EAB Newsletter

Edition June 2013

__This Edition:__

EAB welcoming its 100st Member!!

Joint Meeting of EAB and COST ACTION

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1. News from the EAB

EAB Horizon 2020 Consultation submitted to the European Commission

Recently the EAB Horizon2020 Paper, which has been established through an inclusive EAB members consultation, has been submitted to the relevant people in charge at DG INFSO and DG EU Digital Agenda of the European Commission. Max Snijder, secretary of the EAB Management Board, will meet with the European Commission in Brussels soon to provide some additional information on the EAB paper and to discuss future cooperation. The paper has been edited by EAB members Farzin Deravi (Chair Training & Education Committee) and Raymond Veldhuis (Chair Academia Special Interest Group). The paper can be downloaded from the EAB website (members only). The board is preparing several occasions to further promote the EAB Horizon2020 paper, such as ICB-2013 and other events.

Kick-off Meeting EAB Academia SIG during ICB 2013

On 5 June 2013 at 17.30 CET a kick off meeting of the EAB Academia Special Interest Group will take place alongside the ICB Conference in Madrid. The mission of the EAB Academia Special Interest Group is:

- to consolidate the role of academia in the development of biometric technology,
- to stimulate independent academic research, and
- to stimulate research collaboration in Biometrics in Europe by organizing activities aimed towards these goals.

People who would like to join this meeting can contact the Academia SIG Chairman Raymond Veldhuis at: academia-sig-chair@eab.org / r.n.j.veldhuis@utwente.nl

The Academia SIG Charter is available at: www.eab.org/expertise/sig/academia.html

Joint Meeting on Privacy and Ethics by the EAB, COST ACTION - IC1106 and COST ACTION – IC1206: Darmstadt, 6 September 2013

The European Association of Biometrics, the Cost Action IC1106 (Integrating Biometrics and Forensics for the Digital Age) and the Cost Action IC1206 (De-identification for privacy protection in multimedia content), have established to convene a joint meeting between the EAB Ethical Committee, Cost Action IC1106 WG6 (Ethical and societal implications of emerging forensic biometrics) and Cost Action IC1206 WG4 (Ethical, bioethical, societal and legal aspects and guidelines for de-identification and reversible de-identification). The joint meeting will be held in Darmstadt/Germany, on Sept 6, 2013, in conjunction with the 2013 International Conference of the Biometrics Special Interest Group (BIOSIG). Main goals of the meeting are:

- to link different initiatives, to exchange information, and to create a wider network devoted to ethical and societal implications of biometrics,
- to pave the way for a strategic research agenda on ethical, societal and policy implications of biometrics, and
- to encourage the development of a European strategic vision on responsible biometric research and innovation.

For further information and registration please contact the meeting chair, Dr. Emilio Mordini: epc-chair@eab.org / emilio.mordini@cssc.eu

Charter EAB Working Group on Mobile Applications approved

The EAB WG on Mobile Applications has finalized its charter, which is now approved by the EAB management board. The working group is chaired by **Stefan Weber** (UBIN) and co-chaired by **Sebastian Perner** (CrossMatch Technologies). Other members are:

Christer Bergman (Novexus)

Naser Damer (Fraunhofer IGD)

Katerina Mitrokotsa (University of Applied Sciences of Western Switzerland)

Biang Yang (Norwegian Biometrics Laboratory / Norwegian Information Security Laboratory)

Xuebing Zhou (Center for Advanced Security Research Darmstadt - CASED)

Please contact Stefan Weber if you would like to receive more information or if you want to become member: sweber@ubin.ag

The EAB welcomes its 100st Member: the University of Twente

The EAB just welcomed its *__100st member__*: the University of Twente from The Netherlands. Within only this first 1,5 year of its existence the EAB has proven to be the most rich and relevant network on biometrics and identity in Europe.

Through its associate professor Raymond Veldhuis an indirect relationship between the University of Twente and the EAB already existed, as Raymond Veldhuis is founding member of the EAB on his personal title. For this special occasion we have asked Raymond a few questions regarding the university's recent membership.

Q: What is the main reason for the University Twente to become member of the EAB?

