

Good Practice Guidance Material

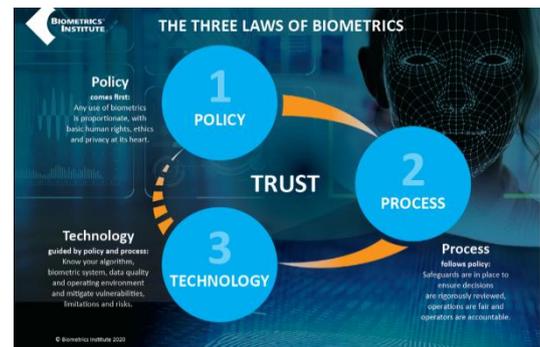
[The Biometrics Institute](#) is the independent and impartial international membership organisation for biometric users and other interested parties. It has more than a thousand members from 200 membership organisations spread across 30 countries – representing a global and diverse multi-stakeholder community.

At a time when legislation, policies and standards are struggling to keep up with developments and new applications in biometric technology, the work of the Biometrics Institute is extremely important.

The Three Laws of Biometrics

The Biometrics Institute has devised the *Three Laws of Biometrics* to prompt people using biometrics to remember the fundamentals of applying the technology responsibly and ethically.

The laws should be used to guide members in their implementations, and crucially in the order in which tasks should be carried out. They were first released in October 2020.



Privacy Guidelines*

Our *Privacy Guidelines* are the first comprehensive and universal privacy guidelines for biometrics. They outline key privacy issues that need addressing when introducing biometrics. The guidelines are updated every two years by our Privacy Expert Group with input from many different sectors. They include 18 principles including proportionality, informed consent, protection of biometrics data and purpose and sharing of biometric data. They were first published in 2006 and are being updated every two years, mostly recently in 2021.

Privacy Awareness Checklist*

The Privacy Awareness Checklist (PAC) is designed to be a simple and concise resource to raise awareness of privacy concerns whilst being universally useable. It encourages organisations to discuss their Personal Information processing, assess risks and threats, consider privacy awareness and training, and maintain a strong privacy and data protection environment. The PAC was revised in 2022.

Ethical Principles for Biometrics

The *Ethical Principles for Biometrics* are a clear indication of the Biometrics Institute's commitment to promote the ethical and responsible use of biometrics. It has been compiled by a diverse group of our members including our Privacy Expert Group, biometrics experts and government employees. It contains seven simple principles and a call to action to promote them amongst peers. They were released in March 2019.

Good Practice Framework*



In 2019 we began working on the *Biometrics Institute Good Practice Framework*. This document is a first-of-its-kind good practice tool that outlines the stages of the strategic planning, procurement and operation of a biometric system or network. Its primary function is to provide a structured pathway through the factors that may influence or constrain a biometric application. The framework was officially launched to our members in July 2020.

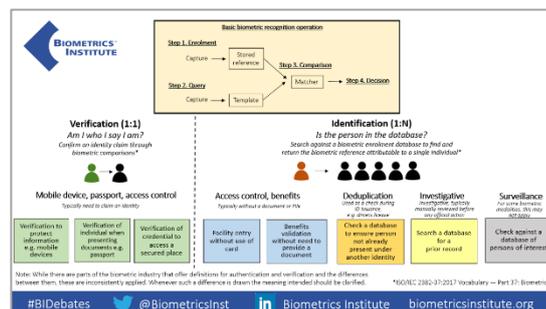
Digital Onboarding and Biometrics*

This paper offers a high-level overview of how biometrics intersects with digital identity onboarding to guide decision-makers considering, or already implementing, the use of biometrics in online sign-ups. The document covers re-use of an existing digital identity, considerations in the process of attaching a digital identity to a person, de-duplication, guidance in formulating strategies, and making ethical and responsible decisions in biometric applications. It was published in March 2021.

Verification (1:1) and identification (1:n) explanatory graphics

These two graphics are a simple illustration and definition of verification and identification; two terms that have led to much confusion in the biometrics industry. They clarify basic biometric recognition operation and explore different use cases for verification and identification to aid understanding.

The explanation forms part of our campaign to drive for a common approach to biometrics. The graphics were first released in March 2022.



Biometrics and Hygiene Considerations*

Biometrics and Hygiene Considerations provides an overview of the issues around biometric systems and hygiene and addresses concerns in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The paper also references currently available research and suggests questions and considerations to help members reduce potential risks and make informed decisions. It was published in June 2020.

