



EAB Newsletter

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From the EAB Chairman



“These days the media are filled with sad news about the European financial crisis and related weak commitments to support the European Unification idea. In contrast to this, it is a great pleasure to experience the positive spirit of the now more than 70 members of the recently born European Association for Biometrics that are enthusiastic and working hard to establish a European platform. This platform is a joint achievement that will not only support the information exchange on Biometrics in Europe. It is a positive showcase, how European stakeholders can seek jointly for solutions that are pressing for each member state. The newsletter shall serve as a documentary of the members’ activities. Thus we are seeking for national, European and international news about developments in biometrics, ranging from academic achievements to policy developments and industrial breakthroughs. The EAB Newsletter should contribute to a better understanding of the numerous aspects that large-scale deployment of biometrics does concern. We trust to receive your contributions for the next newsletter again. I wish you a pleasurable and informative read.”

Alexander Nouak, EAB Chairman

CONTENT

1. News from the EAB	4
EAB counts over 75 members	4
Announcement Industry SIG Charter and Chairman	4
The 6th European Biometrics Research and Industry Award: finalists announced	5
EAB Members Conference: 11 December 2012	6
Dates fixed for the 2 nd EAB General Assembly and European Biometrics Symposium (resp. 14 - 15 February, 2013)	6
2. EU/EC/EP	6
First eGates in Bulgaria.....	6
Dutch parliament on the biometric passport: fingerprints useless unless policy and implementation changes.....	7
Biometric passports tested by the European Commission	7
Finland, Baltic urge high-tech EU border security	8
3. Academia	8
Short report about the PhD thesis of Claudia Nickel on gait recognition.....	8
4. Industry & Projects	9
Frost & Sullivan: "Biometrics – Tip of the Iceberg"	9
Apple acquires AuthenTec.....	9
Francisco Partners Acquires Biometrics Provider Cross Match Technologies	10
Techno Brain Launches SecurBanking, a Biometric Authentication System for Core Banking	10
British Airways Googles faces to identify customers.....	10
5. Outside Europe	11
Report on NIST Evaluation of Latent Fingerprint Technologies	11
Update on NFIQ2	11
Update on Face Recognition Vendor Test (FRVT) 2012.....	12
NIST FpVTE ₂₀₁₂	12
US senator grills Facebook over facial recognition technology	13
Morpho Trust (US) to provide tool for the FBI to scan faces on Facebook	13
New NIST Protocol Enables Wireless and Secure Biometric Acquisition with Web Services	13
FBI to add Tattoos to Biometric ID Capabilities	14
Israel High Court: biometric database is extreme and harmful.....	14
6. Events	14
Report: ISO/IEC SC37 Meeting in Paris July 2012.....	14
Report: EAB Template Protection Workshop, Paris 13 July 2012.....	15
IEEE BIOSIG 2012: Darmstadt, 6-7 September 2012	15
World eID Congress, 19-21 September 2012: 30% reduction for EAB members	16
ID World 2012: Frankfurt, 16-18 October 2012.....	16
Biometrics 2012: London, 29-31 October 2012	17
EAB Members Conference: Berlin, 11 December 2012	17
EAB General Assembly and the European Biometrics Symposium, Brussels 14-15 February 2013.....	17
IEEE ICB 2013, Madrid 4-7 June 2013 – CALL FOR SPONSORS	17
7. Read more	18
8. Colofon	21

1. News from the EAB

EAB counts over 75 members

Above expectation the EAB members list currently counts over 75 members. The concept of the EAB clearly addresses a common need, certainly as we see biometrics to move more and more into projects of strategic importance. The European focus, as well as the broad group of participating stakeholders add value to the community of experts, business leaders and policy makers that are engaged in the development, testing and deployment of biometric technologies to a large variety of use cases.

We are happy to mention our latest new people and organizations who entered EAB membership during the summer period:

- Adam Czajka, NASK & Warsaw University of Technology (Poland)
- Matthias Pocs, University of Kassel (Germany)
- A-SIT Zentrum für Informationstechnology (Austria)
- Hitachi Europe (UK)
- Bundesdruckerei (Germany)
- Accenture (France, UK, Ireland, ...)
- Morpho (Safran Group, France)
- GFT Technologies (Germany)
- Speed Identity (Sweden)
- Fachhochschule der Wirtschaft (Germany)
- Biometric System Laboratory – University of Bologna (Italy)
- Bundeskriminalamt BKA (Germany)
- Sébastien Marcel, IDIAP Research Institute (Swiss)

Various memberships are in the pipeline, including associate agreements with relevant industries and associations.

Announcement Industry SIG Charter and Chairman

On 17 August 2012 the Management Board of the EAB approved the charter for the Industry Special Interest Group. The mission of the EAB Industry SIG is to enable faster and better/broader adoption of biometrics in Europe. The Industry SIG will act as a single platform for bringing together European and international biometrics industry and to act as single communication channel between industry and its clients. The full charter can be found on www.eab.org/expertise/sig/industry.html.

We are delighted that **Cyrille Bataller**, director of Accenture Technology Labs in Sophia Antipolis (France), will chair the Industry SIG.

