

SC 37 “Biometrics” and correlations with JTC1 Special Working Group on Accessibility

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Convener of the ISO/IEC JTC1 SC37
WG6 on

“Cross-jurisdictional and societal
aspects”

1st Meeting of the JTC1 Special Working Group on Accessibility,
11-12 April 2005 in Sheffield, UK

SC37's Scope

Standardization of generic biometric technologies pertaining to human beings to support interoperability and data interchange among applications and systems. Generic human biometric standards include: common file frameworks; biometric application programming interfaces; biometric data interchange formats; related biometric profiles; application of evaluation criteria to biometric technologies; methodologies for performance testing and reporting and cross jurisdictional and societal aspects.

Excluded is the work in ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 17 to apply biometric technologies to cards and personal identification.

Excluded is the work in ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 27 for biometric data protection techniques, biometric security testing, evaluations, and evaluations methodologies.

SC37's Structure

- **WG 1 “Harmonized Biometric Vocabulary”**
 - Convenor: Ms. Rene McIver, Canada
- **WG 2 “Biometric Technical Interfaces”**
 - Convenor: Mr. Young-Bin Kwon, Korea
- **WG 3 “Biometric Data Interchange Formats”**
 - Convenor; Mr. Axel Munde, Germany
- **WG 4 “Biometric Functional Architecture and Related Profiles”**
 - Convenor: Mr. Mike Hogan, USA
- **WG 5 ”Biometric Testing and Reporting”**
 - Convenor: Mr. Bob Carter, United Kingdom
- **WG 6 “Cross-Jurisdictional and Societal Aspects”**
 - Convenor: Mr. Mario Savastano, Italy

WG 6's Terms of Reference

Standardization in the field of cross-jurisdictional and societal aspects in the application of ISO/IEC biometrics standards. Within this context, the terms of reference includes the support of design and implementation of biometric technologies with respect to:

- accessibility
- health and safety
- support of legal requirements and acknowledgement of cross-jurisdictional and societal considerations pertaining to personal information

Specification and assessment of government policy are excluded from the scope of WG6

WG 6's Terms of Reference (cont.)

In addition, the terms of reference include:

1. To encourage studies and submissions of new work items in support of cross-jurisdictional and societal aspects.
2. To develop Working Drafts for approved projects in support of cross-jurisdictional and societal aspects.
3. To maintain close liaison with appropriate bodies.
4. To respond to proposals for work on cross-jurisdictional and societal aspects.
5. To identify and enlist the support and participation of experts to promote and progress the objectives and activities of this WG.
6. To develop NPs for submission to SC37 for ballot, as needed and appropriate.
7. To serve as a source of expertise in this field to other WGs of SC 37.

WG 6's current activity

- Preparation of the 2nd Working Draft 24714, Biometrics - Technical Report on Cross-Jurisdictional and Societal

Some accessibility issues in WG 6 (extracted from the TR)

- A biometric system should be easily accessible to all subjects and should not disadvantage any subject
- The operator/designer should take into account disabilities, inabilities and problems of subjects operating a system.

Some classical accessibility problems in biometrics

- Absent, non usable or unstable physical body parts or behavioural features required for the correct operation of a biometric technique
- Inability to access, or difficulty in accessing to the biometric sensor or user terminal
- Inability to understand the instructions, or recall the correct procedures

Some possible countermeasures

- Biometric systems' designs should be compliant to the needs of disabled and structured so that as many potential subjects as is reasonably possible will be able to use the system effectively and with the minimum of discomfort
- Adequate training should be offered for subjects with a disability in the use of biometric system
- When possible, a choice of biometric systems should be offered
- Where no alternative biometric is available and where the disability prevents the use of this biometric, subjects should be permitted to use alternative methods
- Staff operating systems using a system with biometrics should be trained in how to process disabled subjects

Practical action

- The Convener of WG6 has been instructed to prepare a paper to be sent to the secretariat of SC37 expressing the interest of the WG in participation in the work of the JTC1 Special Working Group on accessibility

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THANKS !

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