

PRESS RELEASE

Biometrics: More independent children and less stress for parents

PRESS RELEASEAugust 4, 2015 || Page 1 | 4

Fraunhofer biometrics recommends parents rely on biometrics. Fingerprints, faces, or hand vein patterns cannot be lost like a key. Whatever provides children with more independence will keep the peace in the family.

(Darmstadt/Rostock/Graz) Lost keys can very much strain the nerves of parents with kids at preschool and primary school levels. Entrusting your five- to ten-year-old child with a set of house keys comes with a risk that an expensive security lock will need to be replaced. If the little ones go outside to play during summer break, the door is either never locked, or every visit to the toilet involves a parent opening the door. "One solution can be provided by biometric systems," says Alexander Nouak, head of the "Identification and Biometrics" competence center at Fraunhofer IGD. "It will make life easier for the entire family if children can open the door for themselves by means of their own physical features, such as fingerprints, faces, or hand vein patterns."

Biometric devices are able to recognize a person by means of his or her physical features. Recently, the increased use of finger scanners on smartphones has caused some commotion; instead of entering a PIN, users unlock their cell phones by placing a fingertip on a built-in sensor. Facial recognition, as offered by some social networks, also falls into the category of biometrics. The technology is criticized time and again, as it may also be used for surveillance and is allegedly easy to overcome. Nouak agrees, for the most part, and offers a sober view on opportunities and risks. "If biometrics are used for sovereign purposes or by corporations, a knowingly critical eye must be kept on privacy and personal rights issues," explains Nouak. "However, I am in full control of the data when using them to open my own front door. This makes it a comfort technology, making life easier for my family."

PRESS RELEASE

According to Nouak, families using a high-quality system should not fear any facilitated breaking and entering. In almost all cases, it was much easier for criminals to gain access by means of a crowbar than to outsmart a biometric system. From his own experience, the family man and President of the "European Association for Biometrics" knows yet another detail: "It might be surprising, but kids often have an easier time handling biometric systems than many adults." In his opinion, biometrics is, therefore, a good alternative to entrusting children with the key to your front door.

The social impact of biometrics is one of the topics at the EAB Research Projects Conference 2015 in Darmstadt on September 7 and 8.

For more information:

<http://www.eab.org/events/program/79>

PRESS RELEASE

August 4, 2015 || Page 2 | 4

PRESS RELEASE



PRESS RELEASE

August 4, 2015 || Page 3 | 4

Image: The hand vein scanner compares the pattern of the veins on one hand with the information stored in the system and then grants access. In the view of Fraunhofer biometrics expert Alexander Nouak, biometric access systems are also useful for parents. (© Fraunhofer IGD)

PRESS RELEASE

Profile

PRESS RELEASEAugust 4, 2015 || Page 4 | 4

Fraunhofer IGD is the world's leading institute for applied research in Visual Computing. Visual Computing is image- and model-based information technology and includes computer graphics and computer vision, as well as virtual and augmented reality.

In simple terms, the Fraunhofer researchers in Darmstadt, Rostock, Graz, and Singapore are turning images into information and extracting information from images. In cooperation with its partners, technical solutions and market-relevant products are created.

Prototypes and integrated solutions are developed in accordance with customized requirements. In doing so, Fraunhofer IGD places users at the forefront, providing them with technical solutions to facilitate computer work and make it more efficient.

Owing to its numerous innovations, Fraunhofer IGD raises man-machine interaction to a new level. Man is able to work in a more result-oriented and effective way by means of the computer and visual-computing developments. Fraunhofer IGD has more than 200 employees and budget amounts over 19 million euros.