"The EAB offers a unique opportunity for our university to find connection with the European biometrics community. Biometrics is a fragmented area in various respects. The EAB is the single platform in Europe that provides the right means for bringing together the various relevant stakeholders."

Q: In The Netherlands your department is the most relevant regarding research in biometrics. How do you think EAB membership will contribute to further expand your activities and reputation in this area?

"*The EAB's unparalleled asset is the brought representation of the main stakeholders from the field, being end users (governments, citizens), industry and academia. The EAB is the right organization to set up research projects, to find partners for specific projects and to influence on European R&D policy. A good example is the Academia Special Interest Group, that seeks to bring more coherence to work on biometrics R&D in Europe.*"

Q: What would you like most to see happen in the EAB?

"*I would be personally very happy if we can reduce the dividing lines between the various stakeholders and organizations with the purpose of creating a better mutual understanding of each others' issues. Stimulating and establishing first class R&D would be my primary goal, preferably including the direct involvement and commitment of the European Commission and European governments. In other countries (like the U.S.) this direct involvement is paying off strongly. It has a strong synergistic effect for all parties. Just take vein patterns recognition, one of the most promising new biometric technologies: due to a lack of openness and cooperation significant European activities are not taking off. We have good hopes that the EAB will contribute to improve this situation.*"

Raymond Veldhuis, Associated Professor, Chair of Signals and Systems at the Twente University, The Netherlands

2. EU/EC/EP

EU starts Discussions with APEC on finding a Way to link their Approaches to International Transfers

The EU Art. 29 Data Protection Working Party announced at the end of March that there had been discussions in Jakarta, Indonesia, at the end of January and the beginning of March to find a common approach between the EU's Binding Corporate Rules and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC's) Cross-Border Privacy Rules (CBPR). The latter is a system for the protection of personal data throughout the Asia-Pacific. Like the BCR system, the CBPR system is designed to ensure that a company's privacy policies meet established standards for the protection of personal information.

The EU was represented by CNIL (France), the German Federal Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information, the European Data Protection Supervisor and the European Commission. The APEC member Economies participating including Canada, Chinese Taipei, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and the United States.

Following this meeting, Jacob Kohnstamm, the Chair of the WP29, declared that "This is a great progress in strengthening international cooperation on data protection and in developing global solutions for organizations operating both in the EU and the APEC region." Discussions are due to continue during this year.

Jacob Kohnstamm, Peter Schaar, Germany's Federal DP Commissioner, and Jennifer Stoddart, Canadian Privacy Commissioner, will all be speaking at Privacy Laws & Business' 26th Annual International Conference 1-3 July at Queens' College, Cambridge. The conference programme is available at:

www.privacylaws.com/Documents/Annual Conference/ac26/AC26regform.pdf

Read more: http://www.privacylaws.com/Publications/enews/International-E-news/Dates/2013/4/

Vote on EU DP Proposals now delayed

The lead rapporteur for the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) announced at a LIBE meeting on 6 May that the committee's vote on the draft DP Regulation will be delayed due to around 3,000 amendments it needs to consider. The original plan was to vote on 29 May. Albrecht now says that it

should still be possible to vote before the summer recess. It is expected that the draft will be revised so that it will take a more risk-based approach. Profiling, the Right to be Forgotten, Data Protection Officers, fines and explicit consent are some of the issues where MEPs have proposed amendments.

Ireland's Presidency wanted to have a negotiating mandate ready by June so that the talks between the Parliament and the Council could take place in the second half of 2013. After that, the Civil Liberties Committee will vote on a text agreed text with the Council of Ministers at the beginning of 2014, followed by plenary vote in the Parliament. The EU Data Protection draft Regulation will be covered in detail at PL&B's 26th Annual International Conference at Queen's College, Cambridge 1-3 July 2013. http://www.privacylaws.com/annualconference

Read more: http://www.privacylaws.com/Publications/enews/International-E-news/Dates/2013/5/

3. Invited Contribution by Emilio Mordini

'The two horns of forensic biometrics'

In philosophy a dilemma is a problem offering only two solutions, neither of which is supportable. The two possible, but unacceptable, solutions are classically called "horns", likening the dilemma to a charging bull and the two solutions to his, uncomfortable, horns. In this article[1] I will argue that forensic biometrics are proposing a dilemma to scholars and practitioners, and I will briefly illustrate the two horns of this dilemma.

