentic Diploma and Transcript from our Authentic College and High school Templates.

Find: dp

Next Previous Highlight all Match case





The screenshot shows the homepage of DiplomatMakers.com. At the top, the browser title is "DIPLOMA MAKERS - The Most Trusted Novelty Degree Site Online - Mozilla Firefox". The website header includes the logo, the name "DiplomaMakers.com", and contact information: "Call Us Toll-Free (800) 470-5020". A navigation menu lists: HOME, ABOUT US, SAMPLES, ORDER, Q&A, TESTIMONIALS. A prominent banner features a large image of a university building with the text "Oldest and Most Established Fake Diploma Maker" and "Check out more of our samples!". To the right of the banner are three sample diplomas. Below the banner, there are several sections: "Fake DIPLOMA or COLLEGE DEGREE IN AS LITTLE AS 24 HOURS! ORDER TODAY!", "WELCOME TO DIPLOMA MAKERS" with a description of their services, a Q&A section with questions like "What are the prices of the degrees?" and "Can I see a proof?", and a testimonial from "Renee - Florida" stating "I received my order today, it is perfect! Thank you." The footer contains small text: "Looking for a fake diploma or transcript? Choose from a fake college diploma, fake high school diploma, fake college transcript or high school transcript. We also have fake GED diplomas. DiplomatMakers.com is not a diploma mill or degree mill but rather an experienced fake diploma maker specializing in creating realistic fake university diplomas for those who want to obtain a degree at home. Buy a degree to showcase your work experience with a life experience degree. We are the premier diploma replacement service online that provides top-notch diplomas and transcripts for thousands of schools, from around the world." and "COPYRIGHT © 2010-2011".

www.diplomamakers.com



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[Order](#)
[Q&A](#)
[Testimonials](#)

[Buy Any Diploma Before You Read This Important Message](#)
[BUYER ALERT - Don't Buy An](#)

SAMPLES

At DiplomaMakers.com we supply exquisite diplomas and certificates that will give every person the feelings of accomplishment and success. We take great pride in our craftsmanship, offering nothing but the finest materials to provide the classy look of prestige. Our diplomas are made from the same authentic materials used by many universities, and come with a wide variety of options and styles.

Each diploma or certificate is individually customized with the name of the school, name of the student, type of degree, major area of study, date of completion, signatures and seals as well as city, state and county where applicable.

All of our great looking diplomas and certificates boast:

- Professionally produced custom designs
- Embossed, gold foil or colored seals
- Authentic certificate size
- Transcripts printed on document security paper
- Diplomas printed on thick stock parchment paper
- From a company with the oldest reputation

