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NTIA convenes first facial recognition technology multi-stakeholder meeting

The US National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has brought together representatives from technology companies, trade groups, consumer groups, academic institutions and other organizations to kick off an effort to craft privacy safeguards for the commercial use of facial recognition technology.

This initiative is the second 'multistakeholder process' launched by NTIA to implement the Obama administration's consumer data privacy framework. The centerpiece of that framework is the Consumer Privacy Bill of Rights, which lays out high level principles for protecting consumer privacy.

The multistakeholder processes will establish voluntary, enforceable codes of conduct to apply the Bill of Rights in specific business contexts.

RESEARCH

EC Piezomat project to develop high-res fingerprinting

French research centre CEA-Leti has launched the EC-funded Piezomat research project to design and implement a new technology fingerprint sensor that enables ultra-high resolution reconstruction of the smallest features of human fingerprints.

Piezomat will focus on establishing a proof of concept of the technology and demonstrating its potential for large-scale market penetration. Piezomat, which refers to high resolution fingerprint sensing using vertical Piezoelectric nanowire Matrices, includes highly specialized academic and industrial partners from France, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania and Hungary.

It aims to develop robust fingerprint sensors with resolutions beyond today's 500dpi international standards, which is the minimum resolution required by the US FBI for automated fingerprint identification purposes.

The three-year, €2.9m project is part of the EC's Seventh Framework Program (FP7) for research and technological development.

HEALTHCARE

Biometric tech secures patients

Biometric technology is increasingly being used for patient security. In the past month M2SYS Healthcare Solutions launched KinderGuardian, which offers healthcare facilities using the RightPatient iris biometric patient identification system the ability to store a child's biometric templates and basic biographic information in the cloud.

M2SYS Healthcare Solutions is marketing KinderGuardian as an additional tool in the

fight against child abduction, which affects over 800,000 children and families annually.

QuadraMed has signed an agreement with HT Systems, provider of patient identification management solutions including the PatientSecure Biometric Patient Identification Management System. QuadraMed and HT Systems will offer a patient registration solution that combines QuadraMed's EMPI and HT Systems' PatientSecure technologies. The solution will help healthcare organisations ensure enterprise-wide patient data integrity and accurate identification of patients at all registration points.

Finally, Vecna, provider of patient self-service solutions, and Fujitsu Frontech North America have partnered to deliver a biometric patient authentication kiosk based on Fujitsu's PalmSecure technology.



COMMENT

As the Sochi Olympics draw to a close, attention is switching to Brazil. As BTT went to press there were widespread reports that planned high-tech stadia

were in real danger of not being completed in time for the 2014 FIFA Soccer World Cup. Two of the stadia are expected to make use of biometric access control.

International sporting events provide a showcase for a country's ability to develop the latest infrastructure and technology, yet biometric technology at the 2012 Olympics was largely confined to controlling access to the construction site. In fact, it continues to be used that way: Human Recognition Systems, alongside CSCS, has assisted BAM Nuttall's transformation of the Olympic Park by installing a secure two-stage biometric authentication system for onsite workers in 2014.

In Sochi, biometric implementation was focussed on the Broadway 3D face recognition at Sochi airport. Over 550 HD video surveillance cameras and a Elektronika software platform, combined video analysis and biometric access control systems based on fingerprint and 3D facial geometry recognition.

There is no doubt that there is widespread interest in facial recognition to secure stadia too, especially technology that can recognise sports fans as they approach the entry gates at a stadium and alert security about criminals.

Sports bosses in Melbourne, Australia are considering facial recognition technology with the backing of local police, who, according to *Herald Sun*, believe it will help combat vio-

lence at major events and stop repeat offenders entering grounds.

The undisclosed system under consideration – which scans a patron's image at the turnstile and compares their identity with a database of known troublemakers – is reported to be used at stadia in the US, Germany and South America.

One South American stadium, the Estadio Nacional in Lima, Peru – one of the largest stadia in Peru – uses Intelligent Security Systems' (ISS) SecurOS facial recognition software to address security concerns especially around identifying spectators who have had a history of disruptive behaviour at the stadium. The integration involved 110 Samsung video surveillance cameras and 11 cameras performing facial recognition against a 5000-face database.

In Brazil, Johnson Controls won a deal to supply access control systems to 12 stadia, two of which will be used for the 2014 World Cup. The solution, designed with South African partner DEX Security Solutions, will link the web portal where soccer fans purchase tickets and register to attend games with local law enforcement databases. The names of purchasers will be checked against those of known troublemakers and registered criminals who may be denied entry. Each stadium will have entry turnstiles and readers including barcode, proximity and biometric technology to confirm the identities of those seeking access.

Sports authorities in Australia are considering rolling out any facial recognition database Australia-wide so there is no doubt that they will be watching events in Brazil with a professional interest.

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