Top 10 Vulnerability Questions*

A guiding document that provides clarification around some of the frequently asked questions about the spoofing of biometrics including:

- Can my biometric be stolen or compromised?
- How hard is it to steal a biometric?
- What if my biometric gets stolen or compromised?
- Are biometrics a good alternative to passwords?

It was first published in 2015 and revised in 2020.

Biometrics Vulnerability Checklist*

This list complements the *Top 10 Vulnerability Questions* and has been prepared to help guide members in addressing vulnerability assessments in biometrics. It addresses questions like, what are the common vulnerabilities for your technology? Do you have a risk management plan, and does it include the potential for biometric vulnerability? It was first published in 2016 and revised in 2020.

Presentation Attack Detection (PAD) and Liveness Guiding Document*

This document explains what PAD and liveness is and suggests some general considerations and questions users may want to ask when choosing a biometric product. It also points to standards and additional information sources available. It was first published in 2018 and revised in 2020.

Top 10 Takeaways: NIST Demographic Effects Report*

The Biometrics Institute has put together a list of top 10 takeaways from the very detailed [National Institute of Standards and Technology \(NIST\) Face Recognition Vendor Test \(FRVT\) Part 3: Demographic Effects Report](#), published 19 Dec 2019. The first page comprises our key takeaways while the subsequent pages give more detail on each of these points and references them to the original NIST report.

Compendium of Recommended Practices for the Responsible Use and sharing of Biometrics in Counter-terrorism

This guideline is an initiative of the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and is a joint project with the Biometrics Institute. It was released by the United Nations on the 29 June 2018. The compendium provides practical guidance to help address developments in biometrics in the context of counter-terrorism and helps member states fulfil their commitments under resolutions 2322 and 2396.

[Understanding Biometrics – Considerations for Implementing a Biometric System*](#)

Understanding Biometrics is intended to be a simple, accessible and usable resource for members to refer to when considering the use and appropriateness of a biometric system, particularly for first time users. It is also relevant and useful for anyone contemplating upgrading their current system.

The guide is a living document and will be updated regularly to keep up with innovations in biometric technology and other developments including vulnerabilities, testing and privacy concerns. It was published in 2016.

Further information-thought leadership and reports

In addition to this guiding material, the Institute publishes information providing insights into trends, critical issues or future developments.

[Should we ban Facial Recognition Viewpoint Paper \(January 2021\)](#)

Biometrics are complex, different use cases present different levels of risk which need to be assessed, planned and managed carefully. Using biometrics responsibly, requires informed decision-making. This paper sets out different member perspectives to provide a balanced view on facial recognition.

[State of Biometrics Report*](#)

This report explores the trends, issues and challenges facing the industry and defines priority themes which the Institute will monitor on an ongoing basis and discusses with members at its various events.



[20-Year Anniversary Report](#)

This report marks the 20-year anniversary of the Biometrics Institute on the 11 October 2021. More importantly, however, this report celebrates the work of the Biometrics Institute over the past twenty years, which together with the support of its members, has provided a platform for a balanced discussion promoting the responsible and ethical use of biometrics and a deeper understanding of the biometrics industry. It includes 30 submissions highlighting the positive advancements biometrics have provided us with over the past 20 years and how members have recognised the challenges and worked towards good practices to ensure responsible and ethical implementation.

This report is publicly available and is an essential resource to highlight the positive use cases of biometrics.

[Annual Industry Survey*](#)

The Biometrics Institute conducts an annual industry survey as a service to members to provide insight into different trends and important developments in the biometrics industry. The 30-page report also gives greater understanding into the projections and expectations for the industry in the coming year. Slides highlight some of the findings are available for members to use in their communication.

[COVID-19 Supplier Report](#)

We have invited our supplier members to submit papers addressing, "Effective and responsible biometrics solutions and concepts in a time of pandemic – building a resilient response."

The report consists of expert papers that address critical questions organisations are facing during the COVID-19 pandemic and explain how any available solution is effective in this crisis. As new products are often of interest, we have allowed our members to place an advert into the report.

For further information or if you are interested in membership please visit our website at www.biometricsinstitute.org or email member@biometricsinstitute.org.

** Documents marked with an asterisk are members-only documents while the others are publicly available. All documents can be accessed in the website information hub.*