VIEW SOME OF OUR SAMPLE WORK BELOW

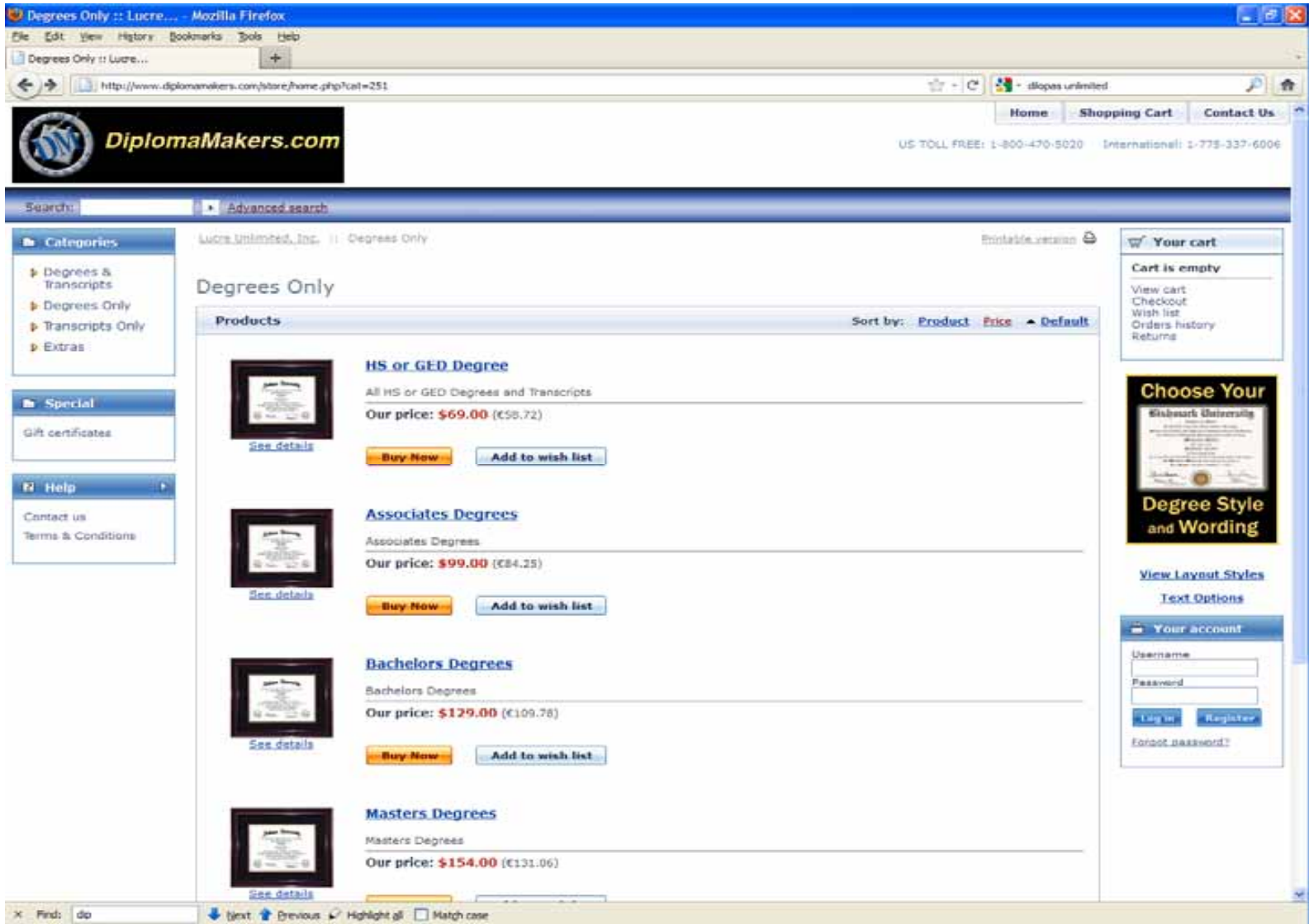


READY TO ORDER? [CLICK HERE!](#)

Item #DM016

Click on any image to view it in more detail, then click anywhere on the screen to go back to the gallery view.

Find:
[text](#)
[previous](#)
[highlight all](#)
 Match case



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the DiplomaMakers.com website. The page is titled "Degrees Only" and features a navigation menu on the left with categories like "Degrees & Transcripts", "Degrees Only", "Transcripts Only", and "Extras". The main content area lists four product types, each with a sample diploma image, a description, and pricing information:

Product	Description	Our price
HS or GED Degree	All HS or GED Degrees and Transcripts	\$69.00 (€58.72)
Associates Degrees	Associates Degrees	\$99.00 (€84.25)
Bachelors Degrees	Bachelors Degrees	\$129.00 (€109.78)
Masters Degrees	Masters Degrees	\$154.00 (€131.06)

Each product listing includes a "See details" link, a "Buy Now" button, and an "Add to wish list" button. The right sidebar contains a "Your cart" section (indicating the cart is empty), a "Choose Your Degree Style and Wording" advertisement, and a "Your account" section with login and registration options.



Mozilla Firefox
http://www.diplomakers.com/store/product.php/productid=16144&cat=251&page=1

DiplomaMakers.com
US TOLL FREE: 1-800-470-5020 International: 1-773-331-6006

Search: [Advanced search](#)

Categories: [Diplomas & Transcripts](#) | [Degrees Only](#) | [Transcripts Only](#) | [Extras](#)

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Masters Degrees

Please fill in the order form below. If there are any fields that you don't know the answers to or wish not to answer you can leave them blank and we will complete them for you.

IMPORTANT: Please double check your answers as the information from this form, will be electronically transferred to complete your documents.

We will create for you an authentic, realistic looking degree from the school of your choice. We are able to do this because every degree template we use was designed from a genuine university diploma supplied to us by a previous customer.

For us to replicate a degree for you, simply choose the type of degree you want, the State or Province your school is in, then select a school from the available list. From there, just fill in the remaining information and we will get your diploma into production.

Product Details

SKU: SKU16136200

Our price: **\$134.00** (€131.00)

Options

Type of Degree:

What State / Province or Continent is the School Located In:

After Selecting a State, Choose a School from This List (if no schools are shown, please click [here](#) to let us know)

Select a school from the list below

- DeVry Institute of Technology
- Grande Prairie Regional College
- Grant MacEwan Community College
- Keyano College
- Lakeland College
- Lethbridge Community College
- Loma Linda University, branch campus
- Medicine Hat College
- Mount Royal College
- Nazarene University College
- Neuman Theological College
- Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
- Red Deer College
- Southern Alberta Institute of Technology
- St. Mary's College
- Taylor University College and Seminary
- The King's University College
- University of Alberta
- University of Calgary
- University of Lethbridge

No new text style chosen

First Seal Diploma, would you like it embossed?
 Yes Emboss No

Your cart: **Cart is empty**
[View cart](#)
[Checkout](#)
[Wish list](#)
[Orders history](#)
[Returns](#)

Choose Your Degree Style and Wording

[View Layout Styles](#)

Your account

[Forgot account?](#)

Find: Highlight all Match case

Universities on Diplomamakers.com

ALBERTA

Alberta College of Art and Design
Athabasca University
Augustana University College
Canadian University College
Concordia University College of Alberta
DeVry Institute of Technology
Grande Prairie Regional College
Grant MacEwan Community College
Keyano College
Lakeland College
Lethbridge Community College
Loma Linda University, branch campus
Medicine Hat College
Mount Royal College
Nazarene University College
Newman Theological College
Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
Red Deer College
Southern Alberta Institute of Technology
St. Mary's College
Taylor University College and Seminary
The King's University College
University of Alberta
University of Calgary
University of Lethbridge

