

West Virginia Biometrics and Identity Management Newsletter

Issue Date: July 12, 2010

Various Identification Methods in the World of Biometrics

The name 'biometrics' is enough to increase the curiosity among individuals. Although it might sound very simple, but biometrics actually describes a vast area of security. While talking about biometrics, it is not considering only the face recognition system but there are plenty of systems that are based on the same field yet, their purpose is somewhat different. Basically biometrics is based on recognizing the biometric features of the individuals. It offers the security by recognizing fingerprints, voice, retina, or face of the individuals. Different security solutions possess different identification methods for offering security at various places. While choosing the security solution for guarding the premises or other places, it is necessary to know about all the biometric security systems in detail. It will help you to decide, the right one for your premise. Like every other security devices, biometric security systems have also got some limitations. After all flaws and benefits are the two sides of the single coin! So, while knowing about the various biometric based products, also emphasize on the limitations so that you can take better precautions if necessary.



http://www.jazzou.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3426

Can banking security follow a trend set with biometric authentication from the healthcare industry?

The rate of adoption of any access security infrastructure is ultimately determined by the ability of the user. Speaking to SC Magazine, David Ting, CTO of Imprivata, admitted that as the healthcare industry takes control of access and identity via biometrics, the banking industry is facing a deeper password problem with increased regulation on data security and auditing such as the Basel Accords, Sarbanes Oxley and EU Data Protection Directive. This is alongside the challenges of a fast-paced working environment (often in a customer-facing role) that means users are required to log on/log off from multiple applications, several times each day.

<http://www.scmagazineuk.com/can-banking-security-follow-a-trend-set-with-biometric-authentication-from-the-healthcare-industry/article/174145/>

Inventor spends years on smartcard to end ATM fraud

A Krugersdorp man believes he has developed the world's first antidote to ATM fraud crime in South Africa - and globally if his invention takes off. Glenn Webber's banking smartcard is a hardware and software-based system that relies on radio frequency identification (RFID) that can only operate once biometric verification of a fingerprint, hand, retina, iris or face scan has taken place. This, he believes, makes it unique. Webber's card works and unlocks the personal information on a 3 gigabyte memory chip inside the card only once the fingerprint has been swiped on the card transmitting the information via radio to the bank's server. The server sends an SMS to the card owner's cellphone to confirm the use of the card via a GSM (global system for communications) enabled modem embedded in the card.

<http://www.busrep.co.za/index.php?fSectionId=561&fArticleId=5546186>

Biometric ATM gives cash via 'finger vein' scan

Poland's cooperative BPS bank says it's the first in Europe to install a biometric ATM -- allowing customers to withdraw cash simply with the touch of a fingertip. The digit-scanning ATM, introduced in the Polish capital of Warsaw, runs on the latest in "finger vein" technology -- an authentication system developed by Japanese tech giant Hitachi. The company says that an infrared light is passed through the finger to detect a unique pattern of micro-veins beneath the surface - which is then matched with a pre-registered profile to verify an individual's identity. "This is a substantially more reliable technique than using fingerprints," Peter Jones, Hitachi's head of security and solutions in Europe, told CNN. "Our tests indicate there is a one in a million false acceptance rate -- that's as good as iris scanning, which is generally regarded as the most secure method." Unlike fingerprints, which leave a trace and can be potentially reproduced, finger veins are impossible to replicate, according to Jones, because they are beneath the surface of the skin.

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/europe/07/05/first.biometric.atm.europe/index.html>

Biometric solutions to identity theft crimes

Many experts believe the future of preventing identity theft lies with biometrics. Biometric technologies can include, but aren't limited to: iris scans, as well as those for fingerprints, palm, skin, voice and face patterns. While biometric technology itself is still in its fundamental stages compared to what its potential could hold, some businesses are already beginning to use the technology. For example, Albertson's, which is the number two supermarket chain, is one of numerous retailers testing biometric payment systems. These systems allow customers to pay for purchases with a simple swipe of their finger. The way the system works is that customers register their fingerprints and link that information with their bank account to pay for their purchases. The transactions are then processed through service providers, with the main ones being Pay By Touch and BioPay.

