

s p a c e c o a s t  
**BUSINESS**

OCTOBER 2007

**VISION**  
**& INNOVATION**  
LOCAL TECH COMPANIES AIM HIGH

**ALSO FEATURING:**  
**HARRIS CORPORATION**  
**DRS TECHNOLOGIES**  
**ARTEMIS IT**  
**FL SOLAR ENERGY CENTER**  
**XL TECHGROUP**  
**PHARMCO LABORATORIES**

**SYMETRICS**  
**INDUSTRIES'**  
DUDLEY & MITCH GARNER



GLORIA A. MEEKS

# Biometric Systems Protect Identity And Increase Security

How secure is your company? Do you know if the person visiting is the person they claim to be? Do you know if your personal information at the doctor's office or bank is secure?

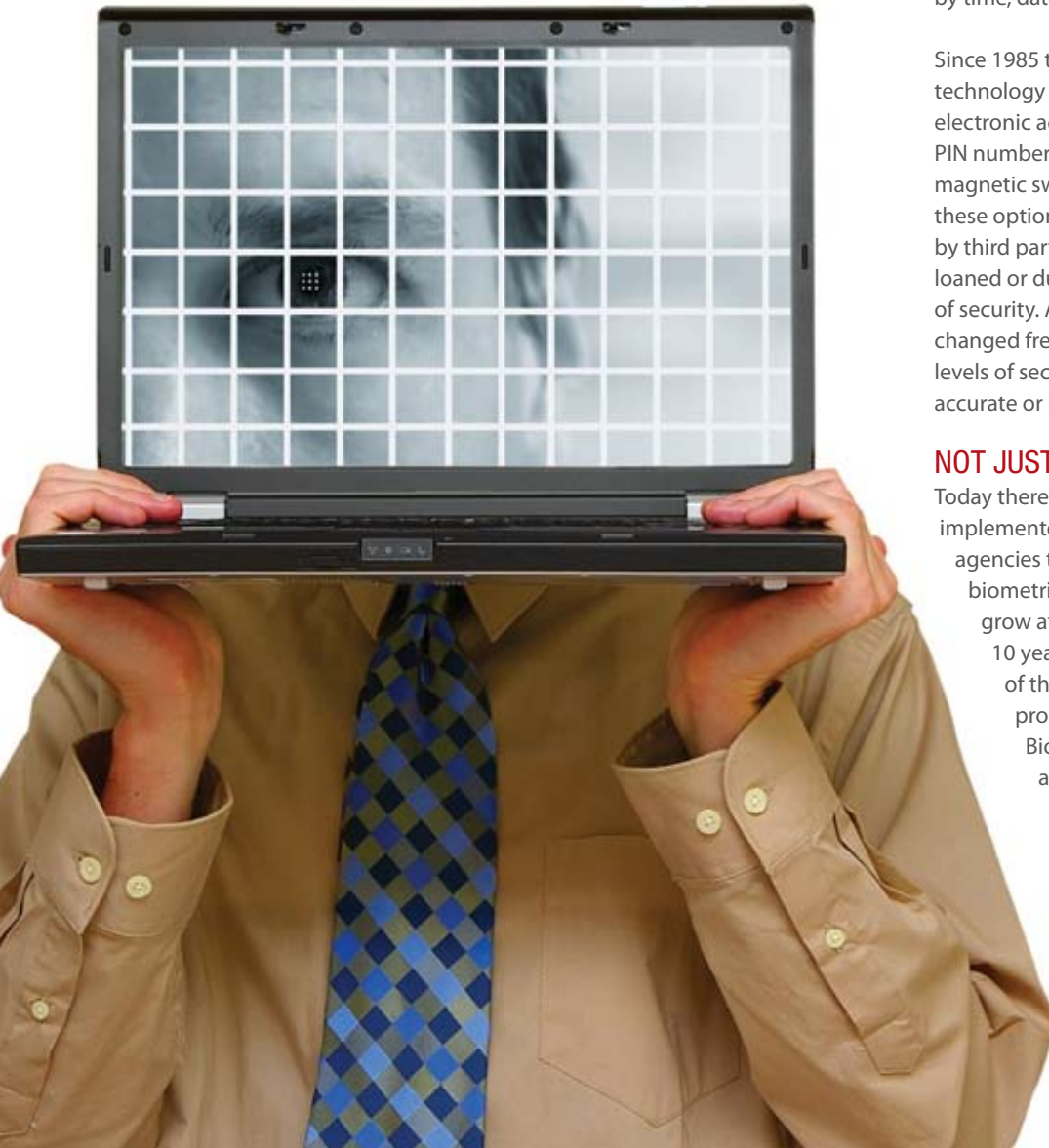
Companies, organizations, government agencies and institutions are setting up new security systems to protect their private information, employees, restricted areas, equipment, visitors and users. All of them are looking for the best and the most practical solutions in accordance with their needs. When searching for security solutions, they find a wide range of options available to improve their level of security.