BRITISH COLUMBIA

British Columbia Institute of Technology
British Columbia Open University
Camosun College
Capilano College
Capilano University
Century College
College of the Rockies
Columbia College
Coquitlam College
Douglas College
Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design
Institute of Indigenous Government
Kingston College
Kwantlen Polytechnic University
Kwantlen University College
Langara College
Malaspina University-College
North Island College
Northern Lights College
Okanagan University College
Royal Roads University
Selkirk College
Simon Fraser University
Technical University of British Columbia
Trinity Western University
Trinity Western University - Associated Canadian Theological Schools
University College of the Cariboo
University College of the Fraser Valley
University of British Columbia
University of Northern British Columbia
University of the Fraser Valley
University of Victoria
Vancouver University Colleges Worldwide

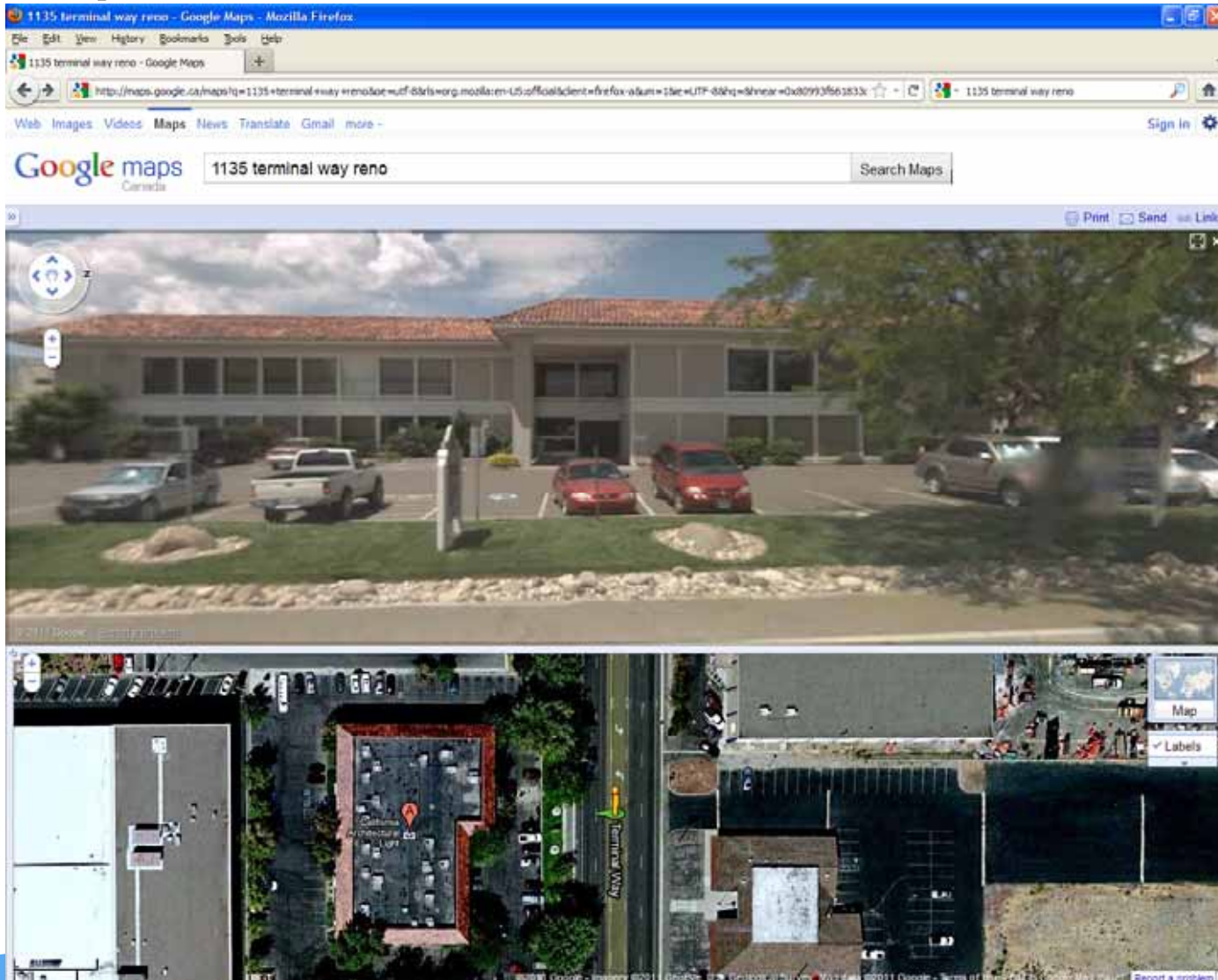
MANITOBA

Brandon University
Canadian Mennonite University
Providence College and Theological Seminary
University of Manitoba
University of Manitoba - College Universitaire de St.-Boniface
University of Manitoba - St. John's College
University of Manitoba - St. Paul's College
University of Winnipeg
University of Winnipeg - Concord College
University of Winnipeg - Menno Simons College

