

The Growth of IUID in the DoD Supply Chain



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IUID Policy Background

The U.S. Department of Defense Item Unique Identification (IUID) initiative began for the DoD and its industry partners in 2003. Led by the UID Policy Office, the DoD established policies, regulations, and guidance documentation outlining the IUID requirements. IUID applies to items that have a unit acquisition cost of \$5,000 or greater, or if less than \$5,000, items that are DoD-serially managed, mission essential, or controlled inventory. For items meeting these criteria, it must then be determined how the item will be uniquely identified. The basic method in assigning the unique item identifier, or UII, is to select either:

- Construct #1 (serialization within the enterprise)
- Construct #2 (serialization within part number)
- IUID Equivalent

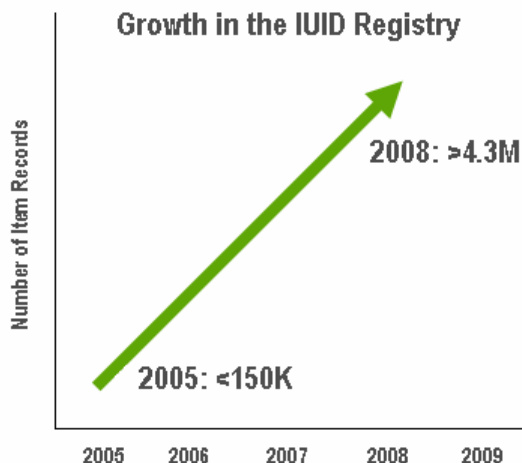
Each of these methods is based on international standards, directing how specific data elements including the enterprise identifier, serial number, and in some cases, original part number, can be used to create a globally unique and unambiguous identifier. So, how does the application of IUID data, when applied to assets with a 2D Data Matrix (shown at right), function to create benefits in the DoD supply chain?



The IUID concept and applications, with strong roots in commercial part marking and identification, have been successfully enabling a number of process improvements through automated data capture. The primary benefits thus far have included: (a) reduced human errors related to data capture and entry, (b) improved inventory accuracy and visibility, (c) enhanced accuracy of property and equipment valuation and accountability, and (d) decreased workforce burden via automated data capture. While these benefits are not solely the purview of IUID and can be achieved through other part marking/identification technologies, IUID provides for the first time a DoD-wide approach that can be leveraged beyond the DoD organization.

Moving Beyond Early Adoption

IUID serves as a building block that is increasingly essential for the DoD in asset visibility and accuracy and managing associated supply chain operations. Furthermore, IUID provides a consistent mechanism for associating operational and lifecycle data to individual items—a critical success factor for decision support systems and other IT systems to provide clean, accurate, and timely data. By utilizing automatic data capture and associating data across multiple systems, DoD gains greater capability to make informed decisions at the same time reducing the level of effort to collect accurate data.



No indicator so readily demonstrates the significant growth of the IUID initiative as the IUID Registry, a central repository of items assigned and marked with compliant Unique Item Identifiers (UIIs). In the spring of 2005, the IUID Registry contained less than 150,000 item records, but that figure has grown in the past three years to over 4.3 million recorded items—and the rate is increasing. In addition to the number of assets registered, the number of organizations registering UIIs has grown to approximately 1,500.

As with the growth in other automatic identification technology markets, such as RFID, an increase in the supplier base is helping to ensure the success and longevity of IUID. With more companies providing resources in support of the initiative, such as part marking, costs will be driven down and the value proposition will continue to improve for deploying organizations.

While the initial adoption of IUID is impressive, there is still a long way to go, particularly for the items that are currently in operational use or inventory within the DoD. External factors, such as the on-going military activity and the upcoming change in administration, have the potential to divert resources or attention from the implementation of IUID. While DoD initiatives often experience change during election years and administration transitions, XIO Strategies believes that IUID will continue to be implemented and embraced well into the future.

Behind the Scenes: Supplier Resources

The IUID program has established firm roots in key documentation such as the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement ([DFARS](#)), DoD Directive [8320.03](#) (UID and DoD Net-Centric relationship), and [MIL-STD 130](#) (identification marking of DoD property), and is strongly supported by senior DoD leadership. Additionally, the UID Policy Office has established a number of working groups to support the development and implementation of the policy.

The DoD and its supplier community will continue to make progress in the adoption of IUID, including expansion across the international community. Also, many of the broader initiatives and principles that have and continue to shape the business of the DoD, such as acquisition reform, business transformation, and net-centricity, can benefit from the foundational capability that IUID provides in supporting higher-level strategic objectives.

To assist the broader community in understanding the DoD requirements and benefits realized by successfully implementing IUID, there are many resources available, including the following:

Resource	Website	Description
IUID Toolkit	www.IUIDToolkit.com	This "roadmap" design highlights IUID impacts by organization section including Defense Suppliers, Program Managers, Maintenance Depots and Operations/Field Maintenance.
IUID Overview Tutorial	www.IUIDToolkit.com/overview	Step by step flash tutorial detailing policy, implementation and marking techniques and registry information.
IUID Data Tutorial	www.IUIDToolkit.com/datatutorial	Provides detailed information regarding the IUID Registry including data formats, submission methods and functionality.
IUID Website	www.Uniqueid.org	This website contains key policy and regulation documentation, IUID implementation success stories, and news items.
UID Forum	www.UIDForum.com	The UID event, providing practical guidance to educate military program managers and DoD contractors to achieve successful IUID implementation.

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