



# Hacking Biometrics: If You Thought Your Fingerprints Were Safe, Think Again



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## About Roger

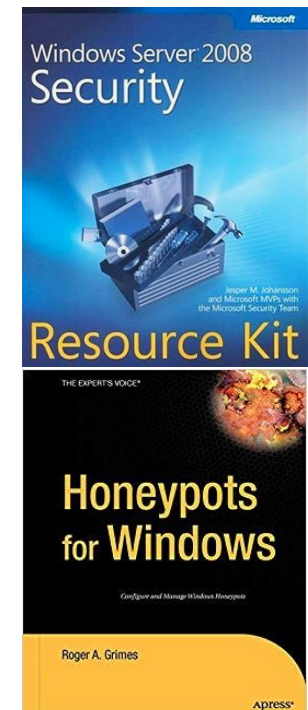
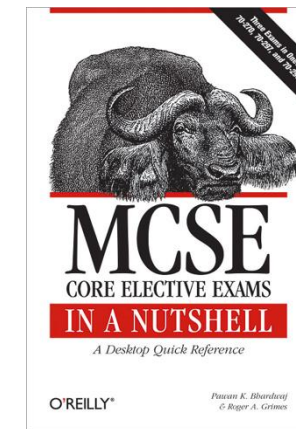
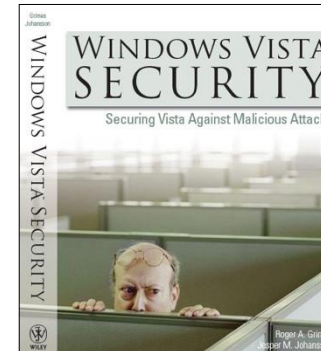
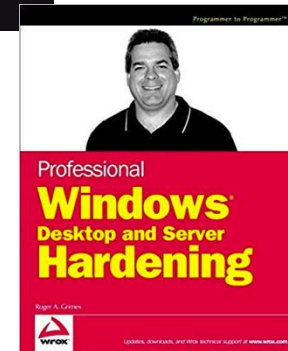
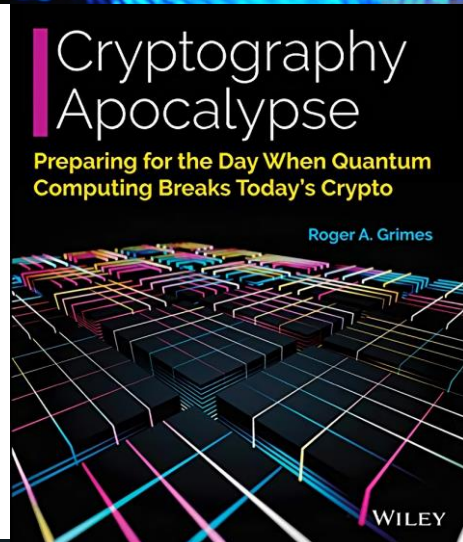
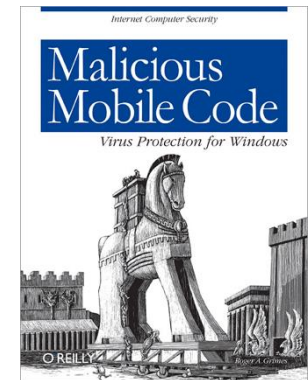
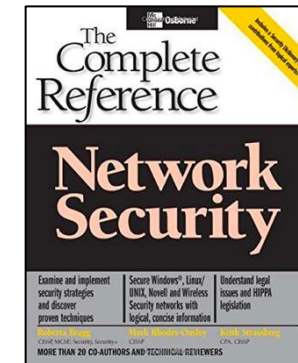
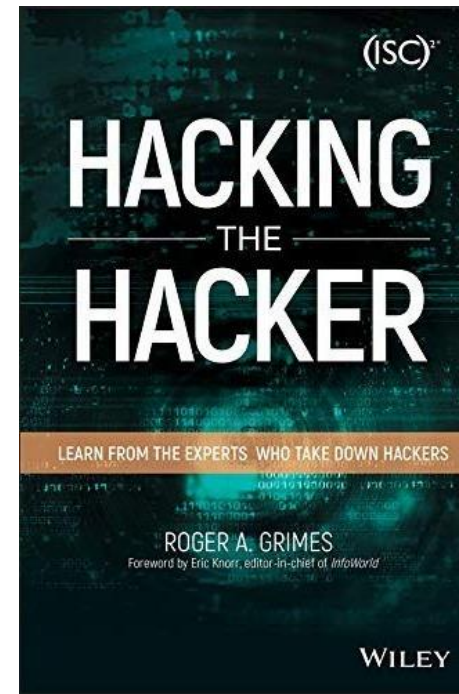
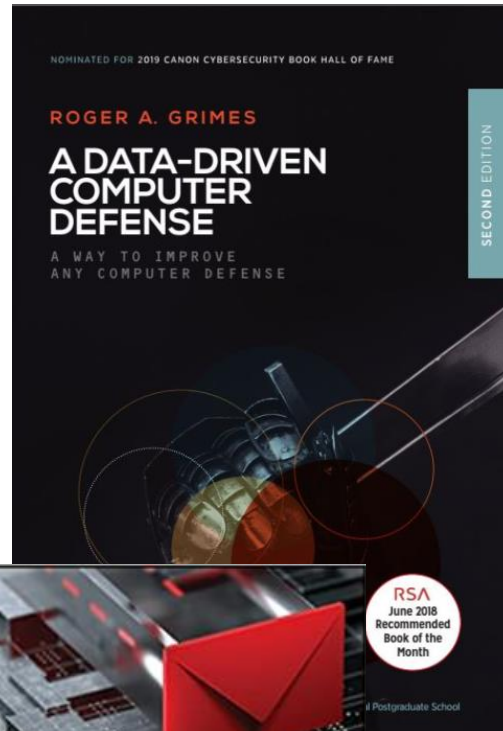
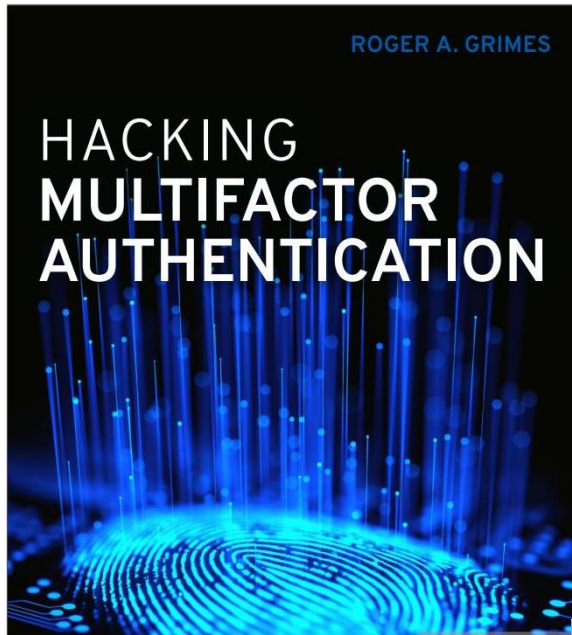
- 34 years plus in computer security, 20 years pen testing
- Expertise in host and network security, IdM, crypto, PKI, APT, honeypot, cloud security
- Consultant to world's largest companies and militaries for decades
- Previous worked for Foundstone, McAfee, Microsoft
- Written 13 books and over 1,200 magazine articles
- *InfoWorld* and *CSO* weekly security columnist 2005 - 2019
- Frequently interviewed by magazines (e.g. Newsweek) and radio shows (e.g. NPR's All Things Considered)