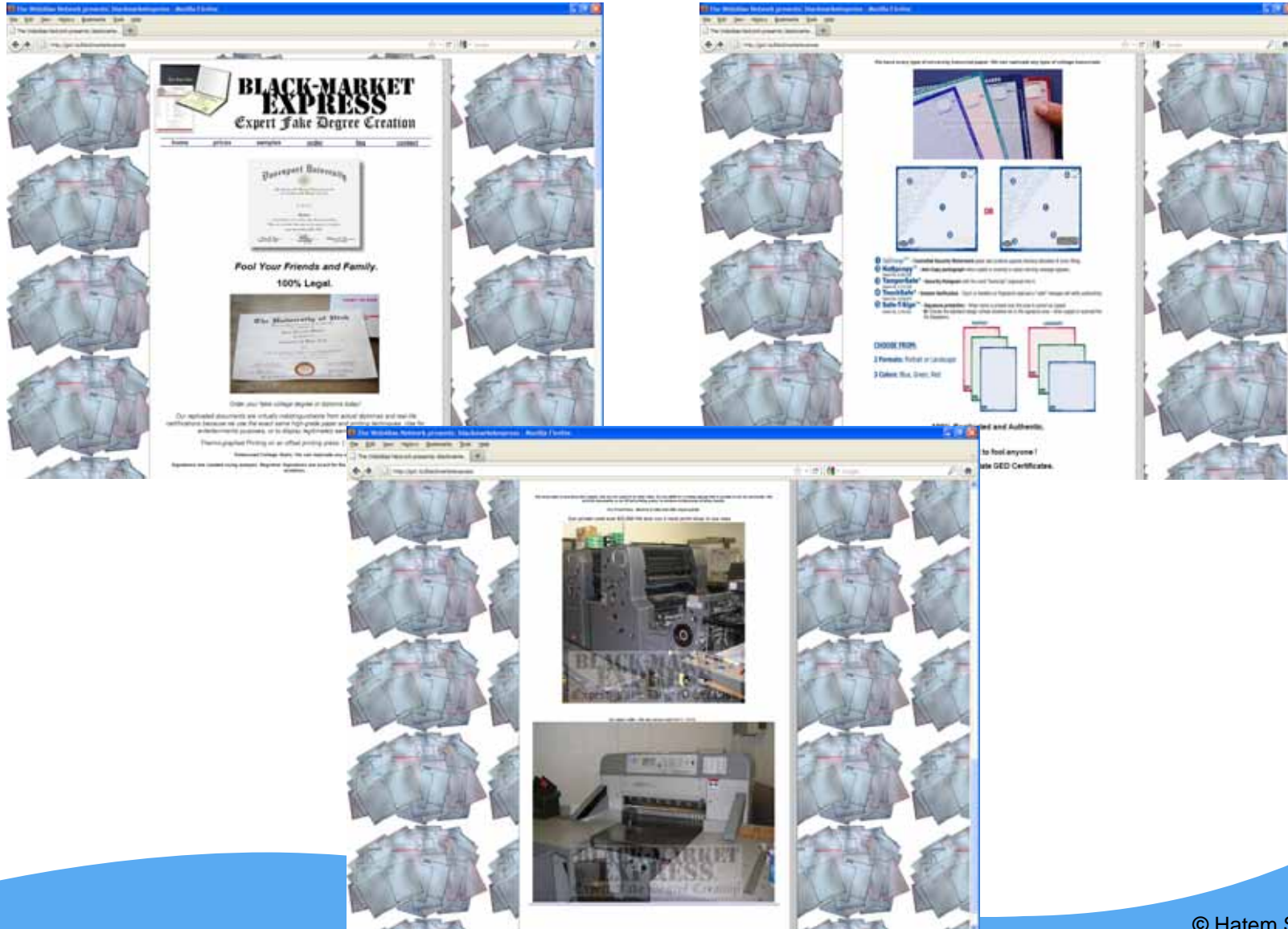
SASKATCHEWAN

Briercrest Bible College and Seminary
Campion College
Canadian Bible College and Theological Seminary
Luther College
Saskatchewan Indian Federated College
Saskatoon Theological Union
St. Thomas More College
University of Regina
University of Saskatchewan

Diplomamakers.com location



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www.youtube.com/user/blackmarketexpress



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Anti-forging measures

- Types
 - Paper based
 - Electronic based
- Characteristics:
 - Self-developed in-house
 - Third party provided – dependant or independent
 - Mostly Web-based
- Coverage:
 - Institution limited
 - Academic community organized (i.e. USA)
 - Nationwide publicly organized (i.e. China)

