EAB Newsletter

Edition December 2013

Editors: Christian Rathgeb, Max Snijder
Contact: secretariat@eab.org

CONTENT

1. News from the EAB

Great success for the EAB Biometrics Pavilion at IDWorld/Euro ID

During the IDWorld / EuroID conference and exhibition the EAB has organized a biometrics paviljon with some of its members. A 30 sqm community stand was shared with Dermalog, Fraunhofer IGD, VisionBox and the EAB. The pavilion provided an excellent opportunity for the visitors to do a one-stop-shopping on biometrics. The stand was located directly next to the refreshments area and cafeteria, which facilitated to meet and great with many people.

The exhibition counted 1328 visitors, while the exhibition itself occupied more than 3500 sqm. The EAB and the Mesago management are seeking to repeat this successful formula for the 2014 edition of Euro-ID / IDWorld.

Video impressions: http://www.edge-cdn.net/video_588025?playerskin=33169

EAB position paper on iPhone 4S

On 4 November the EAB and EABAC released a position paper on the new developments which have been introduced by Apple's iPhone 5S. In drafting this statement the EAB seeks to offer the suppliers of mobile devices, service operators and the users a perspective on how to assess this kind of technology – and in particular its security and usability. Although the statement coincides with the launch of a particular smartphone, the comments address the use of biometrics for mobile devices in general.

Download the paper at:
www.eab.org/files/documents/2013-11-04_EAB_EABAC_paper_on_iPhone5s.pdf

Latest EAB members

The latest new EAB members are:

- Techshino (The Netherlands, www.en.techshino.com)
- Vlatacom (Serbia, www.vlatacom.com)
- BehavioSec (Sweden, www.behaviosec.com)

Welcome to our association!

Meeting reports

This edition of the EAB Newsletter contains various reports of meetings and other activities. These will keep you updated on various discussions and developments. To read more, please go to paragraph 7 of this newsletter.

EAB Tutorials and Lectures

The EAB is organizing tutorial and lectures on various biometrics-related topics. Whenever possible we record tutorials and keynote talks and provide them to our members as a special and exclusive offering!

Read more: http://eab.org/events/lectures.html

EAB approved courses

The EAB is providing a list of lectures and courses on the various aspects in the area of biometrics that are approved and credited by the European Association for Biometrics. *Read more:* http://eab.org/expertise/com/tec/courses

This list is growing. If you are organizing a course in a European country that is not yet listed please send us all relevant information via:
http://eab.org/expertise/com/tec/submit-course?ts=1386844014773

Next EAB activities and events

Members of the EAB keep setting up new initiatives and events, whether it be academic, industrial or governmental. It is worthwhile to have look at the events section of the EAB website in order not to miss anything. Here are a few highlights:

Netherlands Forensics Institute, EAB: Workshop on Biometrics and Forensics
Date/Time: 17 January 2014, 13.30 – 18.00 hrs
Location: Darmstadt

EAB: European Biometrics Symposium
Date/Time: 13 February 2014, 10.00 – 17.30 hrs
Location: Brussels, CENELEC Meeting Centre; 17, Avenue Marnix, Brussels

You can visit our website at www.eab.org/events/upcoming_events.html for more information and the EAB events.

2. EU/EC/EP

TABULA RASA consortium gets EU funding to research biometric spoofing

The TABULA RASA consortium has just launched with EU funding, and aims to address issues of spoofing attacks on biometric systems. According to the group, the EU has invested more than US$6 million (€4.4 million) in the project, which consists of 12 different organizations across seven countries. This capital was used alongside a US$2.2 million (€1.6 million) investment by the Consortium to carry out research and testing. The consortium has been working for more than three years now to research spoofing vulnerabilities and to develop countermeasures for biometric systems.

Read more: www.tabularasa-euproject.org

Civil Liberties MEPs for stronger data protection in the EU

A major overhaul of current EU data protection rules, to put people in control of their personal data while at the same time making it easier for companies to move across Europe, was voted by the Civil Liberties Committee LIBE) on Monday. Responding to mass surveillance cases, MEPs inserted stronger safeguards for data transfers to non-EU countries. They also inserted an explicit consent requirement, a right to erasure, and bigger fines for firms that break the rules.