<http://www.helium.com/items/1886866-biometric-solutions-to-identity-theft-crimes>

DHS still pondering biometric air exit system

The Homeland Security Department is still undecided about a program that would electronically collect fingerprints from visitors from other countries when they leave the United States by aircraft, a senior DHS official said today. Robert Mocny, who heads the department's U.S. Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology program, said in an interview that the department is still weighing an exit portion of the biometric security program. US-VISIT already collects fingerprints from non-U.S. visitors when they arrive in the United States.

<http://fcw.com/articles/2010/07/08/web-air-exit-update.aspx>

ICE launches Secure Communities strategy in 24 additional north Texas counties

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) began using a new biometric information sharing capability in 24 additional northeast Texas counties that helps federal immigration officials identify aliens, both lawfully and unlawfully present in the United States, who are booked into local law enforcement's custody for a crime. This capability is part of Secure Communities - ICE's comprehensive strategy to improve and modernize the identification and removal of criminal aliens from the United States. Previously, fingerprint-based biometric records were taken of individuals charged with a crime and booked into custody and checked for criminal history information against the Department of Justice's (DOJ) Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS).

<http://www.ilw.com/articles/2010.0709-kolken.shtm>

CCTVs to monitor DC office employees

HUBLI: The 'I don't care' attitude of the government employees who are accustomed to coming late, taking multiple breaks for tea, cigarettes and chatting during office hours will be a thing of past, at least in Dharwad. The CCTV cameras and biometric machines which hitherto were only seen in corporate and other private offices have found its way into the deputy commissioner's office in Dharwad, making it probably the first DC office in the state to install it in a bid to discipline the government servants, who normally are blamed for taking their work lightly. This DC office is the second government set-up in the district to introduce biometric attendance system in the district, after Hubli-Dharwad.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/City/Hubli/CCTVs-to-monitor-DC-office-employees/articleshow/6136204.cms>

How unique ID can help aam aadmi, build nation

With the first phase of Unique Identification Authority of India aiming to enroll 600 million residents of the country into its database in next four years and its possible use in improving the Public Distribution System, UIDAI chairman Nandan Nilekani on Friday said the journey will be 'long' and 'tough'. Nilekani said that unique identification is the only way to ensure inclusion of marginal and downtrodden in nation-building. Lending his vision of India@75 in a forum organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry in the Capital on Friday, he said, "A 12-digit number establishing the identity of every Indian resident is the unique channel through which we can give cash benefits to 75 million homeless people and migrants who are deprived of basic services."

<http://business.rediff.com/slide-show/2010/jul/09/slide-show-1-how-unique-id-can-help-aam-aadmi.htm>

The future of iris scanning

Biometrics has received a lot of bad press during its short life. Fingerprint technologies have issues many businesses, and security professionals, would rather not deal with. And then there is the cost. So is there a technology that may provide security, involve low maintenance costs, minimize management headaches, and is acceptable to users? Fingerprint scanning solutions promised a panacea for the tired and embattled password. Either as a standalone solution or as a supporting second-factor for authentication, use of a fingerprint is superficially a great idea.

<http://blogs.techrepublic.com.com/security/?p=3978>

Filipinos in Qatar join Saudi protest against e-passports

Filipinos in Qatar have joined their fellow expatriates in Saudi Arabia in questioning the implementation of the costly processing of the new electronic passport system. Philippine Ambassador to Qatar Crescente Relacion however explained the more convenient e-passport would really cost more than the Machine Readable Passport because of the production since a microchip is embedded on it that the biometrics would easily read thumb marks and other needed information when using it on travel. Bert Medina, Director for Business Development of OITC Holding Group, said the sudden implementation of e-passport just about a few months when the MRP was approved at QR240 per person would only double the expenses of the Overseas Filipino Workers.

<http://www.thepeninsulaqatar.com/qatar/119741-filipinos-in-qatar-join-saudi-protest-against-e-passports.html>

Commercial voice biometrics in 2010

Despite enterprise contact center investments in technologies designed to cut costs, commercial deployments of voice biometrics have been left out in the cold. In the past, this was because of the technology's instability. But despite marked improvements and the ability to create robust solutions, voice biometrics still hasn't enjoyed the widespread proliferation purveyors of the technology anticipate. Ovum's 2009 report *The Future of Voice Biometrics in the Enterprise Market* outlined some of the issues facing the technology, provided an overview of its capabilities and benefits, and listed recommendations for both vendors and enterprises. This report examines demand for voice biometrics given the gradual recovery of the market, the end of the major upheaval in financial services sectors (one of the major prospects for voice biometrics), and the recent partnerships between providers of contact center infrastructure and providers of voice biometrics technologies and solutions. Additionally, this report reassesses areas of penetration for voice biometrics-based solutions.