Forensic biometrics date back to the origin of biometrics. The history of analogic (conventional) biometrics, largely coincides with the history of biometric forensic applications, including both prejudicial scientific discourses such as physiognomy and phrenology, and identification of criminals and victims in the course of the police investigation by creating fingerprint libraries, and confronting them with latent fingerprints retrieved at a crime scene. Also the naissance of modern, digital, biometrics has been hallmarked by forensic applications. In the 1970s the birth of Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems (AFIS) was indeed the starting point of contemporary biometrics. The discovery that fingerprints could be turned into numbers (i.e., digitalized) and processed as such, opened the way for finding several new biometric identifiers, which could not be appreciated by naked eyes, but that could be captured by specific sensors, processed and stored in a digital form.

Today innovation in biometric technologies and the emergence of new classes of biometric devises, based on advanced sensors, able to capture dynamic features, as electrophysiological signals and behavioural characteristics, are deeply affecting also forensic biometrics. Moreover the development of systems exploiting multibiometrics, including soft biometrics, and multimodality, is promising to produce a durable impact on forensic biometrics. This is also expected to have deep ethical, privacy, data protection, and societal implications. Research is in progress in the EU and internationally on these implications also with the aim to seek for harmonization of legal standards between different jurisdictions. However there are still a few pending ethical and societal questions, which date back to the initial phase of automated biometrics, which need to be satisfactorily addressed. One of them is particularly elusive, I called it the "forensic biometric dilemma".

The "forensic biometric dilemma" originates from the twofold nature of forensic biometrics. Under the heading "forensic biometrics" one usually includes two different categories of

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activities. On the one hand forensic biometrics embrace biometric applications that are used for the investigation of criminal activities, both at the crime scene and at a later stage. In a wider sense, they could also include applications for crime prevention and law enforcement. On the other hand, forensic biometrics concern value and interpretation of biometric evidence during a trial and, in a wider sense, the usage of biometric technology for the establishment of "legal facts"[2] in the court of law.

Digital biometrics are based on a probabilistic evaluation within the context of a Bayesian framework, it means that there will be always a percentage of errors (sometime even negligible) in biometric recognition. One speaks of a "false negative" when the system fails to recognise someone who has been previously enrolled; and of "false positive" when the system erroneously recognizes a non-enrolled person (say, it confuses him with someone else). The ratio between false negatives and the total enrolled population is called "specificity"; the ratio between false positives and the total enrolled population is called "sensitivity". Specificity indicates the system ability to discriminate between different people; sensitivity indicates the system ability to recognize all legitimate users. In principle, sensitivity and specificity are independent in the sense that it would be ideally possible to achieve 100% in both. In practice, there is usually a trade-off, such that they are almost inversely proportional to one another[3]. Biometrics are not personal identities, rather they are indicators of personal identity. In real life, indicators are never in a perfect, biunivocal, correspondence with indicated items. Biometric features (even those which are more stable, unique, and reliable) vary (sometime degrade) along time, and vary in the way in which they present themselves to sensors. Moreover, sensor precision is limited and may vary at different sites and according to different conditions of usage. As a consequence, a system, which is very specific, almost unavoidably is more inclined to reject a legitimate user (False Rejection), while a system, which is very sensitive, almost unavoidably is more inclined to confuse people (False Acceptance). The most common strategy to try to increase contemporarily both specificity and sensitivity is to tighten requirements on the quality of biometric input data. Unfortunately this implies a larger number of people who fail to be enrolled in the system and in most contexts this is seldom workable. In practice, the easiest approach to this problem is to tune the biometric system towards higher sensitivity or higher specificity, according to different user's requirements. When users need a robust and secure system, the system will be designed in order to increase its specificity; when users chiefly require usability and convenience, the system will be designed in order to increase its sensitivity.