Read the full press release here: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20131021IPR22706/html/Civil-Liberties-MEPs-pave-the-way-for-stronger-data-protection-in-the-EU

European Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP)

For the 2014-2020 period a new European funding instrument has been put in place: the pre-commercial procurement (PCP). The PCP is based on market requirements and stimulates developments through 100% funding. The proces consists of two parts. Consortia consisting of (semi) public parties from two or more Euroepan countries need to propose concrete subjects and topics. Out of the submitted proposals the European Commission makes a choice. Then a PCP will be issued comparable with a procurement process (Vervolgens kan de concrete PCP ingevuld worden (announcement, publication, submission, negotiation, contracting, execution, delivery). In order to learn about this way of project funding the European Commission gained experience through the following projects:

- The PCP Smart@fire (Smart Personal Protective Systems, falls within the security domain). This PCP consisted of a market consultation, which was finalized on 2 October 2013. The second phase, which should deliver various protypes, still needs to start off.

- The PCP SILVER (Supporting Independent LiVing for the Elderly through Robotics) found 33 subscribers, of which seven were selection for execution. The contract phase is yet to be finalized.
- The PCP CHARM targets improvement of Traffic Management Centres. The deadline for this PCP is on 23 October 2013.

These examples may give us some guidance on how this new funding instrument functions. Funding can be aqcuired by companies and (semi) public organizations. For the security domain both national as local government can submit their requirements for PCP's, such as police, local communities and army. Not all subjects and budgets for PCP's are known yet, as well as the number of PCP to be financed.

Horizon 2020, the successor of FP7

Horizon 2020 will be the largest European Union's research and innovation program. wordt, The timeline of Horizon2020 has become clear, having less than two months before its start. Regarding 'secuiryt' the program looks rather differnt from what we are used to see from the earlier FP's. Security has been put into a larger perspective of 'Secure Societies', having the sub- themes disaster-resilience, fight against crime and terrorism, border and external security ans digital security (earlier we could always find this within the area of 'ICT'). The first calls will be in early 2014. You can contact your national EU agency for more information.

Read more:

www.ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm?pg=home

www.horizon2020projects.com

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/index.html

Internal Security Fund

Apart from FP7 and Horizon2020 there are other funding mechanisms for European security (research) projects, currently captured under the umbrella of Research and Innovation (R&I). Each DG of the European Commission has some business to do with security, like DG Home Affaires that had six different programs. For the new 2014-2020 period these various programs have been streamlined wuth two new funds: the Asylum and Immigration Fund and the Internal Security Fund (ISF). The ISF is the successor of the ISEC (Fight against crime) and CIPS (Prevention, Preparedness and Consequence Management of Terrorism and other Security-related Risks). The main task of the ISF is to provide financial support for police cooperation for the reduction and prevention of crime and to strengthen crisis management,

With 4,6 bln the ISF budget will be larger than previously budgets. This is partly because it has a broader scope, but also because DG Home Affaires has been allocated a larger budget. With that the budget may even be larger than the Horizon202 budget. A new element is that the budget will partly be managed by the member states, which be compared with the European development fund ERDF.

The CIPS program used to have 10 priorities, of which some examples here:

- Supporting the development of concepts as well as the implementation of a reshaped European initiative on critical infrastructure protection
- Developing tools and concepts to integrate critical infrastructure protection into the crisis management set-up
- Developing risk assessment tools and methodological models related to malicious intentional threats.

Country update: Italy

By Allessando Allessandroni

Italian Border Guards Training

The initiative, financed by European External Border Found (EBF) 2007/2013 Annual Program 2011 was addressed to border guards, immigration officers and forensic personnel (320 people trained on May and June 2013). All trainings and lessons were held at CAPS, in Cesena (State Police Training Center – member of Frontex Academies Network). Scientific, academic, tutorial and project management support has been carried out by Alma School, the University of Bologna's Business school. Contract with Alma has been signed after an European Call For Tender. Trainer and teachers came from Italian State Police, National Printing Office, AGID, University of Bologna. Training areas are: contact and contactless chips, symmetric and asymmetric cryptography, cryptographic protocols applied on e-MRTD, fundamentals of biometric systems, operational aspects in the management of biometric systems, standards and regulations, issuing and verifying processes, use cases. The lectures were complemented by practical exercises of biometrics, encryption, verification and issuance of e-MRTD

Italian Residence permit card

Following the publication of the Ministerial decree in early November, Italy will soon start issuing the new residence permit card compliant with EU Regulation 380/2008. The procedures for the acquisition of biometrics and the characteristics of acquisition devices, defined by AGID in technical guidelines, are similar to those adopted for the issuance of the passport. The fingerprint scanners conform to IAFIS Image Quality Specifications, for most important parameters, with scan area 1 "x1". NFIQ 1.0 is used as QA software.