### Certification exams passed include:

- CPA
- CISSP
- CISM, CISA
- MCSE: Security, MCP, MVP
- CEH, TISCA, Security+, CHFI
- yada, yada



# Roger's Books



# About Us

- The world's largest integrated Security Awareness Training and Simulated Phishing platform
- We help tens of thousands of organizations manage the ongoing problem of social engineering
- CEO & employees are industry veterans in IT Security
- Global Sales, Courseware Development, Customer Success, and Technical Support teams worldwide
- Offices in the USA, UK, Netherlands, Norway, Germany, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Japan, Australia, and Brazil





# Agenda

- Biometric Basics
- Hacking Biometrics
- Safer Biometrics

# Agenda

- Biometric Basics
- Hacking Biometrics
- Safer Biometrics

# Biometric Basics

Biometric attributes are used to authenticate people in digital systems

## Common Types:

- Fingerprints, face, retina, iris, palm, geometry, veins, voice, touchless, etc.
  - Behavioral: typing (keystroke dynamics), cursor movements, etc.
  - Experimental: Smell, brainprint, etc.
  - DNA the ultimate??
- 
- Can be used 1FA or MFA

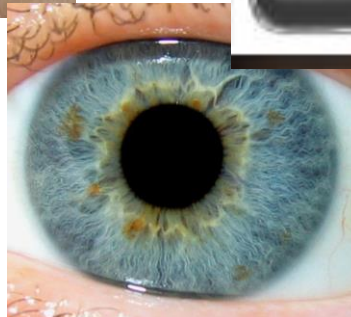
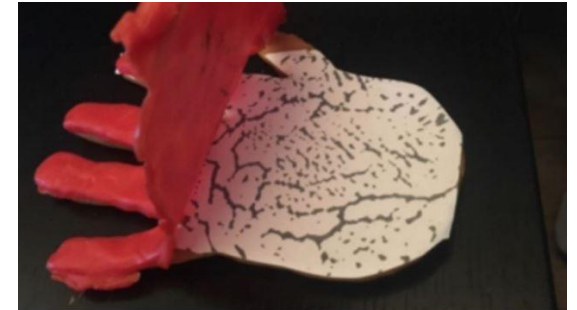
# Biometric Basics