The twofold nature of forensic biometrics implies different, opposite, requirements. In crime prevention and criminal investigation, the main goal of the investigators is to identify all

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[2] A "legal fact" is the single occurrence in a trial of a concept created by a statutory and judicial definition. It can or cannot be related to an external fact. For instance (legal) paternity is a legal fact, that can or cannot coincide with an external fact, which is biological paternity. Criminal procedure aims to establish legal facts rather than mere facts in a trivial sense (see L.Morawsky, 1999, Law, Fact and Legal Language. *Law and Philosophy*, 18, 5: 461-463). Most people are not usually aware of this subtle, but critical, point.
[3] The biometric performance at different thresholds is expressed through a "Detection Error Tradeoff" (DET) curve.

suspects[4], that is to say, all people who are suspected of committing, or of being about to commit, a criminal offense. Investigators' net must be tight-meshed in order to miss nothing. When biometrics are used in criminal investigation or for crime prevention, systems have to be designed in order to emphasize sensitivity, even if there is a certain risk to label as a suspect an individual who will be eventually recognized innocent. However his innocence will be ascertained when he is brought in a court of law. Courts of law should indeed follow an opposite logic, because they should be ruled by the principle of presumption of innocence, which is a main tenet of western juridical civilization. This principle dictates that a court should always choose the interpretation that favors the defendant. When biometric applications are considered in a court of law, they should be always designed in order to emphasize specificity, even if this increases risks of false negative, say, failed recognitions. Actually if a guilty individual is acquitted because of a failed identification, it is more ethically and legally acceptable, than the opposite, say, an innocent defendant is erroneously convicted because of a wrong recognition .

The "forensic biometric dilemma" concerns this unavoidable tension between biometric applications in criminal investigation and in a court of law. If a biometric system is designed to meet criminal investigation requirements, it will be hardly acceptable as a source of evidence in a trial which respects the western juridical ethos; if a biometric system is designed to meet the juridical principle of presumption of innocence (say, it is designed in order to minimize false positives even if it increases false negatives), it is hardly helpful in criminal investigation and crime prevention. Could one design forensic biometric systems which are specifically targeted either on criminal investigation or on judicial process? To a certain extent, this is certainly possible, provided that scholars, engineers, and legal practitioners become more aware of this dilemma and try to address it properly. Yet there is an issue that is very difficult to solve, say, the judicial usability of biometric data initially collected for various, non-judicial, purposes, for instance "accidental" biometric databases, as faces images, on social media. This issue is destined to become still more complicated with the introduction of new and emerging biometrics, notably soft and behavioural biometrics. This is probably the more urgent problem to be considered in setting a research agenda on the ethical and societal implications of forensic biometrics. In case of accidental biometric database, we are facing data search which are calibrated in a way to minimize false negative, say, the odds of failing to recognize a subject, even if this implies a higher rate of false positive. The puzzling consequence is that biometric evidence obtained outside the forensic context, and in particular by searching large, online, accidental, databases, should not be used routinely within the forensic context.

By Emilio Mordini, Centre for Science, Society and Citizenship, Chair of the EAB Ethics and Privacy Committee and Member of the Management Committee and Chair of WG6 (ethics) of the COST ACTION IC1106 - Integrating Biometrics and Forensics for the Digital Age.
Email: emilio.mordini@cssc.eu

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[4] The English word "suspect" comes from Latin *suspectus*, past participle of the verb *suspicere* "look at secretly," hence, "look at distrustfully".

4. Outside Europe

US retains private Biometric Data on Millions of Iraqis

Fury after US military admits keeping personal records it refuses to share with Iraq authorities
BY Kieron Monks LAST UPDATED AT 12:46 ON Fri 23 Dec 2011
THE US military may have pulled out of Iraq, but they leave with a massive database of biometric information on over three million Iraqis, Wired magazine reports. Retinal scans, thumb prints and other data gathered during the mission will remain US property and will not be shared with the Iraqi government.

The database has been built up over years as part of counter-terrorism efforts, designed to identify and track insurgents. As Wired reports, "*Residents of violent cities like Fallujah would only get to return home from travel if they showed US troops an ID card complete with biometric data.*" The system offered the Americans several benefits. It effectively took a census of the population and enabled the discovery of double agents, while bombs and weapons could be swabbed for fingerprints to identify suspects.