Italian National ID card

The draft technical specifications for the new electronic ID card have been published on the AGID website:

http://www.digitpa.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati_tec/DDU%20-%20Functional%20Specification%20v.0.0.0.pdf

The new document will be issued in the second half of 2014 and will be equipped with two chips: a contact chip, for online authentication and optional digital signature and a

contactless chip with biometric data in the format ICAO / ISO (images of the face and two fingerprints), protected with protocols SAC, PA, EAC. The procedures for the acquisition of biometrics and the characteristics of acquisition devices, defined by AGID in technical guidelines, are similar to those adopted for the issuance of the passport and residence permit card.

Dynamic signature

Following the publication of the technical regulations on the advanced electronic signature, in May, biometric signature (dynamic signature) can be used in Italy to electronically sign documents with legal value. More than 50 organizations are experimenting and about 10 have already adopted the biometric signature to dematerialize business processes. Adopters are mainly banks and insurance companies, Poste Italiane, the leading postal services operator in Italy and some public administrations (health sector). It is expected that the system will be installed at approximately 100,000 locations, of which 35,000 by Poste Italiane.

3. Outside Europe

RBI: include Aadhaar-based Biometric Authentication In Card Payment Units

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised all banks to include biometric sensor in all new credit card swiping machines and to improve their existing infrastructure to enable use of Aadhaar-based biometric authentication while making card-based payments. In the circular, RBI has given banks an option to start using EMV chips and pin or shift to Aadhaar, as additional factors of authentication to secure the present payment infrastructure.

Read more: http://www.medianama.com/2013/11/223-include-aadhaar-based-biometric-authentication-in-card-payment-units-rbi/

NTIA launches new privacy process for commercial facial recognition

The US The National Telecommunications and Information Administration has announced a new privacy multi-stakeholder process regarding the commercial use of facial recognition technology. The first meeting regarding this new process will be held of February 6, 2014, and subsequent meetings will be held throughout the year.

According to the administration, the goal of the new process is to develop a voluntary, enforceable code of conduct that specifies how the Consumer Privacy Bill of Rights applies to facial recognition technology. Stakeholders will discuss how best to ensure that consumers' rights to control, transparency, security, access and accuracy, focused collection and accountability are respected within the context of current and emerging commercial uses of facial recognition technology.

Read more: http://www.ntia.doc.gov/other-publication/2013/privacy-multistakeholder-meetings-regarding-facial-recognition-technology-feb

A closer look at the FBI's billion-dollar biometric program

Representing a $1.2 billion investment by the U.S. federal government, the FBI's massive Next Generation Identification (NGI) program is a ten-year lifecycle project that hinges on biometric identification technologies and has seen privacy advocates butt heads with law enforcement since its inception.
Split into six "increments," Lockheed Martin was awarded a contract in 2008 to design, build and implement the program on behalf of the FBI, which ultimately aims to enhance the abilities of the agency's aging IAFIS from the mid-nineties.

Read more: www.biometricupdate.com/201311/ngi-a-closer-look-at-the-fbis-billion-dollar-biometric-program

Mega CEO Vikram Kummar: Europe (excl. UK) to become the new hub for privacy companies

Mega offers the largest encrypted cloud storage for users. But this new service is going to be much more than cloud storage that the suffix Mega had become ubiquitous with. In fact, Kumar thinks what they are going to do next can turn email on its head. The opportunity is enormous as Lavabit, the most popular encrypted email service, suspended its services after the US government asked for access to its services. A highly encrypted email service with cloud storage, voice and video would be a headache for security agencies. With all encryption being done at user level and not on the servers, an NSA snoop, for instance, would be very tough. Kummar about New Zealand, the home base of Mega:

"This is a country which draws talent from around the world and the business and legal environment is quite positive," he says. "Now that this island nation is part of the Five Eyes club, where it collaborates with the US, UK, Australia and Canada over signal intelligence, it is becoming far more negative for privacy than ever before. At this rate, western Europe, excluding UK, could become the new hub for privacy companies."

