

West Virginia Biometrics and Identity Management Newsletter

Issue Date: November 2, 2009

Defending the US with Biometrics

Biometric technologies are enabling the DoD to identify and detain suspected enemies and terrorists, improving citizen security both home and away. Dr. Myra Gray, director of the Biometrics Task Force, explains how and why these biometric solutions are being deployed.

The Biometrics Task Force (BTF), located in Arlington, Virginia, USA, is a US Department of Defense (DoD) organisation dedicated to developing new ways to protect the country using biometric applications. It leads DoD activities to programme, integrate, and synchronise biometric technologies and capabilities, and to operate and maintain the DoD's authoritative database.



<http://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/view/4863/defending-the-us-with-biometrics/>

Biometrics Catching in Health Care?

As health care providers move to electronic records, correct patient identification becomes a priority. President Barack Obama wants every citizen to have electronic medical records. One of the challenges in health care though is making sure the correct record is linked to the right patient and that the information is secure. Smart card and biometric vendors are vying for position in the rapidly emerging patient identification market. One vendor who is tailoring biometrics to the health care market is Tampa, Fla.-based HT Systems. The company has taken Fujitsu's palm vein biometrics and customized it for health care and patient ID.

<http://www.thirdfactor.com/2009/10/26/biometrics-catching-in-health-care>

Privaris Awarded Four New Patents

Privaris, a developer of biometric products and other identity verification solutions, has announced that they have been awarded four new patents for devices and methods from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. With the addition of these four, Privaris now holds a total of twelve patents. Of the two patents for devices, the first deals with a smart card reader designed for attaching to and working with a portable biometric device and the second is a patent covering man-machine interfaces such as touch screens capable of also capturing fingerprint images for verification. The two method patents deal with controlling and protecting access to sensitive biometric data and securing enrollment and back-up of data.

<http://www.thirdfactor.com/2009/10/28/privaris-awarded-four-new-patents>

The Case Against Biometric Identity Theft Protection

According to Winston Churchill, there is no worse mistake in leadership than to hold out false hopes. One area where false hopes have long abounded is information security, and it's happening again. This time the false hope we're extending is that we can deploy one simple piece of technology that will significantly reduce the problem of identity theft. Of course, identity theft is a huge and growing problem. Each year, the identifying information of millions of Americans is stolen from corporate databases. Companies face billions of dollars in theft, millions of dollars in fines and, perhaps most important, the loss of customer trust.

http://www.cio.de/news/cio_worldnews/2212596/

Biometric Attendance a Non-Starter

LUDHIANA: While health department has planned to make its employees more punctual by introducing biometric attendance system, the objective of the ambitious project is yet to be met, as owing to a technical snag, the system is non-functional at most places. The department introduced the system two months back. It finds itself hard-pressed to ensure smooth progress of projects in different parts of the city, as a majority of the workers do not report on duty at the specified time. This has led to delay in work. Till now, health department employees have been registering their attendance on a register maintained by the institute, but under this system, thumb impressions of employees are registered to mark their attendance.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ludhiana/Biometric-attendance-a-non-starter/articleshow/5169788.cms>

Coast Guard Authorization Bill Clears House

The House overwhelmingly approved a Coast Guard reauthorization bill Friday, including language giving crew members of U.S. ships the ability to defend themselves from pirate attacks. The bill, approved 385-11, authorizes \$10 billion for the Coast Guard in fiscal 2010, about \$200 million more than the Obama administration requested. The bill also includes several technology-related provisions. It requires, for example, that the Coast Guard study the feasibility of using biometric facial and iris scans to rapidly identify individuals for security purposes.

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=43868&dcn=todaysnews

Banned USB Drives May Get Thumbs Up

U.S. Military Expected To Permit Some Thumb Drive Use Again

After being banned almost a year ago as bug-infested cyber threats, thumb drives may soon be allowed to plug back into U.S. Defense Department computers and networks. But not all thumb drives. And not for all computer users, according to Pentagon officials and industry sources. Thumb drives were banned in November 2008 after thousands of military computers and networks became infected by worms, viruses and other malicious software. Many of the infections were traced to thumb drives, which acquired malicious software from computers or the Internet and passed them on.... The drives should contain built-in encryption chips that convert everything on them to code that can be unencrypted only by a user with the correct password or the right fingerprint - or both...

