# RFID (Electronic Tags) Legal problems in Japan

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#### Realty

- RFID systems have been introduced into and used in real society of Japan
  - Example
    - Suica Card of JR
    - Edy Card of ANA
- Hitachi developed μ chip

#### **JR Suica Card**

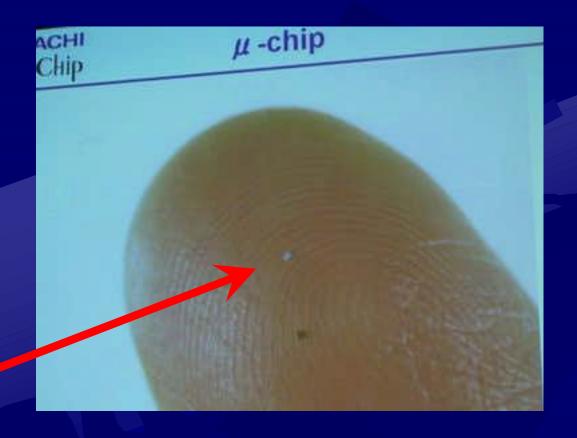




# **ANA Mileage Points Card**



### Hitachi - µ - chip



0.3 mm IC chip

# Legal Problems

- Violations of privacy rights
- Security
- Other Problems
  - Disclosure and violation of confidential corporate information (Trade Secrets)
  - Electromagnetic interference and allocation of the electromagnetic spectrum
  - Code standards
  - Environmental issues
  - Harm to human health
  - Products liability

#### **Mechanism of Privacy Violation**

- The issue of privacy with respect to RFID is not one that arises from RFID, and is no more than an existing issue that has been expanded and made more apparent by RFID.
- Tracking in some sense is possible in any environment in which some "object" with tracking ID functions using a wireless or cable network can match data with individual identifications.

#### **Human Identification**

+

**Privacy Violation** 

**Device Identification** 

# Japanese Laws to be addressed to RFID problems

- Unauthorized Computer Access Law
  - Not Applicable
  - Requires "access via telecommunication line"
- Personal Privacy Information Law
  - Applicable to only limited cases
  - Requires "an entity handling personal information who has gathered a certain volume of such data"
- Penal Code
  - Applicable to only limited cases
  - Requires "Physical Payment Card"
- Wireless Communication Law
  - Not Applicable
  - Now drafting for amendment of the Law

#### My recommendation to protect Privacy right

- Current Japanese Laws shall be amended quickly
- Good Policy shall be established
  - A policy should be adopted that when personal information is collected using RFID or RFID and data matching, clear notice or notification that personal information is being gathered using RFID must be provided.
  - Stealth application of RFID should be prohibited