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### **The Securitization of Everyday Life**

This paper examines the policy of securitization that has governed identification document administration over the period of neoliberalization in the United States. Focusing on the IT systems of state Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) offices, I demonstrate that the demand for more secure identification systems has come not only from state agencies charged with governing the roadways but also and more significantly from the finance industry. The retail banking and credit card industries in particular saw the securitization of identity as essential to their expanding markets and network infrastructures. In short, the deployment of new identification technologies should not be understood narrowly as the result of a natural process of computerization and modernization of ID systems, but also as part the intensification of security consciousness that has underpinned the financialization of everyday life (Martin 2002).