

## Definition of Types of Technology

**Audio Response Unit/Autodialer** - An automated telephone answering system that provides voice answers to questions using data from the WIC system. For example, it can be used to remind participants of appointments, respond to participant inquiries, and record problem inquiries. The technology is easily adaptable to multi-language use. An Auto Dialer is an automated telephone system that automatically dials numbers from a file and provides a recorded message to the participant who answers the phone.

**Bar Code** - A series of vertical lines of varying widths, or other more complex encoding patterns that enable fast, automated identification of or explanation about an item such as food instruments, vouchers, participants, and foods. It can also be used for publications and materials.

**Biometric** - An automated identification process for identity verification of individuals based on unique behavioral or physiological characteristics. These are unique things that we do or unique physical characteristics that we have. Behavioral biometrics includes voice, signature, and keyboard typing technique. Physical biometrics includes fingerprint, hand geometry, facial recognition, and iris/retinal scans.

### **Card Technologies and Electronic Benefit Transfer/Electronic Service Delivery -**

**Integrated Circuit Chip Card ("Smart Card")** - A card into which one or more integrated circuits is inserted. A smart card with an integrated circuit chip is able to perform data processing such as calculations or data storage and retrieval on-board the card.

**Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT)** - The use of an electronic mechanism to transfer value from a program to a benefit recipient.

**Electronic Service Delivery (ESD)** - The use of a unique participant identifier and advanced electronic technology to provide integrated and efficient participant-centric service delivery.

**Computer-Based Training (CBT)/Distance Learning** – A training program individual users can use on their computer workstation for remedial or advanced instruction of functions. It provides a grading of the training session. Distance Learning is the use of emerging technologies such as vide conferencing, satellite communications, or Internet technologies to enable the conduct of classes in which the teacher and the students are in remote locations.

### **Electronic Signatures:**

**Digital Signature** – A unique electronic signature that accompanies documents and messages. The digital signature serves two primary functions: verifies the authenticity of the party sending the message, and verifies that the content of the message has not been altered.

**Digitized Signature** – A written signature that has been read by a computer scanner and converted into digital data. It is a capability for recording signatures on an electronic device in a digital format. The most common publicly visible use at present is in capturing signature images for credit card purchases in retail stores.

**Public Key Infrastructure (PKI)** – The architecture, organization, techniques, practices, and procedures that collectively support the implementation and operation of a certificate-based public key cryptographic system. Further, a communications infrastructure that allows users to exchange money and data over the Internet in a secure environment. There are four basic components to the PKI: the certificate authority (CA) responsible for issuing and verifying digital certificates, the registration authority (RA) which provides verification to the CA prior to issuance of digital certificates, one or multiple directories to hold certificates (with public keys), and a system for managing the certificates. Included also in a PKI are the certificate policies and agreements among parties that document the operating rules, procedural policies, and liabilities of the parties operating within the PKI.

**Kiosk** - A public access terminal, located at various locations within the community, at which users may access one or more computer applications.

**Palm-Held Computers/Personal Digital Assistants** – Small computers whose size corresponds to a hand that makes them useful where it is inconvenient to use or carry a laptop computer. They are also called Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs).

**Web-Based Application** - A computer application that presents a data entry form via the Internet. A Web browser is used to present the Web page containing the data collection form to the user who can then enter data directly into the form displayed on the Web page. The data collected through this form can be reformatted or translated and transmitted via a network to other data processing systems.

**Wireless Communications Network** – A network capability used in place of a cabled/wired local area network. Wireless networks can be used in portable/mobile situations.