



## Fighting crime internationally

How the UK is increasing international understanding of biometric technology applications for mobile devices

### Challenge

According to communications industry regulator Ofcom, smartphone ownership in the UK has risen by 12 per cent since 2010. Some 40 per cent of adults now own one and that figure is rising rapidly. Many owners use their smartphones to buy goods and services, send private messages via text and email, as well as access social media. Concerns have been raised about the potential consequences should a smartphone fall into the wrong hands, for example, if it is taken by a criminal intent on stealing money from the owner's bank account.

### Solution

ISO's international biometrics committee was established 10 years ago. The UK is the second-largest contributor after the US, with our focus being on usability and systems engineering of biometric applications, which need to be secure, useable, cost-effective, available and interoperable. The UK has been particularly active in the testing of all aspects of biometric systems and applications.

The BSI technical committee with responsibility for biometrics is currently carrying out a review for ISO into mobile device biometric functionality. The committee includes a broad range of representatives from: government (eg the UK Border Agency, Home Office Science, Identity and Passport Service); industry (eg IBM UK, Sony Europe Ltd, Fujitsu Services); academia (eg University of Cambridge, University of Kent, University of East London); research institutes (eg Biometrics Institute, Institution of Engineering and Technology, National Physical Laboratory); associations (eg European Association for Biometrics, UK Cards Association); and other stakeholders (eg Post Office, Consumer and Public Interest Network, etc).

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**Marek Rejman-Greene, Home Office Senior Biometric Advisor**

### Outcome

Marek Rejman-Greene, Home Office Senior Biometric Advisor, is a member of the technical committee. "The committee is putting together a report for ISO which looks at biometrics and mobile devices – not just smartphones – it includes a diverse range of other mobile devices, for example, those used by the police, border agencies and other organizations.

"The report will seek to summarize key findings – knowledge that can be shared among the international community. A working draft of the report has been published and there will be a meeting in Winchester in April 2013, when we'll be looking to progress that work and encourage countries throughout the world to input to make it a truly international effort.

"We're still some way off the creation of any international standards for biometrics and mobile devices, but the report seeks to at least establish which type of standardization might be most appropriate, based on the views of a wide range of interests and opinions," he concludes..

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