Read more: http://m.indianexpress.com/news/kim-dotcoms-mega-wants-to-change-email-with-indian-ceo-at-helm/1201682/

4. Industry

Mobile commerce will drive millions of biometric smartphone shipments

Biometrics Research Group, Inc. expects that mobile commerce adoption will accelerate due to impending wide-scale integration of biometric technology into smartphones. The research consultancy expects that worldwide mobile payment transactions will reach $250 billion in 2014, reaching $750 billion in annual transactions with more than 700 million users by 2020. Biometrics will speed mobile commerce, especially in North America, because the technology can offer a higher level of security, while providing an intuitive customer experience.

Read more:
http://www.biometricupdate.com/201309/mobile-commerce-will-drive-millions-of-biometric-smartphone-shipments-billions-in-transactions

Idex aquires PicoField assets

IDEX ASA disclosed on 23 September 2013 an acquisition of assets and intellectual property rights from PicoField Technologies, Inc. IDEX is a leading fingerprint biometrics company with the vision to ensure individuals a safe, secure, and user-friendly use of personal ID. During 2013, there has been increasing interest in and demand for low-cost touch sensors for mobile handsets. Both Microsoft and PayPal have also made statements to emphasize this market demand. IDEX recently commenced a programme for commercialising its low-cost touch sensor with high biometric performance tailored for consumer devices, building on its current intellectual property and know-how.

Read more: http://www.idex.no/news/companynews/idexs-acquisition-of-picofield-assets-supplemental-disclosure/

Mastercard joins FIDO Alliance

USA Today has reported on 2 October that MasterCard is joining the authentication standards focused organization: the Fast Identity Online (FIDO) Alliance. This will mark the first major payment network to join the FIDO, signalling momentum in the area of strong zero-password authentication for online payment protection.

Read more:
http://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/2013/10/02/mastercard-fingerprint-fido/2910241/

5. Events

EAB / NFI Workshop on Biometrics and Forensics, 17 January 2014

The aim of this workshop is to inform the biometrics community about the specificities of the forensic applications and to promote the communication between the Forensics and the Biometrics community.

In addition this workshops seeks to inform each other on methodologies and concepts and to discuss to which extend current biometric approaches satisfy the need of large scale forensic applications in Europe. Finally, the need for standardization will be addressed. This workshop is organized by the Forensic Biometrics Working Group of the EAB. The FBWG prepares the establishment of a European Forensic Biometrics Committee. This new Committee will actively contribute to:

* 2020 European initiatives (EU Digital Agenda, open data policy, privacy of biometric systems)
* European Forensic Science 2020 (connect new databases, establish common standards, implement new forensic biometric applications)

The workshop is organized by the EAB and the Netherlands Forensic Institute (NFI) and will take place at Fraunhofer IGD in Darmstadt (Germany). The event is free of charge for EAB members.

Read more: www.eab.events/program/55
Registration: www.eab.org/events/registration/55

EAB General Assembly, 12 February 2014,

On 12 February 2014 the 3rd EAB General Assembly (GA) will take place. At this meeting EAB members are being informed about the 2013 achievements and 2014 plans. Input can provided to EAB strategy and activities. In addition, board members can be (re-)elected. On 17 November 2014 the following board members have served their three years board position:

* Alexander Nouak, Chairman
* Max Snijder, Secretary
* John Forrester, Treasurer
* Christoph Busch, Board Member
* Farzin Deravi, Board Member

All above mentioned board members have accepted to be nominated for re-election.

The GA takes place in the CEN-CENELEC Meeting Center, Avenue Marnix 17, Brussels, the day before the European Biometrics Symposium. You can register by sending an email to: alexander.nouak@eab.org or snijder@eab.org

European Biometrics Symposium, 13 February 2014: check the program now!

The program for the 3rd European Biometrics Symposium is available now. You will find it as an Annex to this newsletter. Key speakers will be **Krum Garkov** (EU-LISA), **Edgar Beugels** (Frontex), **Paul de Hert** (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) and **Christer Bergman** (IBIA, USA).