Read more: http://www.theweek.co.uk/middle-east/43922/us-retains-private-biometric-data-millions-iraqis

Microsoft says FBI spies on Clients

NSLs allowed the FBI to collect data such as subscriber information, phone numbers and e-mail addresses, websites visited and more – as the FBI deems "relevant" to an investigation. The world's largest software company has revealed that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) secretly spies on the private information of its customers. Microsoft Corp. released a report on Thursday, saying that the FBI secretly spies on its customers with so-called National Security Letters (NSL), warrants and court orders.

"*Like others in the industry, we believe it is important for the public to have access to information about law enforcement access to customer data, particularly as customers are increasingly using technology to communicate and store private information*," said Microsoft. The FBI has collected client information from services including Hotmail/Outlook.com, SkyDrive, Xbox LIVE, Microsoft Account, Messenger and Office 365, the Washington-based company said. NSLs allowed the FBI to collect data such as subscriber information, phone numbers and e-mail addresses, websites visited and more - as the FBI deems "relevant" to an investigation.

Read more: http://edition.presstv.ir/detail/295171.html

NIST draft Iris Camera Qualification

DHS' Science + Technology Directorate and NIST are pleased to announcement the availability of a draft iris camera qualification document. It is essentially a specification for

repeatable laboratory procedures for measurement of "peak" optical imaging performance i.e. without humans-in-the-loop.

This document appears on the website below and is open for public comment. It will be presented at a workshop to be held at NIST in Gaithersburg, MD, USA on July 9, 2013.

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

New Check-In System in the Bag for Cathay

After years of underinvestment in its information technology, Cathay Pacific Airways will migrate to a new check-in system by the end of next year, a self-service boarding gate that Cathay wants to introduce. Cathay's decades-old check-in system will be phased out from September to November next year and replaced by a common platform, dubbed Customer Management (CM), powered by Amadeus, a US-based travel technology company.
"*Now, if a passenger asks for an upgrade [at check-in], we have to call someone [from the ticketing department] and ask the passenger to go to another desk*," said Adrian Harley, the airline's airport general manager. After the implementation of the new system, the customer can obtain a seat upgrade and process payment at the same counter. Hong Kong, as a typhoon-prone city, must cope with flight disruptions during the storm season, often resulting in chaos at the airport. Passengers will benefit if information can be given to them through e-mail or messages, allowing them to change from one flight to another by simply pressing a button Cathay hopes the new system will allow stranded passengers to receive flight updates, alternative flight choices and even book the next possible flight through smartphones or tablets. That will help alleviate the stress caused by long queues and the questions that often go unanswered about delayed or cancelled flights.

Read more: http://www.scmp.com/business/companies/article/1237755/new-check-system-bag-cathay

Russia amends its DP Laws

The office of the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, has announced that the president has signed the Federal Law on Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation following the Adoption of the Federal Law On Ratification of the Council of Europe Convention 108 for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data and the Federal Law On Personal Data.

The Federal Law amends 14 legislative acts related to processing of personal data, among them the Labour Code, the Civil Procedure Code, and several other federal laws. The amendments aim to protect confidentiality and ensure protection of personal data in areas of activity regulated by these laws, and also to clarify in which cases individuals' consent is required for processing of their personal data, and in which cases such consent is not required.

The amendments were made in order for Russia to fulfill its obligations following its ratification of the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data. Privacy Laws & Business Asia Pacific Editor, Professor Graham Greenleaf, comments:

"*The fact that Russia is amending its laws illustrates the continuing significance of ratifications of Council of Europe Convention 108 resulting in strengthening of national laws*."

Read more: http://eng.kremlin.ru/acts/5387

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5. Events

International Conference on Biometrics 2013, Madrid 4-7 June 2013

The International Conference on Biometrics, ICB-2013, will be held in Madrid, Spain, during 4-7 June 2013. This 6th International Conference on Biometrics, following the success of previous editions, is nowadays recognized as the reference conference in biometrics, a unique event were 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.

The program is available at: http://atvs.ii.uam.es/icb2013/program.jsp

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

Summer School for Advanced Studies on Biometrics for Secure Authentication, Alghero 10-15 June 2013

This school follows the successful International Summer Schools on Biometrics held since 2003, but with a different target. In this 10th edition, the courses will mainly focus on new and emerging issues:

- Will Biometrics help facing the new and emerging challenges of the E-society?
- How to exploit the human dimension in multi-biometric systems?
- How to exploit new Biometric technologies in forensics and security applications?
- Standardization, evaluation and assessment of biometric applications.