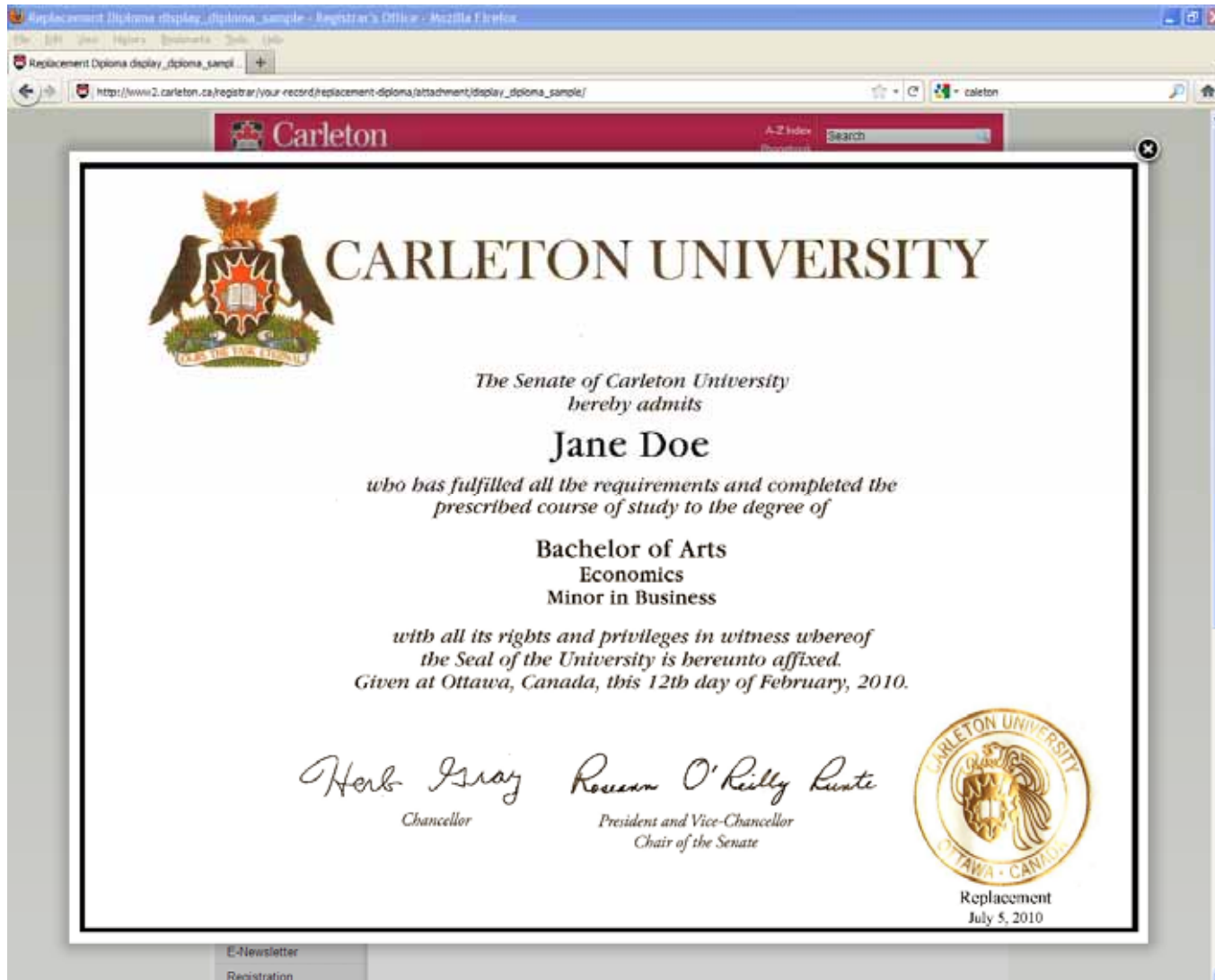
Existing anti-forging measures

- Security paper solutions:
 - Voiding pantograph NaNOcopy™ Planchets paper
 - Watermarking Hologram UV Fibers
 - Anti-Copy foil Hidden Message
 - Metal striping Anti-copy numbering
- Printing solutions:
 - Multi-colored ink Micro-strips Micro-printing
 - Ghost marking Embossing Warning listing
- Copyright solutions:
 - Copyrighted seals Copyrighted logos

New anti-forging measures

- Advance disclosure of sample diplomas
- University run verification portals
- Centralized electronic exchange of records
- Centralized verification platform
- Approved third-party verification providers
- Hardcopy authentication providers

Carleton University Sample



York University YU Verify

YU Verify Online

SEARCH BY STUDENT NUMBER SEARCH BY NAME

Search By Biographical Information

Surname:


First Name:

Month and Day of Birth (DDMM):

Middle Name:

Word Verification

Type the characters you see in the picture below:



if the image is not clear, click "Get Another Word".

Search Search

Comments and problems regarding this site can be sent to us using our [customer support](#) page.