Call for participation!

It goes without saying that all industrial EAB members are invited to contact Cyrille for participation and involvement in this new group, which soon will establish itself as the European platform for the biometric industry. You can contact Cyrille at:

industry-sig-chair@eab.org

[Read more about Cyrille Bataller...](#)

The 6th European Biometrics Research and Industry Award: finalists announced

If you want to get an insight into the work of the top young European biometric researchers in 2012, then this is your opportunity: attend the final of the EAB Biometrics Research and Industry Award on 5 September 2012 and listen to the presentations of the three selected finalists, who will present the following topics:

Daniel Hartung, NISLab, Hogskolen i Gjøvik (Norway):

Template protected vascular patterns for secure online banking transactions

Christian Rathgeb, University of Salzburg (Austria):

Towards enhancing security and accuracy of iris recognition systems

Anindya Roy, LIMSI-CNRS, Orsay (France):

A fast parts-based approach to speaker verification using boosted slice classifiers

On 5 September 2012 the international jury will decide, which of the three finalists will be awarded with the Research Award and the Industry Award. The final selection and award ceremony will take place at Fraunhofer IGD in Darmstadt, Germany (see also the Event section of this newsletter).

Attending the event is free of charge. You can register through the EAB website by clicking:

<http://eab.org/events/registration/6>

The event is co-located with the IEEE BIOSIG 2012 conference:

<http://www.cast-forum.de/en/workshops/registration/164>

Some background on the award: The sixth European Biometrics Research and Industry Award 2012 is organized by EAB. This prestigious award is granted annually to individuals who have been judged by a panel of internationally respected experts to be making a significant contribution to the field of biometrics research in Europe. The intention of the award is to stimulate innovation in academic research as well as in industry. The Industry award is kindly sponsored by Safran Morpho while the Research Award is donated by GenKey.



[Read more about the award and the jury...](#)

EAB Members Conference: 11 December 2012

On 11 December 2012 the first EAB members' conference will be held in Berlin. The conference will enable all committees and working groups to directly interact with each other together with all EAB members. There will also be discussions on major market developments and how the EAB should respond to those. Ideas and suggestions for projects and other activities for the EAB will be discussed. Proposals may emerge, which could be prepared to be formalized at the following General Assembly on 14 February 2013.

The EAB members' conference will be co-located with the December meeting of the TeleTrust German Biometric Working Group, which will meet on 12 December 2012 at the BdB (Bundesverband deutscher Banken) in Berlin. See the EAB-events website for more details: http://www.eab.org/events/upcoming_events.html

Dates fixed for the 2nd EAB General Assembly and European Biometrics Symposium (resp. 14 - 15 February, 2013)

The date for the 2nd General Assembly of EAB members has been set to **Thursday, 14 February 2013**. The meeting will take place in Brussels. The exact location and agenda will be announced later. The meeting is for EAB members only.

At the following day, on **Friday, 15 February 2013**, the European Biometrics Symposium will take place. This event will zoom in to recent developments in Europe and abroad, including areas such as policy, industrial R&D, academic achievements and roadmaps, evaluation and testing.

The European Biometrics Symposium is quality driven. The event seeks to provide in depth information on the most actual and relevant issues on biometrics and ID management, targeted to policy makers, industrial decision makers, end users, system designers and academic and other educational institutions.

For more information please take a look at www.eab.org regularly or send an email to secretariat@eab.org (see also the Event section of this Newsletter)

2. EU/EC/EP

First eGates in Bulgaria

Bulgarian Interior Minister Tsvetan Tsvetanov has unveiled the first electronic counters for border control in Bulgaria, FOCUS News Agency reported. The new devices will check biometric data and passports. The counters are four and are worth BGN 572,000. The

financing is under a project of the External Borders Fund. The implementation of the project shows Bulgaria's commitment to join the Schengen Area and achieve high security standards.

Source: FOCUS Information Agency, 28 August 2012 / www.focus-fen.net

Dutch parliament on the biometric passport: fingerprints useless unless policy and implementation changes

A majority of the Dutch parliament supports a motion from MP Pierre Heijnen (PvdA) to stop storing the fingerprints of Dutch citizens in the chip of the e-passport and/or in any database. The political parties PvdA, SP, D66, GroenLinks and the PVV believe that the usefulness and necessity of storing the fingerprints in the passport has not been proven. In addition, issues have been reported on the quality of the capturing process. Mr. Heijnen has requested the minister to share the concerns of the Dutch parliament with the relevant authorities within the European Commission with the objective to change the European regulation. On 7 June 2012 the MPs Heijnen (PvdA) and Schouw (D66) also filed a motion asking to wave fingerprinting for people who have principle objections against the capturing and storing of fingerprints for obtaining a passport or national id-card.