The Symposium takes place at the CEN-CENELC Meeting Center, 17, Avenue Marnix; B-1000 Brussels BELGIUM. Entrance fees are as follows:

- normal € 275   /   EAB members € 75   /   *lunch included*

Read more: www.eab.org/events/program/49
Registration: www.eab.org/events/registration/49

3rd International Biometric Performance Testing Conference (IBPC) 2014 April 1-3, 2014 , Gaithersburg, US

NIST, NPL and Fraunhofer IGD invite talks for the IBPC conference on performance and testing of biometric systems. The forum will bring together evaluators, users, technology providers to discuss performance in applications that embed biometric functions or component. The conference is focused on quantitative, applied biometrics, aiming to elicit information that guides policy, design, planning, and implementation of high performance biometric systems, particularly how systems are tested, certified, upgraded and improved.

The IBPC 2014 call for papers seeks abstracts for papers and presentations addressing biometric performance, and measurement and specification thereof. All aspects of performance, from the design, through the initial human interaction, quality control, algorithmic function, to assurance and summarization are in scope.

Abstracts could be 1-5 pages long, preferably in PDF format. These should be emailed to the organizers via: ibpc2014@nist.gov.

On the 4th of April 2014 NIST in cooperation with the European Association of Biometrics (EAB) is organizing a satellite workshop on "Age Factors in Biometrics" in conjunction with IBPC 2014. The aim of this workshop is to discuss the robustness and reliability of biometric recognition systems based on diverse biometric characteristics over time, which has been recently investigated by different researchers. While current research is focused on short and mid-term age factors a concluding panel discussion will address the feasibility of concepts for long-term robust biometric references that could be used in future standardized birth certificates.

Read more: website http://www.nist.gov/itl/iad/ig/ibpc2014.cfm

COST Action 1106 – IWBF 2014

The IWBF, the second International Workshop on Biometrics and Forensics will take place on March 27-28 in Valletta, Malta. It is an international forum devoted specifically to the development of synergies between the biometrics and forensic science research areas.IWBF

provides the meeting place for those concerned with the usage of biometric recognition systems in forensic science applications, attracting participants from industry, research, academia and users. EAB is technical co-sponsor of IWBF 2014

Read more: http://www.um.edu.mt/events/biometricsforensics2014

SDW2014, London, UK 16-18 June 2014: special rates for EAB members

SDW2014 will provide a global showcase for next generation human identity solutions, focusing on intrinsic document security and on the new cutting edge secure infrastructure now required to produce and use these advanced documents in live   situations. There will be a special focus on biometrics, document fraud detection and intelligent border control. The event takes place at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Center. You can book your ticket for a reduced price by marking the 'Association Member Rate' at the delegate booking page of the SDW2014 webstie (www.sdw2014.com).

Read more: www.sdw2014.com/delegate-booking/

COST Session on Biometrics & Forensics & De-identification and Privacy Protection (BiFord), Opatija, Croatia, May 29-30

COST Action IC1206 „De-identification for Privacy Protection in Multimedia Content" and COST Action IC1106 „Integrating Biometrics and Forensics for the Digital Age" in cooperation with Croatian Society MIPRO and IEEE Croatia Section organize the Special Session on Biometrics, Forensics, and Privacy De-identification in Multimedia Content, BiForD.

Topics of interest include (but are not limited to): Physiological, behavioural and soft biometrics, Biometric evidence for forensic evaluation, Forensic behavioural biometrics, De-identification methods for biometric, soft- and non-biometric identifiers in multimedia content, Ethical, societal and legal aspects of emerging forensics biometrics and de-identification, and Privacy protection.

Read more: http://www.mipro.hr/MIPRO2014.BiForD/ELink.aspx

BIOSIG2014: International Conference of the Biometrics Special Interest Group, Darmstadt, Germany, September 10-12

The BIOSIG 2014 conference 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), the ICT COST Action IC1106, the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC), the TeleTrusT-Association, the Norwegian Biometrics Laboratory (NBL), the Center for Advanced Security Research Darmstadt (CASED), the Fraunhofer Institute for Computer Graphics Research IGD and the special interest group BIOSIG of the Gesellschaft für Informatik e.V. (GI).

The topics of the conference include but are not limited to: 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, continuous authentication, forensics and other emerging applications, ethical, legal and socio-technological aspects, biometrics for public administrations.