The courses will provide a clear and in-depth picture on the state-of-the-art in biometric verification/identification technology, both under the theoretical and scientific point of view as well as in diverse application domains. The lectures will be given by 18 outstanding experts in the field, from both academia and industry. Emphasis will be given to evaluation, standardization and to define the maturity of technology for the deployment of biometrics in a wide range of applications.

Read more: http://biometrics.uniss.it/

Workshop 'Trends in Biometrics: future of border management', Istanbul 2 July 2013

The workshop 'Trends in Biometrics' provides an overview on current developments in biometrics, including technology, deployments, industrial progress, policy aspects and various other topics that are relevant to the understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of biometric deployments. Topics of the workshop are:

- introduction to biometrics (general principles of face, finger, iris, statistical basis, human involvement etc.)
- standards, testing and evaluation
- market overview (competition, interoperability, vendor selection)
- biometrics for border control and national identity management (registration, organization, security)
- biometrics and social networks (identification, grouping, profiling)

20% reduction on participation fees for EAB members!

Workshop leader: Max Snijder, European Biometrics Group

Read more: http://www.intelligence-sec.com/events/border-management-and-technologies-summit/workshops-65

International Conference of the Biometrics Special Interest Group, Darmstadt 5-6 September 2013

The BIOSIG 2013 is Europe's state of the art conference that will present innovations and best practices in key areas of biometrics R&D that can be transferred into future applications. The conference addresses various topics, such as biometric standards and interoperability, multimodal and multi-biometrics (sensor, modality, sample, feature, score and decision fusion), security analysis of biometric components or systems, on-card comparison, fake resistance, liveness detection, aging of reference data, template protection, derivation of cryptographic keys from biometrics, biometric middleware, user interface design for biometric systems, biometric performance measurement, sample quality, best practices, usability, forensics and other emerging applications, ethical, legal and socio-technological aspects, biometrics for public administrations.

The conference is jointly organized by the following organizations:

- Competence Center for Applied Security Technology (CAST)
- German Federal Office for Information Security (BSI)
- European Association for Biometrics (EAB)
- Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC)
- TeleTrusT Association
- Norwegian Biometrics Laboratory (NBL)

- Center for Advanced Security Research Darmstadt (CASED)
- Fraunhofer Institute for Computer Graphics Research IGD
- Special Interest Group BIOSIG of the Gesellschaft für Informatik e.V. (GI).

Invited keynote speakers
It is our pleasure to inform you that two distinguished keynote speakers have confirmed:
- Anil K. Jain (University Distinguished Professor at Michigan State University)
- Krum Garkov (Executive Director - European agency for operational management of large-scale IT systems)

Soon you will be able to register to BIOSIG 2013 through the 'Events' section of the EAB website.

Read more: http://www.biosig.de/biosig2013

World eID 2013, Nice 24-26 September 2013

World e-ID Congress has become in eight years a key event gathering e-ID programs managers, government officials and technology experts around world's major e-ID projects, policies trends and latest innovations. In 2013 the conference will strengthen its key features to help the participants to succeed in their e-ID plans: exploring further the new key e-ID projects launched worldwide, highlighting best practices and concrete solutions, discussing hottest topics and market dynamics, while unveiling next generation mobile/cloud/online services. Held in conjunction with three other smart devices-related conferences and a 50-booths exhibition, the Congress will provide its delegates rich opportunities to network, share knowledge and develop business with the 1700 expected participants attending.