<http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=4342869&c=FEA&s=TEC>

Midland Firm's Security Technology Passes Battered Thumbs Test

Builders' battered thumbs have long been a problem in ensuring security on construction sites.

But now a spin-out firm at the University of Warwick is pioneering new ways to control who goes on to building sites using fingerprinting technology which can identify partial, distorted or otherwise warped fingerprints in seconds. And the technology being commercialized by Warwick Warp is receiving international recognition after it sailed through two of the world's toughest technical fingerprint tests last week.

<http://www.birminghampost.net/birmingham-business/birmingham-business-news/technology-and-innovation/2009/10/27/midland-firm-s-security-technology-passes-battered-thumbs-test-65233-25020634/>

University of Warwick's Fingerprint Technology Moves Fast in the Building Trade

Technology developed by the University of Warwick that can identify partial, distorted, scratched, smudged, or otherwise warped fingerprints in just a few seconds has just scored top marks in the world's two toughest technical fingerprint tests. The technology is also being rapidly taken up by the UK building trade who are delighted to have fingerprint technology which can cope with the often worn and ravaged builders' thumbprints. Many other fingerprint techniques have tried to identify a few key features on a finger print and laboriously match them against a database of templates. The University of Warwick researchers consider the entire detailed pattern of each print and transform the topological pattern into a standard co-ordinate system. This allows the researchers to "unwarp" any finger print that has been distorted by smudging, uneven pressure, or other distortion and create a clear digital representation of the fingerprint that can then be mapped on to an "image space" of all other finger prints held on a database. Instead of laboriously comparing a print against each entry in a database any new print scanned by the system is unwarped and overlaid onto a virtual "image space" that includes all the fingerprints available to the database. It does not matter whether it's a thousand or a million fingerprints in the database the result comes back in seconds.

<http://www.azobuild.com/news.asp?newsID=7679>

Employers: Get ready for E-Verify

Employers should start preparing for new immigration enforcement policies under the Obama administration as pressure on employers to prevent unlawful hiring increases. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is working hard to convince Congress to make E-Verify, the voluntary Internet-based employment verification system, mandatory for all employers in the United States. However, the government continues to look for ways to improve the accuracy and efficiency of E-Verify. In fact, Secretary Napolitano has stated that she aims to continue boosting the use of technology to ensure the law is applied correctly. Senator Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), the leading democrat in Congress pushing for a strong employment verification program, has stated that he favors a high-tech employment verification system that employs biometric identifiers such as fingerprints, eye scans and more.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/business/story/1299177.html>

Directorate Cancels Biometric Passport Contract

The Security General Directorate has cancelled a contract for designing and implementing biometric passports because the contractor failed to meet certain bid requirements. In a breach of contractual specifications, the devices purchased within the scope of the project fail to insert digital photos on passports. The contract for the project was signed in July 2007 and was scheduled to be completed by the end of this year. A new tender will be held immediately to make sure that biometric passports are delivered to passport-holders because Turkey has made commitments to various international bodies on this issue. Turkish authorities had previously assured EU officials that the use of biometric passports would be launched in 2010.

<http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/news-191119-100-directorate-cancels-biometric-passport-contract.html>

Cops Told to Keep an Ear Out for Criminals

A forensic biologist is leading a push for Australian police to ID crooks by their ears. Sydney-based Elias Messaïke says ear biometrics, which involves analysing photographs of ears, is an ideal way to identify people. "It's practical, it's fast, it's cost effective and it's an alternative method so you don't have to give up cracking a case or identifying a victim," he told ABC News Online. Mr Messaïke, who has been specialising in ears for nearly five years, says no two ears are the same - not even your left and right.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/28/2726269.htm?section=australia>

No Biometrics Yet on Half of Registered Voters

Phillipines - MORE than half of the estimated 45 million registered voters nationwide have yet to provide their biometrics to the poll body's data-capturing machines, Commission on Elections (Comelec) spokesman James Jimenez said on Wednesday.