Read more: http://www.biosig.de/biosig2014

International Joint Conference on Biometrics - IJCB'14, Clearwater Beach, USA 29 September – 2 October

International Joint Conference on Biometrics (IJCB 2014) combines two major biometrics research annual conferences, the Biometrics Theory, Applications and Systems (BTAS) conference and the International Conference on Biometrics (ICB). The blending of these two conferences in 2014 is through special agreement between the IEEE Biometrics Council and the IAPR TC-4, and presents an exciting event for the entire worldwide biometrics research community. The success of IJCB 2011 organized in Washington DC during September 2011 has generated huge support from the biometrics community to repeat such blending of two conferences in the year 2014. This conference is a result of major worldwide consensus to join the two major biometrics meetings and to establish IJCB as a venue for presenting biometrics research results of highest quality.

Read more: http://ijcb2014.org/

2nd ACM Workshop, Salzburg, Austria 11-13 June: Special Session on Security and Robustness in Biometrics

"The 2nd ACM Workshop on Information Hiding and Multimedia Security", which this year takes place at Salzburg, Austria, will include a special session on "Security and Robustness in Biometrics".

Cutting-edge biometric recognition systems offer increased security and privacy, more robustness versus spoofing attacks, and higher temporal invariance at even more relaxed signal acquisition constraints. In order to satisfy more demanding market needs with respect to security and robustness by retaining high accuracy, scalability and usability, this special session provides a platform for discussions about recent developments in the domain.

Read more: http://ihmmsec.org/index.php/specialsessions-2014

European Biometrics Research and Industry Awards 2014: call for candidates

The European Association for Biometrics (EAB) is launching the eighth **European Biometrics Research and Industry Awards**. These prestigious awards are 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 and innovation 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 awards. Further industrial researchers employed by European companies whose core business is biometrics might consider applying for the industry award, which will be granted to the candidate that has created the strongest impact for industry.

Applicants are asked to submit a research paper and supporting information by 15 May, 2014. These papers will be reviewed by a jury composed of internationally recognized experts in the field of biometrics who will judge the academic and scientific quality for the EAB academic research award and the novelty, impact, applicability and other business aspects for the EAB industry award.

For all information about the award including Application Forms, Templates, and the Rules, please visit: http://www.eab.org/award/cfp.html.
You can also contact the chair of the award committee, Prof. Patrizio Campisi: patrizio.campisi@uniroma3.it

6. Reports

Report: Joint meeting EAB ESC / IC1106 WG6 –IC1206 WG4

On 6 September a joint meeting took place with the EAB Ethics and Society Committe, IC1106 WG and the IC1206 WG4. The meeting was chaired by Emilio Mordini, chairman of the EAB Ethics and Society Committee. The scope of the meeting of the meeting was threefold:

- Coordinating efforts among the three working groups, say, the Working Group 6 of the COST Action 1106, the Working Group4 of the COST Action 1206, and the Ethics and Privacy Committee of the European Association of Biometrics.
- Identifying issues in the area of ethics, society and privacy of biometrics, which are relevant to the three working groups
- Addressing ethics, society and privacy issues raised by emerging biometrics, notably by electro physiological and behavioural biometrics. One of the most interesting aspects of emerging biometrics is that they challenge the conventional approach to biometrics as a technology for identification purposes, by enlarging the scope of this technology and blurring the borders between identification, pattern recognition, intention detection, etc. This raises a serious issue that concerns the definition of biometrics. Indeed the word biometrics is currently used to describe a vast range of technological practices and applications, and it is arguable that legislations and, notably, privacy and DP regulations, might use this word as it were unambiguously denoted.

Read the full report: www.eab.org/events/program/45

Report: 2nd EAB Members Meeting

On November 4th the second EAB members meeting took place in Darmstadt. The meeting was very productive and well visited. Updates on the progress and results of various working groups and committees and SIG's were provided. The PIA WG presented its final report, while it was discussed how the PIA WG could continue its activities. Important discussions took place regarding the certification of the EAB TEC of courses and training programs provided by third parties. The presented scheme was approved by those present.

Read more: http://eab.org/events/program/52

Report: ICT2013 Conference, Vilnius

By Raymond Veldhuis, Chairman of the Acadmia SIG

This is a brief report of my visit to ICT 2013, Vilnius, November 6 – 9, 2013, kindly sponsored by EAB. ICT 2013 featured top ICT professionals from industry, academia, and research. Speakers from across the ICT sector addressed a range of issues from cloud computing, broadband, ICT infrastructures, ICT skills, cyber security, and long term visions on the future and much more. Experts presented details on how to participate in the next EU's Research

Program - Horizon 2020. Detailed information about the conference program, including presentations and documents can be found at http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/ict-2013-conference.