Some highlights of the 2013 program:
- Packed agenda of 12 thematic sessions along 2 parallel tracks
- Visionary Opening keynotes to point the road ahead in e-ID
- Interactive Panels: industry and public key representatives debate
- Focus on Mobile ID and its applications
- Extensive panel of Country Cases: even more e-ID projects presented
- Regional focuses: full sessions dedicated to Africa, emerging countries

Read more: http://www.worlde-idcongress.com/

Biometrics: Theory, Applications and Systems Washington DC
29 September – 2 October 2013

A continuation of the highly successful BTAS conference series started in 2007, will be held in the September 29 – October 2, 2013 time period in Washington, DC. BTAS 2013 is the

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premier research conference focused on all aspects of biometrics. It is intended to have a broad scope, including advances in fundamental signal processing, image processing, pattern recognition and statistical and mathematical techniques relevant to biometrics, new algorithms and/or technologies for biometrics, analysis of specific applications, and analysis of the social impact of biometrics technology. Areas of coverage include biometrics based on voice, fingerprint, iris, ocular, face, handwriting, gait and other modalities, as well as multi-modal biometrics and new biometrics based on novel sensing technologies.

Read more: http://www.btas2013.org/

Biometrics 2013 Conference and Exhibition, 15-17 October 2013

Dates:
Conference: 15-17 October 2013
Exhibition: 16-17 October 2013
Location: Westminster, London, UK

The Biometrics 2013 Conference will take place 15-17 October 2013 at the usual venue of the prestigious QEII Centre in Westminster, London. The exhibition will be open on 16-17 October. Each year the event provides great practical advice, tips and solutions for all those using or considering using biometrics technology for managing identity and increasing efficiency within government and commercial applications.

The comprehensive three-day programme brings together around 50 international speakers to share insight, expert opinion and hands on case study experience on the latest technological developments and new trials in the use of biometrics.

The BiometricsLive exhibition is host to around 45 of the leading providers of biometrics technology and services and is free to attend. A series of free seminars look at a range of topics and provide a useful introduction to those new to biometrics.

Read more: www.biometrics2013.com

6. Biometric Competitions

7th EAB Biometrics Research and Industry Award

The European Association for Biometrics (EAB) proudly announces the seventh European Biometrics Research and Industry Award 2013. 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 already 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.
- 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 who has created the strongest impact for industry.

Read more: http://eab.org/award/cfp.html

Competitions at Biometrics: Theory, Applications and Systems 2013

The following competitions are now open for BTAS 2013:

1. Cross-Sensor Comparison Competition 2013
Read more: http://www3.nd.edu/~asgroi/Competition/CrossSensorCompetition.htm

As research continues in the field of iris biometrics, iris sensors with improved technology are developed. For users of these sensors, updates to the technology are desirable since a new sensor may provide objective performance improvements over prior generation sensors. However, when these upgrades are made, the disposition of data (especially enrollment data) collected using prior generation sensors is open to question. This cross-sensor comparison problem attempts to explore this issue through a structured experiment with multiple data sets from multiple sensors, specifically the LG2200 and LG4000 sensors.   The authors of this competition have assembled data sets, of three different sizes, from each sensor and are providing a baseline matching result using in-house iris recognition software. These initial results indicate that there is a performance drop when the sensor model differs between enrollment and probe image acquisition. The goal of this challenge is to identify algorithms that do not show a performance drop, or at least less of a drop when upgrading the LG

sensors. We expect that results reported by competition participants will improve upon the baseline cross sensor matching experiments provided by the authors of this competition.

2. *Liveness Detection – Iris Competition 2013*
Read more: http://people.clarkson.edu/projects/biosal/iris/

Presentation attacks are when an individual subverts the intended policy of the biometric system in order to hide their identity and/or pose as someone else. Liveness detection are methods which seek to recognize imitations of biometric characteristics to prevent from presentation attacks. The goal of Liveness Detection—Iris 2013 is to compare different methodologies for software and system-based iris liveness detection. The results of the competition will provide a reference point for academic and industrial research. While the competition does not grant certification on the quality of proposed solutions, results may impact the state of the art in the field.

7. ANNEX

Report: 1st International Workshop on Biometrics and Forensics, Lisbon 4-5 April

The first International Workshop on Biometrics and Forensics has been organized by Instituto de Telecomunicações – Instituto Superior Técnico. 23 papers were accepted for presentation, 16 of which for oral presentation. There were also 3 invited lectures and 2 discussion panels. The conference was attended by 70 participants. IWBF is a single track workshop, allowing for in-depth discussions among the participants. A high level of participation was registered during the two days of the workshop. This was the first edition of the IWBF workshop series, promoted by the European COST Action IC1106 – "Integrating Biometrics and Forensics for the Digital Age". IWBF constitutes an international forum devoted specifically to the development of synergies between the biometrics and forensic science research areas.