However, Jimenez said these people need not panic since they can still vote in May 2010, national elections even without their biometrics having been taken, as long as their names are included in the voters' list. The voter's identification cards are also not a requirement on Election Day for voters on the list. Names remain on the Comelec's official list as long as the persons concerned had voted in the past two elections.

<http://businessmirror.com.ph/home/top-news/17914-no-biometrics-yet-on-half-of-registered-voters.html>

UKBA Announces New Mobile Biometrics Team

The United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) has announced that a new scheme has been developed to make the biometric registration of immigrants easier on both the government and the immigrants. Part of this scheme involves the creation of a mobile biometrics team that will be able to enroll immigrants without having to be stationed in an office somewhere.

<http://www.thirdfactor.com/2009/10/28/ukba-announces-new-mobile-biometrics-team>

Schools Among Those Leading Biometric Adoption

Alasdair Darroch, director for biometrics developer Biostore, spoke at the Biometrics 2009 Conference in London revealing that the education sector may be leading the charge on utilization of biometrics with approximately 10% of schools utilizing the technology in some way, according to an Info Security article. Among the areas in schools where biometrics are being utilized most commonly are libraries as a means of checkout, cafeterias for school lunch payment programs, access control and printer or copier access. Darroch adds that despite the widespread adoption of biometrics, no standards for use in schools have been set by authorities meaning it is still the responsibility of the vendors and developers to create secure solutions that do not leave students open to theft or misuse of their personal data.

<http://www.emediawire.com/releases/2008/9/prweb1309484.htm>

U.S. Government Driving Growth of Biometrics in Self-Service

ABC reports that earlier this year, as part of his administration's efforts to reform the U.S. healthcare system, President Obama pledged to ensure that all medical records in the United States would be electronic within five years. The plan is sure to have far-reaching effects on the healthcare industry as a whole, and it also is likely to create opportunities for technology providers in the space. Fujitsu's latest patient self-service offering, the Med-Serv 50/60 kiosk, incorporates state-of-the-art biometric technology, another trend that is picking up speed in the kiosk industry. The kiosk's PalmSecure palm-vein sensor, which also can be implemented in other hardware configurations, allows a patient to sign in at the healthcare provider's office by simply holding her hand close to the kiosk's touchscreen, which then captures an image of the palm's vein pattern and encrypts it.

<http://www.selfserviceworld.com/article.php?id=23194>

GOL Launches New Biometric Passports Monday

MONROVIA – The Government of Liberia (GOL) will formally launch the new national biometric passports at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Monday, November 2, 2009 on Capitol Hill. The new passports will meet the global requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for Biometric Machine Readable Passports to be in effect by April 2010.

<http://www.liberianobserver.com/node/2673>

Meeting and Conference Dates

2009 Mid-Atlantic SBIR/STTR Conference

The 2009 Mid-Atlantic SBIR/STTR Conference will bring together federal agencies, entrepreneurs, small companies, large companies, researchers, colleges and universities, venture capitalists and angel investors, federal laboratory and university representatives, as well as experts who provide assistance to or have an interest in doing business with ventures at various maturity levels

Dates: November 30 – December 2, 2009

Location: Waterfront Place Hotel, Morgantown, WV

<http://www.midatlanticsbir.com/>

Winter 2010 Biometrics Summit

Attend the longest running, world renowned forum for advanced identification solutions including...Finger Print Technology, Iris Recognition, Smart Cards, and Vascular Biometrics. There will be over 20 innovative speakers who will share strategies and experiences in implementing biometrics. Register by December 8th to receive a discount.

Dates: February 22-25, 2010

Location: Miami, FL

http://www.aliconferences.com/conf/biometrics_summit_winter10/index.htm

West Virginia Biometrics Initiative
714 Venture Drive # 193
Morgantown, WV 26508-7306

Questions or comments, please email us at:
mdkirkpatrick@wvbiometrics.org



This newsletter brought to you by the I-79 Development Council.