The goal of the visit was to represent EAB and to identify opportunities for biometric research under H2020.

The main conference theme was ICT. Secure Societies, another theme within Horizon 2020 that is relevant for biometrics, were only addresses in the context of ICT. The conference was very large. The web-site mentions more than 5300 registered participants. On top of that came the late-comers who registered on site. The conference had a number of parallel streams. The most relevant were:

- The main conference, introducing H2020, its background and its opportunities in a broad sense. Speakers were mainly EC representatives.
- The exhibition, showing the work of many FP7 projects and industry.
- The networking sessions, presenting ongoing activities and starting consortia.
- The work program sessions, explaining the details of the work programs.

More information: http://atvs.ii.uam.es/icb2013/

Report: Norwegian Biometrics Forum Meeting, 14 November 2013

On 14 November 2013 the Norwegian Biometrics Forum organized a meeting at the National ID Center in Oslo. At the meeting there were 50 participants from several government agencies, industry and research organizations from Norway, Sweden, Denmark and other non-scandinavian countries. The meeting was organized in collaboration with the European Association for Biometrics. The Norwegian Biometrics Forum is an informal meeting place for presentation and discussion in the field of the use of biometrics.
There was emphasis both on industrial solutions (e.g. Face recognition in the crowd) as well as on academic research (e.g. a presentations on face, iris and ear analysis and the connection of biometric features with genetics). Further presentations covered analysis of fingerprint samples and innovative fake resistant fingerprint scanning.
More information and slides: http://eab.org/events/program/43

National ID Center is the host of the Norwegian Biometrics Forum (NBF).
The next NBF meeting is scheduled for 9 May 2014.

Report: German TTT Biometrics Working Group Meeting, 11 December 2013

On 11 December 2013 the German TeleTrusT association (TTT) organized a meeting of its Biometrics Working Group at the Bundesverband Deutscher Banken (BdB) in Berlin. At the meeting there were 42 participants from data privacy advisors, government agencies, academia and industry. They discussed various Automated Border Control approaches, and also evaluations of vulnerabilities of its face recognition systems against fake attacks. Also efficiencies of the passport issuance processes are discussed. Other discussion topics were

identification application (National VIS) and exchange of forensic data under the Pruem treaty and its implementation.

More information and slides: http://eab.org/events/program/33

The next meeting of the German Biometrics Working Group is scheduled for 25 March 2014.

Report: The CEN TC224 WG18 on "Interoperability of biometric recorded data"

CEN is the European Committee for Standardization, an international non-profit association, based in Brussels, founded 1975. The National Members of CEN are the National Standards Bodies of the 28 European Union countries, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland. The Working Group 18 deals with "Interoperability of biometric recorded data" and is part of CEN TC224 "Personal identification, electronic signature and cards and their related systems and operations". In this group, experts from Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, UK, FRONTEX, and ANEC work in the context of biometric applications on European level, the Secretariat of the group is organized by AFNOR in Paris. WG18 is strongly committed to support the development of ISO/IEC JTC1 SC37 standards and to create applications of those standards under special consideration of European aspects. The group meets quarterly; the next meeting is scheduled for March 13-14, 2014 in Darmstadt, Germany.

The projects developed by WG18 include the following:

- CEN/TS 16428: Best practices for slap-ten print capture
- CEN/TS 16634: Recommendations for using Biometrics in European ABC
- Working Draft under development: Environmental influence testing methodology for operational deployments of European ABC systems
- Working Draft under development: Personal Identification – Biometric application profiles for law enforcement and border control authorities using portable identification systems
- Intention of defining Privacy-by-design Methods for the development of European biometric systems
- Intention of applying ISO/IEC 30107 on Presentation Attack Detection to European ABC under EC Mandate 487

European Experts willing to contribute to the Projects of WG18 are strongly encouraged to contact the group via their National Standards Body.

7. Impressum

Publisher: European Association for Biometrics
Editors: Christian Rathgeb, Max Snijder
Production: European Association for Biometrics
Contact: m.snijder@eubiometricsgroup.eu / secretariat@eab.org
Phone: +31 624 603809
Web: www.eab.org