Read more:

www.security.nl/artikel/41513/1/Kamermeerderheid_wil_vingerafdruk_uit_paspoort.html

<https://zoek.officielebekendmakingen.nl/kst-25764-61.html>

Biometric passports tested by the European Commission

As part of a larger European technical evaluation of the 2nd generation e-passports, conformity evaluation of the biometric passports in the Netherlands was performed on a voluntary basis by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission. The test plan consisted in the assessment of mandatory security features of the passport booklet and testing the conformance of the electronic chip to the specifications at the different communication layers. The following tests (amongst others) were out of scope and therefore have not been performed:

- Quality of the facial image and fingerprint images stored in the chip
- Security reagents and protection against attempts at tampering
- Security tests with reference to Common Criteria for Information Technology Security Evaluation

Also the application, registration and issuance processes were out of scope.

Sources:

- EC/JRC ISPRA - JRC TEMPEST Testing Laboratory, 'Conformance Testing of 2nd Generation e-Passports'
- Answer given by Ms Malmström to the European Parliament (E-001306/2012) on behalf of the Commission, 29 March 2012

Finland, Baltic urge high-tech EU border security

The countries say that using biometric fingerprint recognition at border crossing points on the EU's external borders would help to combat illegal immigration and identify victims of human trafficking. Finland and the Baltic countries have called on the EU to include biometric control in its border crossing information system and registered passengers programme, which is to be launched this autumn. The four countries' interior ministers have sent a joint appeal to EU interior affairs commissioner Cecilia Malmström. Finnish Interior Minister Päivi Räsänen initiated the appeal on 23 July 2012 at an informal meeting of EU justice and interior ministers in Cyprus.

The appeal argues that the technology should be adopted before granting visa-free access to citizens of Russia and other countries to the east of the EU. Finland has the EU's longest external border, a 1,340 km frontier with Russia.

Source: http://yle.fi/uutiset/finland_baltics_urge_high-tech_eu_border_security/6228950

3. Academia

Short report about the PhD thesis of Claudia Nickel on gait recognition

In May 2012 Claudia Nickel, PhD-student at the LOEWE-Research Center CASED (www.cased.de) successfully finished her PhD in the area of biometrics. The doctoral thesis "Accelerometer-based Biometric Gait Recognition for Authentication on Smartphones" was submitted at Technische Universität Darmstadt (TUD). The thesis was supervised by Johannes Buchmann (TUD) and Christoph Busch (Hochschule Darmstadt). The objective of Claudia Nickel was to develop methods for accelerometer-based biometric gait recognition that achieve sufficiently low error rates and to demonstrate that their performance is good enough to execute them on current smartphones.

The thesis presents the results of a survey showing that 80% of the users do not activate the PIN-authentication on their phone. The main reason is that this consumes too much time. Because all steps needed to perform biometric gait recognition can be executed in the background, no user interaction is necessary for the presented technique. The focus of Claudia Nickel's thesis is the unobtrusive authentication on common smartphones via accelerometer-based biometric gait recognition. Such an authentication method enables the smartphone to recognize its owner based on the way he is walking.

[Read more...](#)

4. Industry & Projects

Frost & Sullivan: "Biometrics – Tip of the Iceberg"

A recent article from Frost & Sullivan by Krzysztof Rutkowski (Research Analyst, Aerospace, Defence and Security) on the market for biometrics shows several interesting developments. He sees this technology "making its presence felt not only in law enforcement but also in the military, government administration and in border control." Frost & Sullivan believes that "this technology will continue to develop itself in parallel with enabling technology such as portable devices and high definition surveillance cameras. The future of the industry looks positive for organisations that have already established themselves in the market and have secured large contracts that prove that biometric technology is a viable solution".

The key is: databases. The author of the article "Biometrics – Tip of the Iceberg" concludes that the companies with the largest installed base regarding AFIS and databases for civil administrations will have the largest market opportunities. They tend to keep their marketplace by installing systems that correlate with their own data. This creates vendor dependencies, which are very difficult for the other (smaller or new) companies to compete with, unless regulation will be put in place, such as independent testing and certification. In addition, the article suggests that the large companies are keeping copies of the biometric data from their governmental customers for back up purposes (and for R&D?).

In all, Frost & Sullivan sees the future of the biometrics market looking very bright. The figures are convincing: just the civil and military biometrics market is expected to grow with an ACGR of 14.1% over the period of 2010-2019.

A question is how small and medium sized companies and newcomers on the biometrics market will be able to benefit from this growth...

Comment provided by Max Snijder

Read the whole article: www.frost.com/sublib/display-market-insight-top.do?id=260998675
(link provided with the consent of Frost & Sullivan)

Apple acquires AuthenTec

Old news is no news and there is probably no one in the biometrics community that is not aware of the fact that Apple will acquire AuthenTec for USD 356 million in cash – in case of doubt, take a look at the according 8-K at <http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1138830/000119312512318086/d384083d8k.htm>.

One of the interesting aspects of this deal is the discreetness – no press release is available on AuthenTec's website and the same is true for Apple. Turning once again towards the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) a Q&A has been filed by AuthenTec:

<http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1138830/000119312512318086/d384083dex991.htm>

Unfortunately it does not contain any valuable information, but this might well be due to the restrictions in the merger agreement – cp:

<http://sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1138830/000119312512318086/d384083dex21.htm>

So why is Apple taking over a provider of mobile and network security that has just recently been selected by Samsung to provide VPN security for its new Android smartphone and tablet models?