## Why Are Biometrics Used?

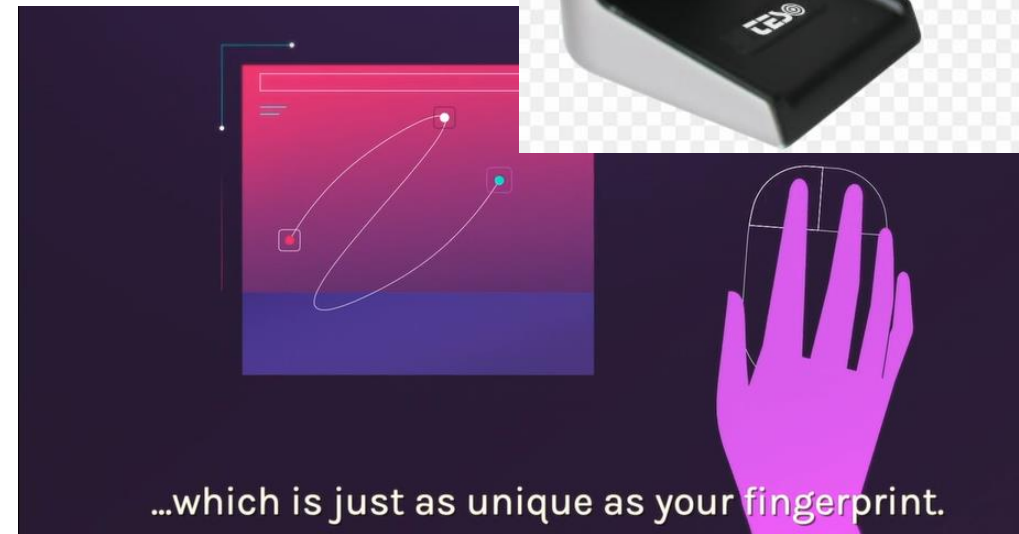
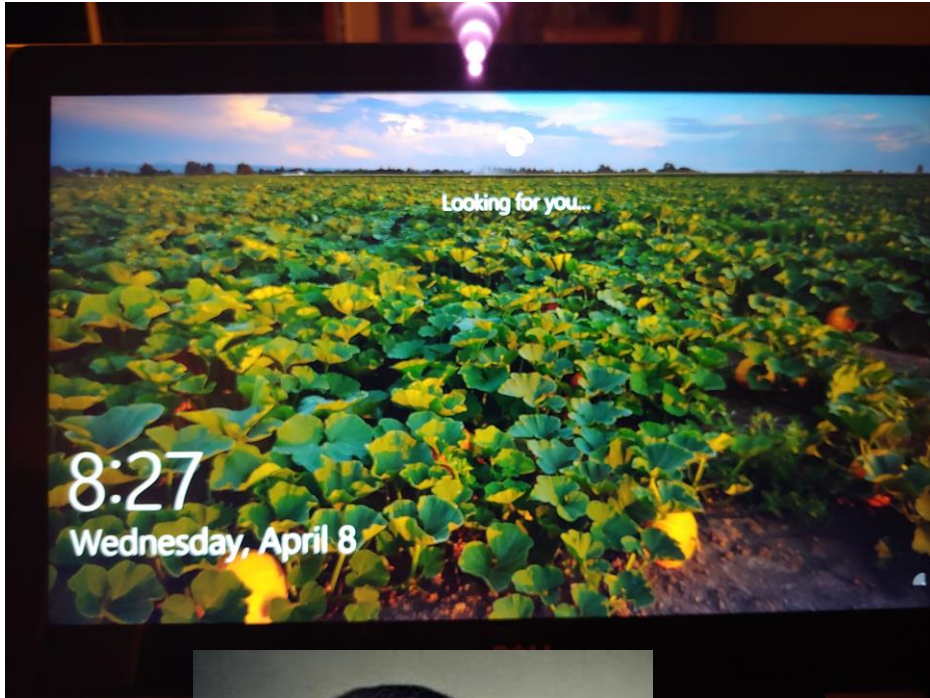
- Always on you
- Supposedly universally unique or darn close anyway
- Measured attributes usually change slowly over time for most people
- Can be measured quickly