For more than 140 years, the mechanical pin tumbler keyed lock has been the standard by which most doors are protected. In fact, it has become so standard that the tools for defeating or compromising it are just as standard as the lock! Keys can be duplicated, loaned or lost, thus compromising the security of the building and the personal safety of those in it. Thus, there was a need for a new security device; one that was programmable by time, date, location, and produced an audit trail.

Since 1985 the world has seen an onslaught of high technology products that do just that. These include electronic access control products that work with PIN numbers, passwords, identification badges and magnetic swipe cards. However, in many instances, these options are vulnerable and can be compromised by third parties. Password and ID badges can be stolen, loaned or duplicated resulting in a serious breach of security. As we all know, a password needs to be changed frequently. Although they can provide certain levels of security, these methods are not completely accurate or highly secure.

## NOT JUST IN THE MOVIES ANYMORE

Today there is one security option that is being implemented by corporations and government agencies that increases and maintains security: biometric systems. Biometric security is slated to grow at an average of 22% per year over the next 10 years. Today it is the fastest growing segment of the electronic access control industry, producing some \$1.5 billion in yearly revenues. Biometrics refers to automatic identification and verification based on physical or behavioral characteristics. During system enrollment, a sample of the biometric trait is captured, processed by a biometric device and stored for comparison. Biometric authentication requires comparing a registered and enrolled biometric sample against a newly captured biometric sample.



# BIOMETRIC

security is the fastest growing segment of the electronic access control industry, producing some \$1.5 billion in yearly revenues.

There are several well-known biometric security options available, such as fingerprint and voice recognition; facial, hand and finger geometry; iris and retina scans; signatures; keyboard stroking; DNA; ear form; and others. Biometric identification systems are more secure as a method of identification because these physical or behavioral characteristics are unique for each person, permanent and measurable. Biometric identification offers the highest level of security by positively identifying the person at the point of access, vastly increasing the level of security.

## **MOST COMMON BIOMETRICS**

Some of the most secure and in-demand types of security systems are fingerprint-based recognition systems, which have been available for more than 15 years. They eliminate the need for carrying any type of identification card, PIN, password or token. Most fingerprint verification systems actually measure and verify the minute electrical characteristics of the user's fingerprint, not the fingerprints themselves, eliminating any identity concerns for the users. Fingerprint recognition systems offer great advantages in all four discriminators of different biometric systems: comfort, accuracy, availability, and cost.

There are many applications for biometric security. Network security infrastructure, secure electronic banking, investing and other financial transactions, retail sales, law enforcement, health care and social services are already benefiting from this technology. Biometrics is being applied to more and more applications as the cost, availability and scalability of the technology becomes more advantageous.

## **CHOOSING A SYSTEM**

The level of security is not the only thing to keep in mind when comparing systems. Other factors to consider are: plug and play ease-of-use; ease in administering and using; fast fingerprint recognition times; large and extendable memory capacity; reliability; affordability; embedded software; and web servers. These eliminate the need to purchase other products, security level, maintenance requirements, product support, and warranties. When comparing systems and providers, look for the extras offered. Some systems not only provide identification, they provide time-and-attendance records that are readily accessed by payroll, eliminating the need for time cards. They also eliminate "buddy punching", which accounts for an estimated 7% to 12% of all time clock transactions.

Additionally, some systems offer access control to various facility locations, depending on the authorization level of the user. The best fingerprint-based systems offer additional PIN entry and or proximity cards to augment fingerprint recognition for maximum security. Superior fingerprint-based biometric systems can be obtained for \$1,400 or less that will register and recognize up to 1,000 users, with no additional software or equipment required. They can be expanded to more users as a company grows. They can be administered over the Internet from any location by a member company's management, where time-and-attendance and facility access logs can be monitored. They can also incorporate security cameras that can be viewed over the web.

It is estimated that by the year 2010 most U.S. corporations will use some type of biometric device for time-and-attendance and access control. Are you ready to increase your security level?

---

Gloria A. Meeks is Vice President of Marketing and Sales for American Biometric Systems, Inc., based in Titusville, FL. For more information, visit [www.ambiometrics.com](http://www.ambiometrics.com) or call (321) 264-2129.

# **SIMPLIFY** **Security Management...**



**iGuard®** - three security solutions in one device: access control, time and attendance and personnel identification.

Make a smart decision by installing iGuard® fingerprint-based biometric security system in your company.

**American Biometric Systems, Inc.**

1311 N. US Hwy1, Bld 1, Titusville, FL 32796  
[www.ambiometrics.com](http://www.ambiometrics.com) • (321) 264-2129/3369

iGuard is a Registered Trademark  
of Lucky Technology, Ltd.  
US Patent No 6,643,779