With an increase of iPhones and iPads at the workplace security is becoming an important issue for Apple and the solutions offered by AuthenTec to secure those types of devices might already justify the acquisition. Taking into account the growing market for biometrics and the research activities of Apple in this space we might witness the birth of a new biometrics power house...

Comment provided by Georg Hasse

Francisco Partners Acquires Biometrics Provider Cross Match Technologies

Francisco Partners, a leading technology-focused private equity firm, today announced the acquisition of Cross Match Technologies, Inc., a leading provider of high-quality, interoperable biometric identity management systems, applications, and services.

Read more: <http://www.biometricupdate.com/201207/cross-match-technologies-acquired-by-francisco-partners>

Techno Brain Launches SecurBanking, a Biometric Authentication System for Core Banking

Techno Brain, a CMMI Level 3 company and Africa's leading software development company with operations in USA, UK and UAE, announced the official launch of its new product SecurBanking, a Centralized Biometric Authentication (CBA) solution for Core Banking.

Read more: <http://www.pr.com/press-release/410035>

British Airways Googles faces to identify customers

First class passengers are big money for airlines and a lot of attention is devoted to this small, but solvent group of travellers. To ensure that cabin crew as well as staff at check-in instantly "recognise" those travellers a little help from BA's "Know me" customer service programme is needed. Since very recently BA staff is now able to search Google facial images for specific customers and quite a number of articles are dealing with this upgrade:

<http://www.businesstraveller.com/news/ba-to-roll-out-a-know-me-initiative>

<http://techcrunch.com/2012/07/05/british-airways-borders-on-creepy-with-know-me-google-identity-check/>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2169386/BA-privacy-row-passengers-face-profiled-staff-iPads-snooping-Google-software.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/google/9380650/Google-means-important-people-wont-just-be-a-face-in-the-crowd-for-BA.html>

5. Outside Europe

Report on NIST Evaluation of Latent Fingerprint Technologies

The NIST Evaluation of Latent Fingerprint Technologies: Extended Feature Sets (ELFT-EFS) Evaluation #2 Final Report is now available through the following link:

<http://www.nist.gov/itl/iad/ig/elft-efs.cfm>

The report describes the design, process, results, and conclusions of ELFT-EFS Evaluation #2; an accuracy test of latent fingerprint searches using features marked by experienced human latent fingerprint examiners, in addition to automatic feature extraction and matching (AFEM).

To contact the test liaison on ELFT-EFS: latent-efs@nist.gov

Update on NFIQ2

As a collaborative project initiated by National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), US, and Bundesamt für Sicherheit in der Informationstechnik (BSI), Germany, the NIST Fingerprint Image Quality 2 (NFIQ 2.0) project was formally announced in February 2011. The stated goal of the project is to develop an open source revision for the fingerprint image quality algorithm NFIQ, which was published by NIST in 2004. The project is a collaborative effort lifted mainly by NIST, BSI, secunet Security Networks AG, Hochschule Darmstadt and Fraunhofer IGD but it is also supported by contributions from industry and universities around the world.

Since its inception, the project has had multiple internal workshops. More recently a highly successful satellite workshop held as part of the International Biometric Performance Testing Conference (IBPC) in March 2012 where an overview of the first year and a roadmap for the next year was presented. The milestones that were achieved and presented include the development of a modular framework, which supports training of the new algorithm and which is flexible with regards to multiple implementations of subsystems such as backend, machine learning, and quality features. Further, a set of candidate quality features based on recent literature was identified and implemented with a subsequent evaluation yielding promising preliminary results of the implemented features. With the first milestones reached

there is now a solid foundation on which to base the continued development of the next generation of fingerprint image quality assessment.

The upcoming tasks include exploration and refinement of the selection of quality features as well as investigations of machine learning approaches which can best leverage the available training data. The completion of these tasks will serve as an excellent basis for a comprehensive quality assessment algorithm with high fidelity and predictive capabilities exceeding currently available solutions.

The next NFIQ 2.0 related presentations will take place at BIOSIG 2012, which will be held in Darmstadt, Germany on 6 and 7 September 2012 (see under 'Events').

The NFIQ 2.0 project is on schedule and will present more results as they become available. The project anticipates to release the MATLAB based implementation of the candidate features in the near future. Be sure to check the official NFIQ 2.0 project page for updates on recent developments, new documentation and upcoming workshops. Any reviews, comments and contributions can be sent directly to nfiq2.development@nist.gov.

Read more: http://www.nist.gov/itl/iad/ig/development_nfiq_2.cfm

Update on Face Recognition Vendor Test (FRVT) 2012

On 15 August, 2012, NIST released an updated version of the FRVT2012 Concept and API document. Amongst others, it clarifies on the number of class C that may be submitted. The document, titling *Still Face Image and Video Concept, Evaluation Plan and API Version 1.1*, intends to be the final specification.

