

South African Driver's License (SADL) - FAQ

If I scan the barcode on the driver's license, why doesn't it make any sense?

The barcode on the reverse side of the South African Driver's license [SADL] is an encrypted PDF 417 barcode. Two keys are used, a private key to encrypt the data and store it in the barcode and a public key which decrypts the barcode.

How do I decrypt the barcode?

You will require a copy of the public key which links itself uniquely to the serial number of the device on which it is installed. This unique link generates an activation code which is loaded onto the device via your cloud-based server account and only needs to be done once. Once your mobile device is unlocked it will decrypt the barcode. Please bear in mind that you require a software developer to create an application running on the devices in order to get any benefit from this functionality.

What is stored in the barcode?

The SADL stores 710 bytes of data in the barcode and included in this is all information relevant to the license, such as initials, surname, identity number, driver's license number, date of issue, expiration date etc. Also included in the barcode is the photograph of the bearer. The signature and biometric fingerprint are however not stored in the current version of the card.

Where is the decryption done and does the device have to break out to a hosted solution?

There are varying models, but the most common method is for the decryption to be handled natively on the device. Breaking out to a server is not desirable in areas where connectivity is poor and as a result, most customers prefer this approach. If you have a solution that is scan-intensive, or doesn't allow for poor response times, then a good 2D imager is a must.

We have found Honeywell and Zebra imager to have the best performance especially in direct sunlight. An example of this would be an access control or guarding application, where you simply can't afford a user to struggle to scan the barcode. Imagers are designed to scan barcodes and have better motion tolerance and depth of field than regular cameras found in phones and tablets. If you have a tablet that doesn't have an embedded imager, we have a range that can be paired via Bluetooth and also work very well. If using the embedded camera is still a core requirement, then a soft decoder can be used, and the raw data sent through to a server. The decoding of the barcode via the camera remains the responsibility of the software developer when not using a 2D imager.

What is the cost of the decryption algorithm?

Pricing is per device and there are volume driven discounts that apply. If you would prefer to pay a monthly fee instead of a once off fee per device, then please enquire about our OPEX model.

Do you offer only the decryption algorithm, or can you provide the required hardware and services too?

Bidvest Mobility is very well positioned to offer you the best advice and hardware required for your application. We have both mobile and desktop solutions and import all hardware directly. Due to a very large installation base and a good track record, we can offer the most competitive rates on

hardware directly from the manufacturer. Any additional consultative services or bespoke software design can also be provided if required.

Is there a USB barcode scanner with the driver's licence decryption algorithm already loaded?

Yes, you could look at using the 3330S driver's license scanner. All that you require is a free USB port and the scanner will do the rest. The scanner can be embedded into kiosks or boom gates etc. or installed in its desktop stand. The PC software suite supports the scanner and it is ideal for over the counter applications.

Is there a software suite available to capture and store the data?

Yes, we have developed a PC based application (32 bit) which will monitor a designated port and capture the data. This data can be saved in a .CSV or .TXT file and the image as a .BMP or .JPG format. There is an XML structure which can also be used. If required, an ODBC can be created as well.

Can we capture biometric fingerprints and link them to the driver's license records, or even scan other security cards?

We have a range of mobile devices that have embedded biometric fingerprint readers. Please contact Bidvest Mobility for more information.

Can we scan the round vehicle license disks and link the driver to the vehicle?

Definitely! The vehicle license disks in the South African also contain a PDF 417 barcodes but it is not encrypted. Upon scanning it you can expect to get information such a make, model, vin number, colour etc. from the license disk.

What do I do if something goes wrong with the hardware purchased from Bidvest Mobility?

We are an authorised service and repairs centre for all of the equipment that we import. Repairs are either done under warranty, treated as a time and materials repair if non-warranty or covered under a maintenance contract. Maintenance contracts can be tailored to your requirements.

Do you offer an enterprise grade mobile solution with relevant IP rating?

We offer a range of mobile devices from leading suppliers such as Honeywell, Zebra Technologies, Datalogic etc. Mostly the devices used today are Android based and come in varying IP ratings for specific deployment configurations.

Do you offer an OPEX model or must the goods be purchased on CAPEX?

There is a monthly operational expenditure model which can be linked. We can offer either the hardware as a service [HAAS] or the entire solution as a service [SAAS].

For more information contact: sales@bidvestmobility.co.za or call [+27 \(0\)11 450 0505](tel:+27(0)114500505) or complete [this form](#)