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YORK U

SEARCH BY STUDENT NUMBER SEARCH BY NAME

Search Results

Student Name:

Tony R. Ramnauth

Student Degree Program(s) Conferred

Program Description	Convocation
Johnson Faculty of Liberal & Professional Studies, B.A. Liberal Studies (Individualized Studies)	JUNE 1995
Johnson Faculty of Liberal & Professional Studies, Certificate in Marketing	JUNE 1994

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SEARCH BY STUDENT NUMBER SEARCH BY NAME

Search Results

Student Name:

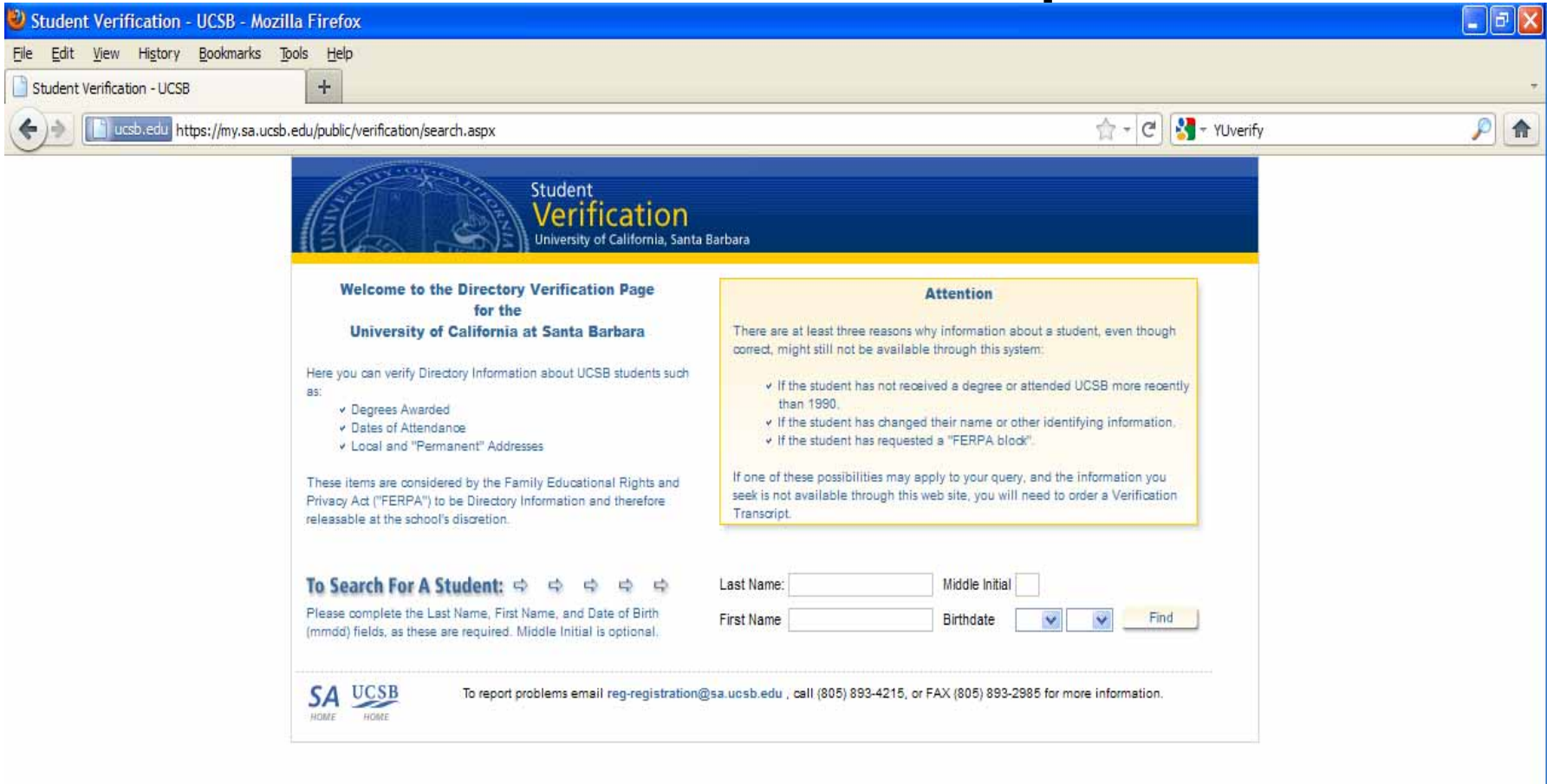
Tony R. Ramnauth

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Johnson Faculty of Liberal & Professional Studies, Certificate in Marketing	JUNE 1994

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UCSB verification portal




Student Verification - UCSB - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

Student Verification - UCSB +

ucsb.edu https://my.sa.ucsb.edu/public/verification/search.aspx YUverify


Student Verification
 University of California, Santa Barbara

Welcome to the Directory Verification Page for the University of California at Santa Barbara

Here you can verify Directory Information about UCSB students such as:

- ✓ Degrees Awarded
- ✓ Dates of Attendance
- ✓ Local and "Permanent" Addresses

These items are considered by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") to be Directory Information and therefore releasable at the school's discretion.

To Search For A Student: ← → ↲ ↳ ↴

Please complete the Last Name, First Name, and Date of Birth (mmdd) fields, as these are required. Middle Initial is optional.