Read more: <http://www.nist.gov/itl/iad/ig/frvt-2012.cfm>

NIST FpVTE2012

The document establishes the testing method for the one-to-many Fingerprint Vendor Technology Evaluation 2012 (FpVTE2012). In addition to describing the planned evaluation, this document includes the application program interface (API), software submission procedures, and participation application. FpVTE2003 only used enrolment sizes of around 10,000 subjects. NIST has already conducted one-to-many biometric (face MBE2010 3 and iris IREXIII 4) evaluations using multi-million enrolment sizes in which all templates fit into the RAM of a single compute blade. FpVTE2012 will be the first biometric evaluation at NIST that partitions the enrolment set across multiple compute blades.

This technology evaluation is being done to meet several goals. FpVTE2012 will:

- assess the current performance accuracy of one-to-many fingerprint matching software using operational fingerprint data,
- use enrolled sample sizes extending into the multiple millions,
- provide a testing framework and API for enrolment sizes that must be spread across the memory of multiple computer blades,

- support US Government and other sponsors in setting operational thresholds,
- evaluate on operational datasets containing newer datasets from live-scan ten-print "Identification Flats" capture systems, other live-scan capture devices (single finger and multi-finger), and historically significant scanned inked fingerprints. If available, datasets may include mobile device fingerprints.

Commercial, non-profit and research organizations with an ability to implement a large scale one-to-many fingerprint identification algorithm are invited to participate in FpVTE2012. Organizations only interested in one-to-one verification should participate in the Proprietary Fingerprint Testing II (PFTII).

Read more: <http://www.nist.gov/itl/iad/ig/fpvt2012.cfm>

US senator grills Facebook over facial recognition technology

Facebook's privacy and policy manager Rob Sherman has been grilled in the US senate about the social networking giant's use of facial recognition technology. Senator Al Franken called a hearing to probe Facebook about its introduction of features such as default tag suggestions in photos and the lack of information about the technology on its site. When asked whether Facebook would ever sell its user face profiles to third parties, Sherman replied: "It's difficult to know what Facebook will look like five or ten years down the line, so it's hard to respond to that."

Read more: <http://www.wired.co.uk/news/archive/2012-07/19/facebook-grilled-over-facial-recognition>

Morpho Trust (US) to provide tool for the FBI to scan faces on Facebook

Interesting interview Nick Pattakos, MorphoTrust's Senior Vice President of Enterprise Solutions on findBIOMETRICS.COM covering – among others – Morpho Trust's work for the Federal Bureau of Investigation FBI and US Department of Defence DoD, amongst others to provide a tool to search faces at Facebook for identification on streets and other public spaces.

To read the interview, please visit: <http://www.findbiometrics.com/articles/i/9745/>

New NIST Protocol Enables Wireless and Secure Biometric Acquisition with Web Services

Researchers at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) have developed and published a new protocol for communicating with biometric sensors over wired and wireless networks – using some of the same technologies that underpin the web. The new protocol, called WS-Biometric Devices (WS-BD), allows desktops, laptops, tablets and smartphones to access sensors that capture biometric data such as fingerprints, iris images and face images using web services.

Read more: <http://www.sciencenewsline.com/articles/2012050322370028.html>

FBI to add Tattoos to Biometric ID Capabilities

The Federal Bureau of Investigation FBI is looking to add tattoos to its portfolio of human identifying characteristics, and it's reaching out to industry for information on how to do that, according to a request for information.

Read more: <http://www.informationweek.com/government/information-management/fbi-to-add-tattoos-to-biometric-id-capab/240004015>

Israel High Court: biometric database is extreme and harmful

The Ministry of the Interior of Israel plans to issue 'smart' identity cards and passports with microchips containing the fingerprints and photographs of all Israeli residents. The High Court of Justice questioned on 23 July 2012 the necessity of a pilot program to test a "harmful" biometric database, but rejected a petition arguing the project is unconstitutional. Earlier, on 25 October 2011, Israel's Minister for the Improvement of Government Services Michael Eitan called for the abolishment of the biometric database project (source: Haaretz).

The Ministry of the Interior has agreed to release a new directive to regulate the implementation of a law calling on the ministry to issue "smart" identity cards and passports with microchips containing the fingerprints and photographs of Israeli residents. The directive would include clear criteria to determine the success or failure of the pilot project.

Source: Haaretz, 24 July 2012

[Read more...](#)

6. Events

Report: ISO/IEC SC37 Meeting in Paris July 2012

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) estimated that as of July 2011 there were 345 million ePassports existing, which were issued by 93 states. Moreover India has already enrolled more than 150 million citizens in its UID system for which references are stored in ISO/IEC format. Thus there are already approx. 500 million subjects for which an ISO/IEC JTC1 SC37 WG3 standard was used, in order to encode their biometric reference. The task of Working Group 3 (WG3) is to address the standardization of the content, meaning, and representation of biometric data formats which are specific to a particular biometric technology. Within the development of these standards the WG ensures a common look and feel for biometric data structures, provide platform independence as well as separate transfer syntax from content definition. Interchange standards are developed for fingerprint (images, pattern, minutiae), face, iris, signature/sign, vascular, hand-geometry, voice and DNA data. In the early years of the WG3 work a significant achievement was to deliver ISO/IEC 19794 Part 4

