

# **Managing and Securing Information through Smart Card: Government Multipurpose Smart Card (GMPC)**

by

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## **Abstract**

A Smart Card is a standard credit card-sized plastic token within which a microchip has been embedded, hence making it effect a microcomputer. The chip is the engine room of the smart card, and indeed is what makes it 'smart'. MyKad or the Government Multipurpose Card (GMPC) is part of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) flagship initiatives. The project commenced shortly after our Prime Minister unveiled his vision of a Multipurpose Card in 1996. Now After 5 years of intense research and development, it finally arrived at the conclusion of the pilot implementation phase of the project in which 2 Million cards will be issued. As of the end of 2001, MyKad will be in the hand of 1 Million citizens.

As there was no other similar system deployed in other part of the world, this paper will give the overview of the GMPC project as well as MayKad, basic technology of the Smart Card, its benefits, the architecture and technology. Throughout the paper, the particular aspect of legal issue in implementation will be discuss briefly and it will also features the frame work for National Roll Out (NRO), challenge and risk and critical successful factor in the implementation of the project.

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# Introduction

## 1.1 Background of Study

The 21<sup>st</sup> century is often referred to as the information society. As a strategy to achieve its national agenda for long term development, Malaysia has embarked on an ambitious plan to leapfrog into the Information Age by investing in an environment that encourages innovation, promotes new technology frontiers and providing opportunities for mutual enrichment and success. The creation of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) is aimed at accelerating Malaysia entry into the Information Age and through it help materialize the country's vision of becoming a developed Nation.

*The Multipurpose Smart card project is one of the seven flagship applications developed under the MSC and would be the key for citizen to electronically access services and facilities that would be developed under the various flagships within the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) project.*

Our visionary Prime Minister had aspired for Government Multipurpose Card to be single multipurpose physical and digital ID card for use in everyday life of Malaysia as evident in the following excerpt during the launch of Multimedia Super Corridor on 1 st August 1996:- *'Malaysia will have the world's first national multipurpose smart card. One card will have the individual's ID and electronic signature and access to Government, banking, credit, telephone, transport and drug services'*