Attention

There are at least three reasons why information about a student, even though correct, might still not be available through this system:

- ✓ If the student has not received a degree or attended UCSB more recently than 1990.
- ✓ If the student has changed their name or other identifying information.
- ✓ If the student has requested a "FERPA block".

If one of these possibilities may apply to your query, and the information you seek is not available through this web site, you will need to order a Verification Transcript.

Last Name: Middle Initial
 First Name Birthdate Find

 To report problems email reg-registration@sa.ucsb.edu, call (805) 893-4215, or FAX (805) 893-2985 for more information.

Centralized electronic exchanges



National Transcript Center

Track a Transcript
Transcript Number TRACK

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NTC is the largest e-transcript provider in the world, comprising 2,299 institutions representing more than 114,000,000 students.

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NTC offers PK-12 schools a faster, safer and cheaper way to send, receive, manage and track electronic student records/transcripts. Exchange data or PDFs with other PK-12 schools, colleges, and universities, minimizing the need to re-key data and easing student transitions. [LEARN MORE](#)

SOLUTIONS FOR COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES
Exchange true electronic transcripts (and PDFs), removing the need to re-key data. NTC can help both admissions and registrar's offices automate paper-based processes and begin exchanging transcripts electronically - easily, inexpensively, and quickly. [LEARN MORE](#)

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High-volume receivers of transcripts can stop drawing in paper. NTC can provide a simple, secure Web interface to receive electronic transcripts as data or PDFs from schools all across the country. If you also need to send transcripts, we can help with that, too. [LEARN MORE](#)

NTC has seven statewide contracts with PK-12 state education agencies:
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Colorado
Iowa
Texas
Virginia
West Virginia
Wyoming

Cost Savings Calculator
Enter your district's or school's enrollment to estimate how much you could save annually by using the National Transcript Center.
Enter Enrollment Number:
[CALCULATE](#) [RESET](#)

Latest News & Events
Illustrations Release National Transcript Center (NTC) Version 3.0 to Help Students and Parents Quickly Obtain School Transcripts Online, Anytime
California Signs Statewide Electronic Transcript Contract to National Transcript Center
Pearson Wins Iowa Student Record and Transcript Exchange System Project
Pearson Education Acquires NTC
Ohio 20 Electronic Student Record and Transcript Exchange System Saves Millions for Districts, State Education Agencies
NTC JumpStart Enables Any School To Begin Sending Electronic Transcripts Immediately
NTC Wins Statewide Contract in Texas - Largest e-Transcript Contract Ever Awarded
Virginia Department of Education and National Transcript Center Collaborate on Statewide Electronic Transcript System



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The nation's trusted source for student degree and enrollment verification.™

USER LOGIN | Colleges & Universities | High Schools & Districts | Students & Alumni | Guarantors, Leaders & Servicers | Degree & Enrollment Verifiers

User Name:
Password:

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Order or Track a Transcript [?](#)

Verify a Degree, Past Attendance or Certification [?](#)


Verify Current Enrollment [?](#)

- Participating Schools
- Certification Providers
- Join & Save

Clearinghouse Schools

- Full list of participating schools
- Electronic Transcript Exchange Registry

92% of US college students attend Clearinghouse schools



Third-party verification providers



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Coming to the UK?
Going overseas?
Apply online

Personal >

Aspirant
Confidence
Score

Organisation >

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Employee Background Screening

Contact Kroll

Kroll's background screening solutions help companies and organizations verify the backgrounds and résumés of potential new hires to mitigate risk and enhance compliance.

Supported by our i-Verify sister company, Verifile, our shared screening programs can provide greater record depth, faster review and audit trails, credit checks, and employment and education verifications.

- Employee Background Screening
- Client Login



AURADATA

WELCOME TO AURADATA

AURADATA is an information repository for employers and institutions to confirm the education claims or professional designations of an individual that has graduated at any Canadian University, College and/or Professional Association. This system is not for individual use to confirm their own graduation.

If you are new to AURADATA, there are several things you should know:

Federal and Provincial legislations in Canada require permission to research any information identifiable to an individual and the best proof of authorization is a signed release. Auradata requires signed authorization by the subject before releasing any information.