and 5 in the shortest possible timeframe. The focus of the recent years was to achieve good harmonization across the parts in the recently completed revision process, which resulted in the second generation (G2) of ISO/IEC 19794-x. This effort was essentially completed in 2011. It was in summer 2008 that this standardization body discussed intensively, whether the biometric data formats should offer both a binary and a XML encoding. At that time the suggestion of XML encoding was clearly rejected. Only 3 years later in summer 2011 XML became one of the hot topics and consumed a large portion of the recent Working Group meeting in July 2012 in Paris. Beyond that a standardization project with major relevance is the ISO/IEC 30107 Presentation Attack Detection that deals with spoof detection. Discussion on this standard will continue at the next standardization meeting from April 22-26 in Winchester, U.K. Furthermore this topic will be an objective of the EAB-TeleTrusT meeting on 5 September 2012 in Darmstadt, Germany (see: <http://www.eab.org/events/program/20>).

Report: EAB Template Protection Workshop, Paris 13 July 2012

A highlight of the EAB activities over the summer was the workshop *Transcontinental Perspectives on Privacy and Identity – Metrics for Biometric Template Protection* that took place in Paris on Friday, 13 July 2012, and was co-located with the ISO/IEC JTC1 SC37 conference. More than 60 experts from industry and academia



participated and represented 16 different countries. The workshop was organized by the EAB in close cooperation with the Biometrics Institute (BI) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The objective was to analyse commonalities and differences of the various continental privacy cultures with regards to processing of biometric references and privacy impact assessment (PIA). This session included keynote speakers

from North America, Australia and Japan as well as a European perspective from the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS), who was represented by Michaël Vanfleteren. He outlined in his talk also the relevance of the upcoming European data privacy regulation and its impact on Biometric Systems Operators.

The workshop further discussed technical concepts for Biometric Information Protection and investigated metrics for benchmarking of Template Protection Algorithms. An outreach of this event will be to initiate communication between industry and academia as well as standardization bodies and to promote the discussed metrics. The slides of the workshop will be available for EAB members on the EAB website soon.



IEEE BIOSIG 2012: Darmstadt, 6-7 September 2012

Nowadays, biometric applications are growing rapidly and have reached different areas such as health monitoring, national ID cards, e-banking, e-commerce, etc. The European Union

Visa Information System (VIS) and the Indian UIDAI System are large-scale deployed systems that validate the capabilities of today's biometric products. However deployed systems are still facing challenges towards better biometric performance, interoperability, system reliability and usability. The two-day event (BIOSIG 2012) will address these issues and will present innovations and best practices.

BIOSIG 2012 is jointly organized by the Competence Center for Applied Security Technology (CAST), the German Federal Office for Information Security (BSI), the European Association for Biometrics (EAB), Fraunhofer Institute for Computer Graphics Research IGD and the Special Interest Group on Biometrics (BIOSIG). The conference is technically co-sponsored by IEEE. For more details on the program of BIOSIG 2012 please visit: <http://www.cast-forum.de/en/workshops/infos/164>

Read more: <http://www.cast-forum.de/workshops/infos/164>

World eID Congress, 19-21 September 2012: 30% reduction for EAB members

Based on an Institutional Partnership Agreement between the EAB and World eID Congress EAB members will benefit from preferential registration rate with the opportunity to register under the discounted 'associated partners' category, providing a reduction of 30% from the standard rate. The Congress takes place at Acropolis in Nice (France) from 19 -21 September 2012. In order to get this reduction, please register at the registration page as 'associate partner' (www.world-eidcongress.com/registration).

World e-ID Congress offers the smallest start-up up to the largest blue chip company a unique platform to network, create business, update and exchange knowledge with over 2500 professionals. Attend the high level conference dedicated to the best practices in identity services and access management, e-ID programs results, states policies and approaches, new Industry solutions. See state-of-the-art of e-ID products, solutions and services at the exhibition, free to visit. 300 conference delegates, 2500 visitors from 65 countries are expected.



Identity Services for Government, Healthcare & Enterprise
Conference & Exhibition – September 19-21, 2012 – Nice, French Riviera

[Read more...](#)

ID World 2012: Frankfurt, 16-18 October 2012

The ID WORLD International Congress is the most comprehensive showcase on the evolving world of RFID, biometrics and smart card technologies, and is the only international forum that looks at the advanced auto ID industry as a whole, rather than focusing on a specific technology or vertical sector.



Read more: <http://www.mesago.de/de/IDW/home.htm>

Biometrics 2012: London, 29-31 October 2012

Biometrics 2012, the leading international event for the biometrics industry, will take place in London on 29-31 October, 2012.

Read more: <http://www.biometrics.elsevier.com/>

EAB Members Conference: Berlin, 11 December 2012

On 11 December 2012 the first EAB members' conference will be held in Berlin. The conference will enable all committees and working groups to directly interact with each other and with all EAB members. There will also be discussions on major market developments and how the EAB should respond to those. Ideas and suggestions for projects and other activities for the EAB will be discussed. Proposals may emerge, which could be prepared to be formalised at the following General Assembly on 14 February 2013.

For more information please consult the EAB website at www.eab.org or contact the EAB secretariat at secretariat@eab.org.

