

AuthenTec TouchStone™ FAQs

Q. – What is TouchStone™ technology?

A. – TouchStone is a highly durable new packaging technology that combines TruePrint performance and features with flexible aesthetic options for designers of today's ultra-thin mobile phones.

Q. – What are the uses for TouchStone technology?

A. – AuthenTec's new TouchStone technology expands aesthetic and product integration options for makers of cell phones, ultra mobile computers and other secure consumer electronics. AuthenTec's new TouchStone packaging technology will enable a new class of fingerprint sensors that combine all the features of TruePrint with thin, durable, easy to integrate, and waterproof packaging for today's stylistic cell phone designs.

Q. – Has TouchStone been designed into any new cell phones yet?

A. – Yes. AuthenTec recently announced that its TouchStone™ technology has been designed into a new waterproof cell phone that will enter high-volume production in the fourth quarter of 2008.

Q. – Why would cell phone users care about waterproof packaging technology?

A. – The leading cause of cell phone returns not covered under warranty is damage from exposure to excess moisture or immersion in water or other liquids. Cell phone returns spike every summer due to accidental drops into swimming pools, Jacuzzis, lakes or oceans.

Q. – Which handset manufacturers could use this technology?

A. – Leading handset manufacturers including Casio, Fujitsu, LG, and Toshiba have all introduced waterproof cell phones, many of which are capable of submersion in one meter of water for up to 30 minutes. AuthenTec's TouchStone package allows for easy integration into various waterproof industrial design configurations that provides the durability and water resistance required for this new class of handsets while adding Power of Touch features including security, convenience, personalization and navigation.

Q. – Are there other applications for TouchStone technology?

A. – Due to the small footprint and thin design of TouchStone, the technology can also be applied to ultra-thin cell phones, PDAs, key fobs and other applications where previous fingerprint sensors may have been too large or thick.

Q. – What makes TouchStone technology different from currently available fingerprint sensors?

A. – TouchStone technology uses the latest packaging technologies to dramatically reduce the height of the sensor package while extending the already proven durability of AuthenTec sensors by doubling the protective coating over the fingerprint sensor die. Its thin package profile also enables truly flat mounting on the outside of a mobile device's case, providing improved tactile feel when using AuthenTec's TrueNav menu navigation feature. These are key considerations for sensors mounted to the outside of a cell phone or other mobile device.

Q. – What makes TouchStone sensors more durable?

A. – Sensors which use TouchStone technology are more durable because the sensor IC has additional protective coating than today's typical fingerprint sensors. TouchStone technology extends the already proven durability of AuthenTec sensors by tripling the protective coating over the fingerprint sensor die.

Q. – Why should durability matter?

A. – Unlike all other semiconductor components embedded within a consumer electronic device, fingerprint sensors must be durable enough to withstand the common wear and tear experienced on the outside of the device. Millions of today's cell phones integrate an AuthenTec fingerprint sensor on the outside of the case for easy user access, which also exposes the sensor to coins, keys, pens and other potentially abrasive objects commonly found in a purse or pocket.

Q. – Do other fingerprint sensor manufacturers use TouchStone technology?

A. – No other company combines TouchStone's durability and design flexibility with AuthenTec's patented TruePrint technology to offer enhanced features such as TrueNav user navigation, TrueFinger anti-spoofing security and TrueMatch pattern matching technology.

Q. – Why would a cell phone manufacturer care about TouchStone technology?

A. – TouchStone technology offers several distinct advantages over other packaging technologies, such as Ball Grid Array and Land Grid Array, including reduced package profile, ease of integration, and enhanced sensor durability. TouchStone helps enable flatter mounting to the outside of cell phones and mobile devices, providing improved navigation via the sensor using AuthenTec's TrueNav technology. AuthenTec plans to introduce several new TouchStone-based packaging configurations that will enable unparalleled flexibility for designers of today's mobile phones.

Q. – Can TouchStone technology be applied to PCs and other applications?

A. – Yes. In fact, AuthenTec has presented variations of the TouchStone design to the leading PC OEMs. The same technology can be applied to PCs and a host of other consumer electronic devices that require enhanced sensor durability, scratch resistance and a thin package profile.

Q. – Do TouchStone sensors include all of AuthenTec's technologies, such as TrueFinger anti-spoofing and TrueNav?

A. – Yes. AuthenTec's new TouchStone sensors are based on the company's patented TruePrint technology, which reads below the surface of the skin where the valleys and ridges of each unique fingerprint are formed. AuthenTec sensors packaged using TouchStone technology also include the company's TrueNav menu navigation features, TrueFinger anti-spoofing security, and TrueMatch pattern matching to ensure the industry's highest level of security, usability and convenience.

Q. – Which AuthenTec sensors will be available in TouchStone packaging?

A. – The first product available in TouchStone packaging will be AuthenTec's new low power sensor for the wireless market, the AES1711.

Q. – When will the first TouchStone sensors will be in production?

A. – AuthenTec's AES1711 in TouchStone packaging will be available in the fourth quarter of 2008.

Q. – Has AuthenTec filed or obtained any patents on TouchStone packaging?

A. – Yes. Work on TouchStone technology began more than two years ago, and AuthenTec has applied for multiple patents on the technology and its applications.