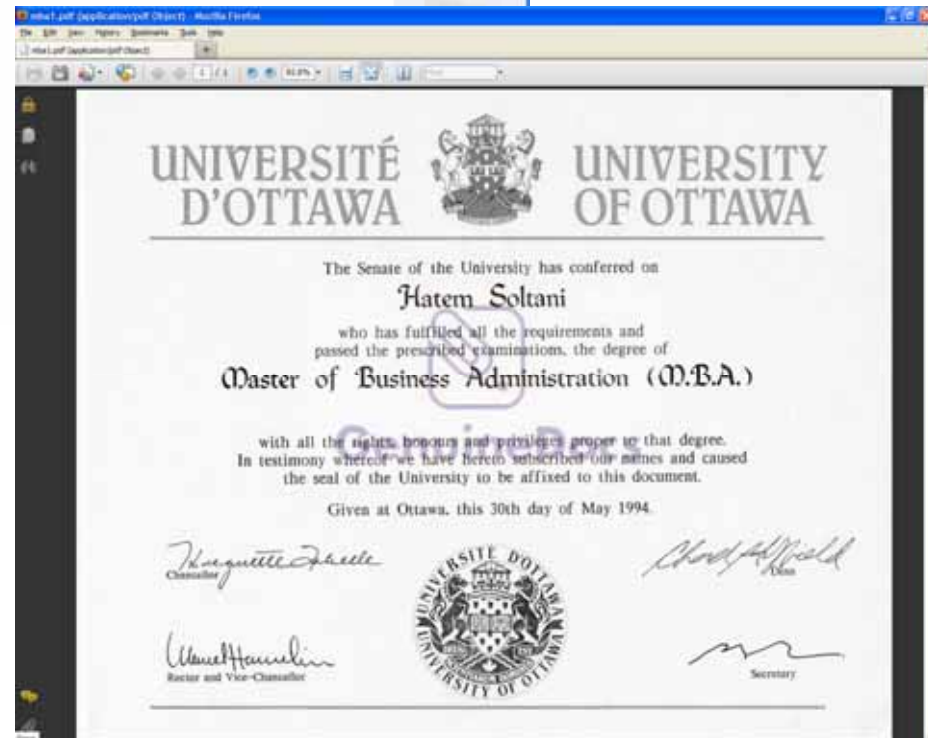
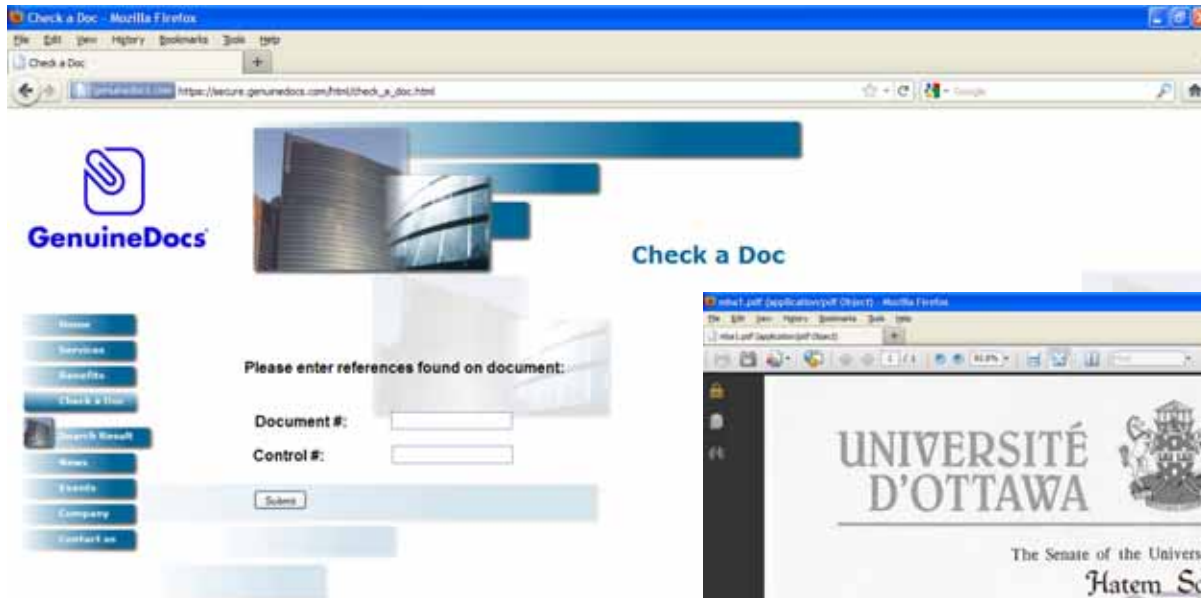
Signed authorizations can be scanned as a PDF and uploaded, scanned as a PDF and emailed or faxed to the system. If you use your own authorization form, our cover page must be sent as the first page and either uploaded, emailed or faxed. In all cases the Auradata cover page or authorization form must be the first page and they must be sent individually.

To become a subscriber [click here](#) or go to "New Account" on the top right corner of this page.

For further information, check the "FAQ" page in contact as directly.

Thank you for using AURADATA.

GenuineDocs verification portal



Measures' advantages and limits

- Paper based:
 - Already breached and forged
 - Hard to update once diploma issued
 - Rely on third party to defend the measure
 - Difficult to detect to untrained eye
- Electronic based:
 - Innovative and easily accessible
 - Borderless
 - Document security out of reach of forgers
 - Constant deterrent and offers better protection
 - Not every institution is on same platform
 - Could be more costly long-term
 - Cumbersome
 - Transactional and expensive
 - Not user friendly in many instances

Conclusion

- The Internet is a two way street when it comes to committing and combating diploma fraud
- Borders are down, use the Internet to protect your organization: Search, Search, Search
- The threat is constant and you probably have been victimized already
- The “old ways” may be tested and true but clearly they are not working.
- Forgers are usually one step ahead. It is best to turn the table around
- There are many solutions, choose what suits your organization



Q&As

Hatem SOLTANI

hsoltani@genuinedocs.com