EAB General Assembly and the European Biometrics Symposium, Brussels 14-15 February 2013

Mark these dates:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| EAB General Assembly | - | Brussels, 14 February 2012,
10.00 – 17.00 hrs. (EAB members only) |
| 2 nd European Biometrics Symposium | - | Brussels, 15 February 2012
09.00 – 17.30 hrs. (public event) |

For more information please consult the EAB website at www.eab.org or contact the EAB secretariat at secretariat@eab.org.

IEEE ICB 2013, Madrid 4-7 June 2013 – CALL FOR SPONSORS

The International Conference on Biometrics, ICB-2013, will be held in Madrid, Spain, during 4-7 June 2013.

The 6th International Conference on Biometrics, ICB-2013, following the success of previous editions, is nowadays recognized as the reference conference in biometrics, a unique event where all actors of the biometric scenario will necessarily play their role. ICB-2013 will have a broad scope on biometric technologies, sensor design, feature extraction and comparison algorithms, analysis of security and privacy, and evaluation of social impact of biometrics technology. Topics will include biometric systems based on fingerprint, iris, face, voice, hand, handwriting, gait and other modalities as well as biometric fusion and emerging biometrics based on novel sensing technologies. ICB is currently seeking for sponsors to support the

event. EAB members are kindly invited to consider this option. You will find a Sponsorship Brochure at:

<http://atvs.ii.uam.es/icb2013/sponsors/Sponsorship%20Brochure%20ICB-2013.pdf>

Read more: <http://atvs.ii.uam.es/icb2013/>

7. Read more....

6th EAB Biometrics Research and Industry Award 2012

Sponsored by GenKey and Morpho

On 5 September 2012 the winners of the sixth European Biometrics Research and Industry Award 2012 will be announced. The final selection and award ceremony will take place at Fraunhofer IGD in Darmstadt, Germany. This prestigious award is granted annually to individuals who have been judged by a panel of internationally respected experts to be making a significant contribution to the field of biometrics research in Europe.

The award is stimulating innovation in academic research as well as in industry. Thus biometric experts with either of the following profiles should submit their work. Academic researchers enrolled in the last or penultimate year of a Ph.D. program or who have obtained a Ph.D., with major focus on biometrics, from a European academic institution no later than two years before the given deadline, might consider applying for the award. Further industrial researchers employed by European companies whose core business is biometrics might consider applying for the award. The industry award will be granted to the candidate that has created the strongest impact for industry.

Members of the jury are:

- Prof. Christoph Busch, Gjøvik University College, Norway
- Prof. Bernadette Dorizzi, Telecom SudParis, France
- Prof. Mike Fairhurst, University of Kent, UK
- Prof. Patrick Flynn, University of Notre Dame, USA
- Jean Christophe Fondeur, Morpho, France
- Prof. Anil Jain, Michigan State University, USA
- Dr. Tom Kevenaer, GenKey, The Netherlands
- Prof. Josef Kittler, University of Surrey, UK
- Prof. Arun Ross, West Virginia University, USA
- Dr. Günter Schumacher, JRC, European Commission
- Prof. Raymond Veldhuis, Twente University, The Netherland

Chairman of the jury is Prof. Partizio Campisi (University of Roma TRE, Roma, Italy).

To attend the award ceremony please register at <http://eab.org/events/registration/6> (free of charge).

To read more about the 6th Biometrics Research and Industry Award please visit the EAB website at <http://eab.org/expertise/com/award.html>.

Cyrille Bataller to chair the EAB Industry SIG

(...) Cyrille Bataller is the European Director of [Accenture Technology Labs](#), the dedicated technology research and development organisation within Accenture, which has been turning bold ideas into game-changing results for over 20 years. Based in Sophia Antipolis, France, Bataller leads Accenture's security research and development activities, which includes biometrics, cyber security, and video analytics, notably supporting [automated border clearance solutions](#) at London's and Amsterdam's airports, and [large scale biometric identity management solutions](#) such as US-VISIT, the European Commission's Biometric Matching System, and the Unique ID programme in India. Cyrille holds an electrical engineering degree from the École Nationale Supérieure des Télécommunications, Paris, and joined Accenture in 1993.

See www.accenture.com/biometrics for more information on Accenture's achievements and activities on biometrics.

PhD Thesis of Claudia Nickel on gait recognition for smartphones

(...) There are two main advantages of this approach. First, gait can be captured via acceleration sensors, which are already integrated in smartphones. Hence, there are no additional hardware costs for deploying this method. Second, gait recognition does not require explicit user interaction during verification as the phone does it literally "on-the-go". These two factors assure the high usability of accelerometer-based biometric gait recognition, which does not require extra interaction time. Due to the growing distribution of powerful smartphones, the number of available applications is increasing as well. These applications result in a growing amount of data stored on the devices, which make the protection of the device necessary. These data comprise addresses, appointments or GPS information. Additionally, some applications, e.g. of e-mail-providers or social networks, require the user to authenticate himself. Often these credentials are stored by the user on the phone, such that it is not necessary to enter them each time. In case an unauthorized person has access to such a phone he can use these services without restrictions and therefore substantially harm the user.

