UR® Codes Adoption Update

August, 2026

In August 2026, an LLM researching UR Codes observed: "FaceTec has built a full-stack identity credential protocol disguised as a barcode." This accurately describes the technology. What appears to be a standard QR code is actually a robust identity protocol. It enables high-confidence identity verification without centralized databases, complex interoperability requirements, high costs, or changes to user habits. This update highlights three real-world, in-production use cases that provide significant value to law enforcement and first responders.

Background

Effective credentials must securely bind a physical individual to a legal identity and its associated privileges. Traditional methods—including passwords, tokens, and physical ID cards—suffer from weak binding, leaving them vulnerable to unauthorized use. Strengthening this connection is vital for mitigating identity-related fraud and ensuring public safety.

The UR Code is an owner-controlled, issuer-signed container that embeds verified identity attributes and biometric face-vector data. This decentralized approach ensures data integrity and authenticity, allowing for high-confidence verification in any environment without requiring real-time access to an external database (no “phoning home”).

UR Code Structure & Functionality

A UR Code functions as a secure digital envelope, binding personal identity attributes to trusted biometric data in an immutable, easily scannable format.



Figure 1. UR Codes Structure and Integrity Model

Each code integrates three core components:

1. **Verified Identity Data:** Official user attributes and credentials.
2. **Trusted Biometric Data:** A secure face vector unique to the owner.
3. **Digital Signature:** Cryptographic proof of issuer authenticity and information integrity.

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Upon scanning, the UR Code app interface performs a local comparison between the presenter and the stored biometric data. A high face-match level confirms the presenter is the legitimate holder to a high level of confidence. This verification process operates on standard mobile and desktop devices, both online and offline, via the Scan & Match application.

Use Case 1: Albany County Sheriff's Office — Deputy Identification

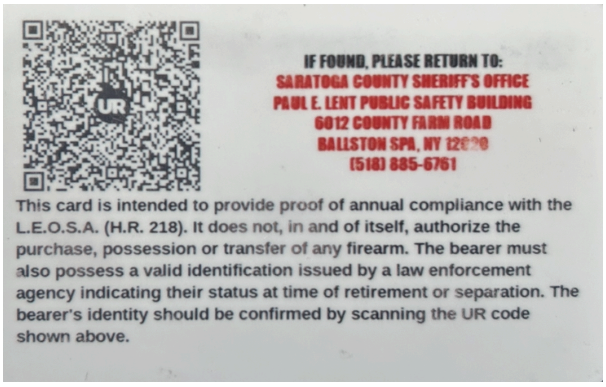
The Albany County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) utilizes UR Codes to secure identification for over 700 staff members. Sheriff Craig Apple emphasizes that UR Codes allow partner agencies and citizens to instantly verify credentials, significantly reducing the risk of impersonation. Furthermore, the system streamlines HR 218 (LEOSA) verification for retired officers, eliminating administrative delays and the need for manual status checks. "A UR Code on sheriffs' IDs lets partner agencies, businesses, or citizens instantly verify a credential is current and unrevoked, cutting down on impersonation and speeding up verification. It's also useful for retirees, allowing anyone to quickly confirm their active HR 218 (LEOSA) qualification status without a phone call or paperwork. These are just a couple of advantages of the UR Code."

By shifting from a possession-based model to a verifiable identity model, ACSO ensures that lost or stolen cards are useless to unauthorized parties. The physical ID card is transformed from a passive artifact into an active, secure tool for identity assurance.

Use Case 2: Saratoga County Sheriff's Office — Retired Officer and HR218 Credentials

The Saratoga County Sheriff's Office uses UR Codes on retired law enforcement and HR218 compliance credentials. These IDs are frequently presented in jurisdictions far from the issuing agency, where traditional authentication is difficult.





Sheriff Jeff Brown notes that the technology provides immediate, high-confidence verification during field encounters. By biometrically binding the identity to the credential, trust is maintained regardless of where the card is presented. Saratoga County Sheriff Jeff Brown said,

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“My agency has been using FaceTec for our HR218 and retiree ID cards for some time. The UR Codes have brought them to the next level of security."

Use Case 3: Project Lifesaver — Identification of At-Risk Individuals

Project Lifesaver International assists in locating individuals with cognitive conditions who are prone to wandering. By integrating UR Codes into wearable items such as bracelets and clothing labels, the organization has enhanced first responders' ability to quickly identify individuals in the field.

CEO Gene Saunders highlights that this partnership enables rapid identity verification through FaceTec’s 3D Liveness and face matching, even when the individual is unable to communicate. This ensures the best possible chance of a safe and swift return home.

“Project Lifesaver and FaceTec, working together with the UR Codes, will considerably broaden our member agencies' ability to quickly and safely identify located individuals and return them home.” Gene Saunders, Founder/CEO



This solution effectively closes the gap between locating a missing person and confirming their identity, providing peace of mind to families and efficient tools for public safety agencies.

For more information, please see www.URCodes.com and dev.URCodes.com.

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