http://www.reportlinker.com/p0201826/Commercial-voice-biometrics-in.html#utm_source=LivePR&utm_medium=pr&utm_campaign=LivePR

Your biometric passport can be hacked

There are roughly thirty thousand biometric passports in India today. The President, the Prime Minister, the Congress chief and senior diplomats are all proud owners. You'll get one too - if you're applying for a new passport. Or if your dad is renewing his old one. A normal passport can be forged. But biometric passports have an electronic chip inside, which stores everything your normal passport does. But it also contains your fingerprints and iris patterns. Since that stuff can't be duplicated, a biometric passport is supposed to be extra safe. Extra secure. The e-mail I got broke that bubble. Biometric passports can be hacked and forged, it suggested. A Pakistani terrorist with a forged Indian diplomat's passport could walk through airport counters across the world with minimum checks. Bomb targets at will. And point the needle of suspicion at India. A disaster waiting to happen. Over coffee, the gentlemen behind that e-mail took me through the details. Indian biometric passports use chips from a multinational company that supplies similar chips to electronic passport projects in a number of countries, including the US. This February, Christopher Tarnovsky, an American hacker, who once worked for America's Homeland Security department, broke into one of those chips. It took him six months, tons of money and a secure, high-tech laboratory to do it. He then posted a video on YouTube.

<http://ibnlive.in.com/blogs/jaimonjoseph/326/61921/your-biometric-passport-can-be-hacked.html>

Meeting and Conference Dates

WVBI to Host Forum on Using Media to Grow the Your Business

West Virginia University Widmeyer Communications Professor Diana Knott Martinelli will be the featured presenter at the West Virginia Biometrics Initiative-sponsored forum on "Using the Media to Grow Your Business." Dr. Martinelli will discuss the use of both traditional and "new" media. No reservations are required. Please contact WVBI executive director Mike Kirkpatrick at (304) 594-9004 or mdkirkpatrick@wvbiometrics.org if you have any questions.

Date: July 29, 2010

Time: 3:00pm

Location: West Virginia High Technology Consortium Foundation's Research Center
1000 Galliher Drive, Fairmont, WV

Learn How to Use Workforce West Virginia to Grow Your Business

July 29th is a “two-fer” Thursday courtesy of the West Virginia Biometrics Initiative! At the conclusion of West Virginia University Professor Diana Knott Martinelli’s forum on “Using the Media to Grow Your Business,” Vicki Jobin, Business Consultant with Workforce West Virginia, will present a program on how to use Workforce West Virginia to grow your business. No reservations are required. Please contact WVBI executive director Mike Kirkpatrick at (304) 594-9004 or mdkirkpatrick@wvbiometrics.org if you have any questions.

Date: July 29, 2010

Time: 4:00pm

Location: West Virginia High Technology Consortium Foundation’s Research Center
1000 Galliher Drive, Fairmont, WV

2010 Biometric Consortium Conference & Technology Expo

Supported by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the National Security Agency (NSA), the Biometrics Consortium Conference is focused on Biometric Technologies for Defense, Homeland Security, Identity Management, Border Crossing and Electronic Commerce. The Conference will be two and a half days of presentations, seminars and panel discussions with the participation of internationally recognized experts in biometric technologies, system and application developers, IT business strategists, and government and commercial officers.

Dates: September 21 - 23, 2010

Location: Tampa, Florida

<http://www.biometrics.org/>

IEEE Fourth International Conference on Biometrics: Theory, Applications and Systems (BTAS 10)

The IEEE Fourth International Conference on Biometrics: Theory, Applications and Systems (BTAS 10) is the premier research meeting focused on biometrics. Its broad scope includes advances in fundamental pattern recognition techniques relevant to biometrics, new algorithms and / or technologies for biometrics, analysis of specific applications, and analysis of the social impacts of biometrics technology. Areas of coverage include biometrics based on voice, fingerprint, iris, face, handwriting, gait and other modalities, as well as multi-modal biometrics and new biometrics based on novel sensing technologies.

Dates: September 27- 29, 2010

Location: Washington, DC

http://www.cse.nd.edu/BTAS_10/

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.