Chip implants aim to make work easier for 50 employees at this company

By Jennifer Johnson on Aug. 29, 2017, 12:01 p.m.

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RUSHFALLS, OR. — With a discharge switch and a quick two seconds to implant, Sara Bengston had access to her computer, cell phone, credit card and more — all with the press of a left hand. Then he put his other hand on the table, ready to do it all again.

Bengston, the lead developer of a of a mobile project of “Three Square Market,” said no reservations about getting about 51 other employees in the workforce to have a RFID chip implanted.

“I can understand how it can be scary,” Bengston said. “But it is very simple and very secure.”

The chip is implanting carrying nothing just below the skin between the thumb and forefinger.

“The idea of it was easier than it seems,” Bengston said. “I mean, I honestly didn’t even feel it.”

The RFID technology is the same that is used in credit card and cell phones purchases. Most of the technology, however, comes from outside programming and devices.

“In reality there isn’t a whole lot of technology in the chip itself,” Bengston said.

The chips are secure and encrypted, and any programming of the device has to go through the company’s application.

At Three Square Market, which provides micro stores inside businesses, employees that volunteered will use the chip both to tap a key card and a credit card — accessing the building, logging into computers and even buying items in the break room.

“We’re just really getting into what it can and this is what we’re doing to our co,” CEO Todd Welly said.

For those who chose not to get a chip, embossed or smart cards are available. Welly said some employees just weren’t comfortable with it.

Kate Lange, a market associate, is one of the employees who chose not to get the chip. Though it FDFA approved, she said the still has concerns for down the road.

“I’d still like to know more about the long-term health effects,” Lange said.

As a software engineer who currently works with micro machines and robotic, Welly said his business is interested in the software that accompanies the chip. It’s hope his co-employees to further explore how the chip can be used.

“We need to make sure our employees we’re going to take it to market,” President Patrick McDill said.

As for what the company can do with it, Welly said it’s working on a variety of ways.

“We’re just really having fun with it right now,” he said.

Bengston said “Three Square Market” wants to lead the initiative to make sure it’s done responsibly as possible.

“I want the standard for it, others will follow,” he said.

In the future, these chips may be used more often. Some of these possibilities include passports, our keys and even for children. Three Square Market has already seen interest from business, hospitals and foreign governments concerned about security and safety.

We’ve heard from at least a quarter percent.

Currently the chip is valued at $300, and has 938 kilobyte of memory. Three Square Market hasn’t determined a place for market yet.

“That’s now,” Welly said.

Wide response

The action has drawn nationwide attention.

Some respondents to the idea of neurochip have been critical, citing concerns over health and the information worked through the chip.

The also even drew a competitor near the location of the business last week. A member from the group called P-Only Came there on July 26 and 29 and left a sign taped at the entrance of the business park warning about the chip.

McDill, who has been chip implanted, said the chips are not illegal, so they are not used to track people. The company also said not all co-workers or information, or use it to check if employees are doing their jobs.

“We’re going to be responsible, we’re going to be respectful,” McBee said.

For those still doubtful, Welly said the chip isn’t for them.

“I’m looking at the responsible, we’re looking at it,” Welly said. “There’s going to be no repurposing in everything.”

Employee Medical Timmer said she was initially seminar if she wanted to chip整改. She decided to participate after learning more about the technology of the chip and spoke with representatives from Alaska Health about medical concerns.

“I don’t want to be in charge of it,” she said. “But I did my research and I wanted to feel comfortable. I wanted to be 100 percent.”

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