The technical program featured three invited lectures: "Some Challenges in Forensics: Facial Sketch, Latent Prints, Scars, Marks & Tattoos", by Prof. Anil K. Jain, Michigan State University; "Introducing a LR-based Identification System in Forensic Practice: Opportunities and Challenges", by Prof. Christophe Champod, University of Lausanne; and "Gait as Evidence", by Prof. Niels Lynnerup, University of Copenhagen.

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There were also two panels: "Are Automatic Biometric Recognition Schemes Really Useful for Forensic Analysis?", chaired by Prof. Massimo Tistarelli, University of Sassari, with the panelists: Prof. Andrzej Drygajlo, EPFL, Dr. Arnout Ruifrok, Netherlands Forensic Institute, Dr. Emilio Mordini, CSSC, Dr. Aldo Mattei, Innovation Factory and "The Role of Behavioral and Soft Biometrics in Forensic Analysis", chaired by Prof. Mark Nixon, University of Southampton, with the panelists: Prof. Peter Larsen, University of Copenhagen, Prof. Patrizio Campisi, University of Roma TRE and Prof. Chang-Tsun Li, University of Warwick. Both panels were successful in extending the discussion to actively involve the audience. *Paulo Lobato Correia, Luís Ducla Soares (IWBF General Chairs)*

Read more: http://www.img.lx.it.pt/iwbf2013/

Report: Norwegian Biometrics Forum Informal Meeting 18 April, 2013

On 18 April 2013 the Norwegian Biometrics Forum organized a meeting at the National ID Center in Oslo. At the meeting there were interested participants from several government agencies, industry and research organizations from Norway and abroad. The meeting was organized in collaboration with FRISC Network and the European Association for Biometrics. Norwegian Biometrics Forum is an informal meeting place for presentation and discussion in the field of the use of biometrics. There is great emphasis on sharing new ideas and news in the field of biometrics. The meeting is also used to report on ongoing projects in the public and private sectors.

National ID Center is the organizer of the meeting forum. The next meeting of Norwegian biometrics forum will be held in National ID center on 14 November 2013.

Pictured: Co-organizer Magnar Aukrust, Knut Øvregård and Christoph Busch were satisfied with good participation and interesting presentations at the meeting.

Report: NIST-EAB-BI Workshop on NFIQ2.0 – April 26, 2013

A highlight of the EAB activities in spring 2013 was the workshop *Fingerprint Image Quality Assessment – NFIQ2.0* that took place in Winchester U.K. on Friday, 26 April 2013. The event was co-located with the ISO/IEC JTC1 SC37 conference. More than 30 experts from industry and academia participated and represented 13 different countries. The workshop was organized by the EAB in close cooperation with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the German Federal Office of Information Security (BSI) and the Biometrics Institute (BI).

The objective of the workshop was to promote the NFIQ2.0 project and the modular SW-framework, to present progress in research on Sample Quality Metrics and recent evaluations on large scale operational data. High ranking industry representatives from Morpho, Cogent and NEC were sitting on the Panel during discussion with operators (e.g. Indian UIDAI, German

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BKA) about the proposed approaches. Valuable input was formulated, which supports the project goal, to develop an open source revision for the fingerprint image quality algorithm NFIQ. Since its inception, the project has had previous workshops that were co-located with the International Biometric Performance Testing Conference (IBPC) in Gaithersburg at NIST.

The milestones that were presented now include the development of a modular framework, new quality features as well as an application of innovative machine learning concepts, and quality features. Progress towards an NFIQ2.0 lite for mobile systems has been reached.

Based on the achieved results the NFIQ2.0 project will now prepare the release of the next generation of fingerprint image quality assessment prototype (NFIQ2.0) that is scheduled for the Biometric Consortium Conference (BCC) on September 17, 2013.

Slides of the presentations given at the Winchester Workshop are available at:
http://eab.org/events/program/39

Read more on the NFIQ2.0 project and the upcoming BCC:
http://www.nist.gov/itl/iad/ig/development_nfiq_2.cfm

8. Impressum

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