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Sklar, on the other hand, worries that RFID technology could be misused. His interest in the device stemmed from those fears. "I made a pair of pants that blocked RFID tags by using a conductive washable material. I needed a way to test that the pants actually worked and stumbled right into the RFID implant community."

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While researching the project, Sklar became fascinated with the technology and the "cool factor" an implant would provide.

VeriChip, a company that offers implantable, wearable and attachable forms of RFID technology, markets its products with safety in mind. Their chips store medical information, can be used to track babies and the elderly, and manage assets. The company also teamed with clubs in Barcelona, Spain, and the Netherlands to grant VIP access to those embedded with the chip and allow them to pay with a swipe of the hand. "That was pretty much a publicity stunt," Graaftsra said.

Those involved in the DIY community estimate that between 60 and 80 people have implanted themselves with these devices, which are roughly the size of a grain of rice, just as Sklar did.

But as the market grows so do the concerns. "Valuable information can and will be stolen," said Arthur Caplan, director of the Center for Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania. "The technology is still crude. We have to be sure that the information really is privatized. Unfortunately, the harder the information is to extract the less useful it is to the user."

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