The thesis presents the results of a survey showing that 80% of the users do not activate the PIN-authentication on their phone. The main reason is that this consumes too much time. Because all steps needed to perform biometric gait recognition can be executed in the background, no user interaction is necessary for the presented technique. Performing a continuous authentication while the user is walking, an up-to-date authentication result is available at any point in time. During log-in, no calculations are necessary anymore, hence there is no delay. This is a great benefit for the user because he has the advantages of a phone protected by authentication but without the disadvantages common methods impose. Only in cases where the user is not walking, an alternative authentication method has to be used.

The objective of Claudia Nickel was to develop methods for accelerometer-based biometric gait recognition, which achieve sufficiently low error rates and to demonstrate that their performance is good enough to execute them on current smartphones. The developed approach is using overlapping segments of a fixed time length. Several features are extracted from these segments and combined to feature vectors. Machine learning algorithms are used for classification. In a realistic scenario an Equal Error Rate (EER) of 6.13% is achieved when using Hidden Markov Models for classification. Details can be found in the publications listed here: <http://www.dasec.h-da.de/staff/claudia-nickel/>

To show the feasibility of the method on a smartphone, it was integrated as module in MBASSy (Modular Biometric Authentication Service System). MBASSy was developed as functional prototype at CASED. The current design of MBASSy meets the requirements of a system controlling the access to the smartphone. As a supplement to the PIN, it gives the possibility to choose between different authentication modules based on different biometric modalities. Thus it provides significant benefit to the user as entering a PIN is limited to those events, in which the enrolled subject cannot be recognized based on his biometric characteristics. The recent trend to integrate Near Field Communication (NFC) components into smartphones offers further application scenarios. For example, the authentication result generated by one of the MBASSy modules can be transferred to the NFC reader and be used to open doors as the enrolled user approaches them or to pay cash-less. In a similar manner, it might be used for authentication at external services. More information and demo videos about MBASSy and some of the existing modules can be found here:

<http://www.dasec.h-da.de/research/biometrics/mbassy/>

Israel's High Court on Biometrics

(...) Under the law, the information stored in the microchips would be recorded in a database that critics say poses privacy and security risks, especially if the information is leaked or the database is hacked. Proponents say the documents would make forgery and identification theft much more difficult. The ministry will also examine possible alternatives to creating a biometric database and will commission an external examination by an independent observer to determine whether such a database is necessary. Justices Miriam Naor, Isaac Amit and Hanan Melcer said the database is an "extreme" and "harmful" measure. Naor said it was unclear why the government wants to maintain a database given that the smart identification cards can be issued without one.

After the government agreed to re-examine the project, the High Court dismissed the petition, saying it was premature because the pilot program had yet to be launched. The Association for Civil Rights in Israel, which filed the petition, is entitled to bring the matter to court again in the future.

"In effect, the state accepted the position of the petitioners and the justices that the pilot program directive is illegal and leaves no room to examine the necessity of the biometric database," said ACRI lawyer Avner Pinchuk. "The intention of the Interior Ministry to create such a database before dealing with this essential flaw is hasty and belligerent... the court criticized the ministry's conduct and reserved our right to voice our arguments against the database and the pilot program. If, in the future, the ministry again acts in an illegal manner, we reserve the right to petition the courts."

For the original article please click:

<http://www.haaretz.com/news/national/high-court-israel-s-biometric-database-is-extreme-and-harmful-1.453155>

World eID Congress



Identity Services for Government, Healthcare & Enterprise
Conference & Exhibition – September 19-21, 2012 – Nice, French Riviera

World e-ID (previously named "eGovernment & SmartCard International Meeting"), is organized by the main pan-European



e-government association "eForum" (+ Strategies Telecoms & Multimedia) and endorsed by representative organizations and consortiums such as: Smart Card Forum of China, Smart Card Alliance (USA), Eurosmart, GlobalPlatform, Java Card Forum, New Media Development Associations (Japan)...

The whole event is named „WORLD SMART WEEK" www.worldsmartweek.com will take place from 17 to 21 September 2012 at the Acropolis Convention Center of Nice. Acropolis is located in the centre of Nice city, only 15 minutes from the Nice International Airport & 700 meters from "Promenade des Anglais" and the seaside.

Quick overview of the whole event:

- "NFC World Congress", Strategies & Business for the NFC Market and Ecosystem – 17-19 September 2012, expecting 700 delegates, (see last years edition at <http://www.nfcworldcongress.com/11/>)
- "World e-ID Congress", Identity Services for Government, Healthcare & Enterprise – 19-21 September 2012 expecting 300 delegates
- "Chip-to-Cloud Security Forum", Smart Trusted Technologies & Services for the Networked Society – 19-20 September 2012 expecting 500 delegates. (former e-Smart & Smart Mobility tech conferences www.smart-event.eu)

World e-ID conference becomes World e-ID congress to enable Identity services managers and decision-makers from public and private sectors to succeed in their e-ID plans and understand where the market is heading.

Visit the Congress online: <http://worlde-idcongress.com>

8. Colofon

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