



VoiceBond™ -- A Note to General Counsel

By Benjamin Wright, Attorney and Author of "The Law of Electronic Commerce"

VoiceBond™ enables business to be conducted more efficiently and sales to be closed more quickly. Capitalizing on new e-commerce laws, it allows people to affix legal signatures to complex transactions, using their voice.

VoiceBond turns the telephone into a tool for executing contracts and closing deals. It eliminates the hassle and delay of circulating paper documents for signature by fax or mail.

The VoiceBond family of technologies can be deployed for the signing of lengthy contracts over the Internet, through corporate call centers or via individual telephone conversations.

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Technically, VoiceBond is a patent-pending process for binding a spoken statement to the content of a legal record, be that record paper or electronic.

The voice statement contains a signature code that links mathematically to the content of the transaction being signed. This code is evidence that the signer intended to sign the transaction in question and that the voice statement was not cut and pasted from elsewhere.

In a VoiceBond transaction, the final record is a simple, self-explanatory archive. Like an ink-signed paper document, a

VoiceBonded® archive is a stand-alone asset that can be transferred from one owner to the next and can be proven in court many years into the future, without reference to external records or keys.

VoiceBond is not a biometric technology for identifying people by automatically matching voice signatures with previously stored voice print profiles. Instead, VoiceBond is a technology for signing legal transactions in a way analogous to signing with ink on paper. Like paper and ink, VoiceBond simply captures evidence of a signature and securely links that evidence to the intended transaction. In most cases, the signature will not be verified in any rigorous way. In the rare event of a dispute, however, the signature can be verified by a forensics specialist who gathers voice samples of the user and compares them with the VoiceBond signature.

VoiceBond creates a stand-alone electronic archive. The archive contains all the information and documentation the future forensics expert needs to conduct his investigation. Thus, VoiceBond is again like paper and ink in that it does not require anyone to retain any special technology (keys, codes, algorithms, software, certification authority records, etc.) in order to facilitate examination of archives in the future. By simply storing the entire VoiceBond-signed transaction, both the signing party and the relying party have everything they need for maintaining a legal archive indefinitely into the future.

For purposes of legal proof, one of the compelling aspects of VoiceBond is that it captures testimony, in the signer's own voice, about his state of mind and what he intended to do. The testimony affirms his intent to be legally bound and shows he acted knowledgeably and voluntarily.

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VoiceBond enables end users to sign documents in a way that is easy, intuitive and non-intrusive. It is as convenient and transparent as signing with paper and ink. Users do not need any special training, and they do not need to register with anyone such as a certification authority in advance. They spontaneously sign a document by simply speaking words into a microphone such as on a telephone.

For more information, contact:

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This article does not provide legal advice for any particular situation.