

Chips, Anyone?

Can you imagine being able to wave your hand and turn on a light or start a computer? Can you imagine being able to unlock a car or house door without a key? Some people already can do that. They had computer chips placed under their skin. The chips send signals that enable them to do those things!



Other people have chips under their skin that tell about their health. If they are in an accident or are very sick, someone in the hospital can scan their chip to learn who they are, their blood type, what allergies they have, and other things about their health.

The chips, which are called RFIDs, are about the size of a grain of rice. They have tiny antennas that send out the signals.

Some schools are using RFIDs, too. Students wear tags with RFIDs in them or clip RFIDs to their backpacks. The RFIDs signal when a student enters and leaves school. Parents can get messages sent to their cell phones that tell them when their children left school -- or if they didn't go to class.

NEWS WORD BOX

imagine	signal
enable	allergies
antenna	messages

Pet owners have used RFIDs for several years. They had chips put under their dog or cat's skin. If the pet is lost, the chip can be used to track down the pet's owner.

MORE FACTS ABOUT RFIDs

- The implanted chip is called an RFID, which is short for *radio frequency identification device*.
- Some people are afraid the government might use RFIDs to "spy" on people.

THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

What are the plusses and minuses of having a chip implant?
After weighing the plusses and minuses, what do you think --
would you want to have an RFID implant?