# Biometric Basics



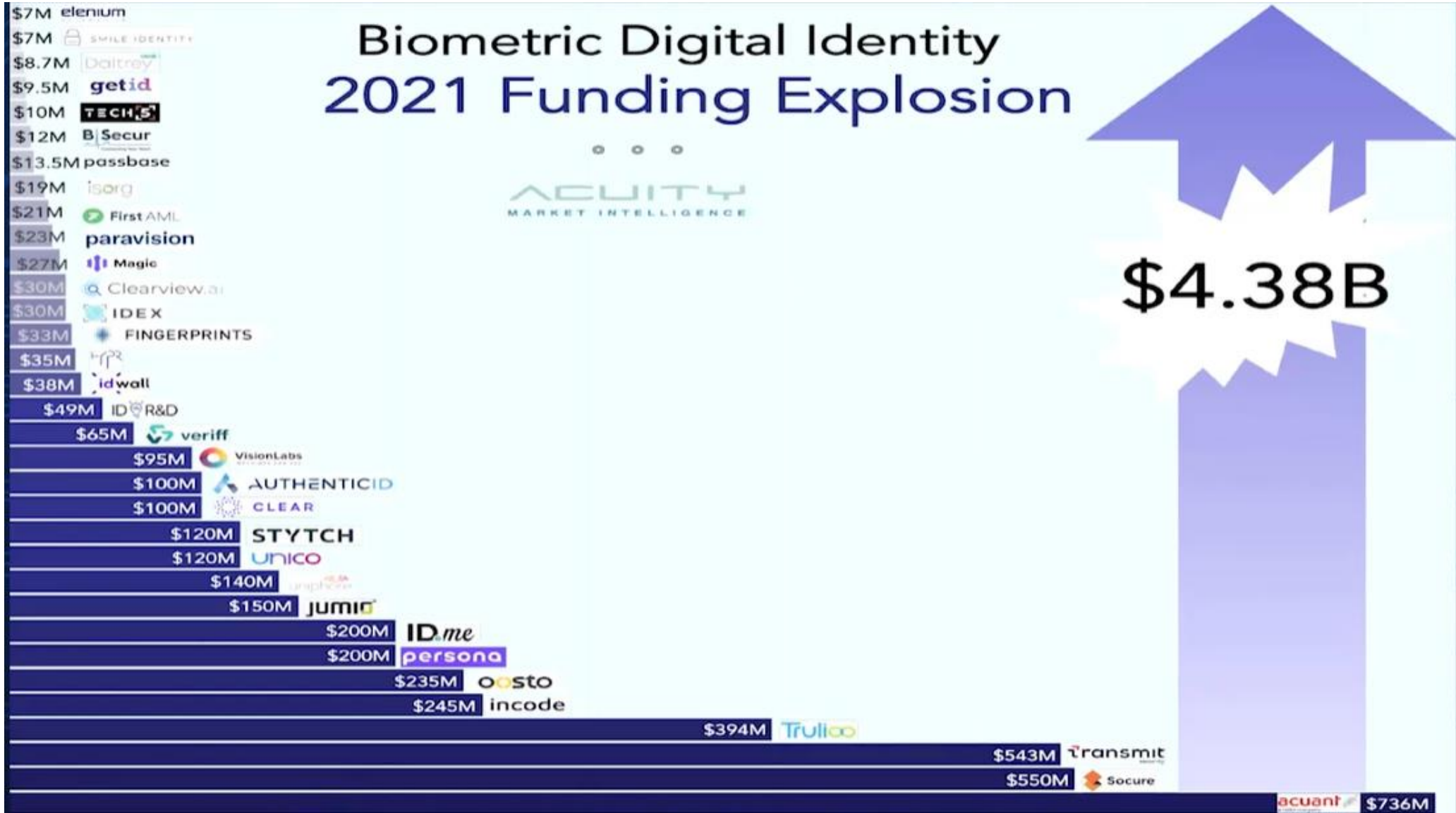
# Biometric Basics





# Biometric Digital Identity 2021 Funding Explosion

ACUITY  
MARKET INTELLIGENCE



<https://www.acuitymi.com/post/the-2021-biometric-digital-identity-investment-explosion>



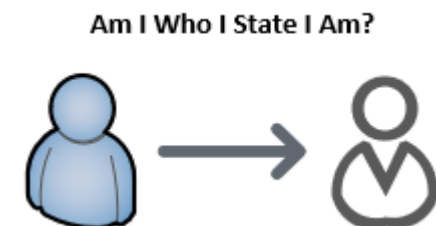
# Biometric Basics

- Some biometric solutions are great and accurate
- Many aren't
- Most are not as accurate as believed by customer
- Most are not as accurate as claimed by vendor
  
- All can be hacked
- But anything can be hacked...including biometrics
- Some biometric solutions are far more resilient than others

# Biometric Basics

Biometric systems are generally set to one of two id modes:

- **One-to-many (1:N)**
  - Compare submission to large group to find one person, identification
- **One-to-one (1:1)**
  - Ex. Using your fingerprint to logon to your phone, verification

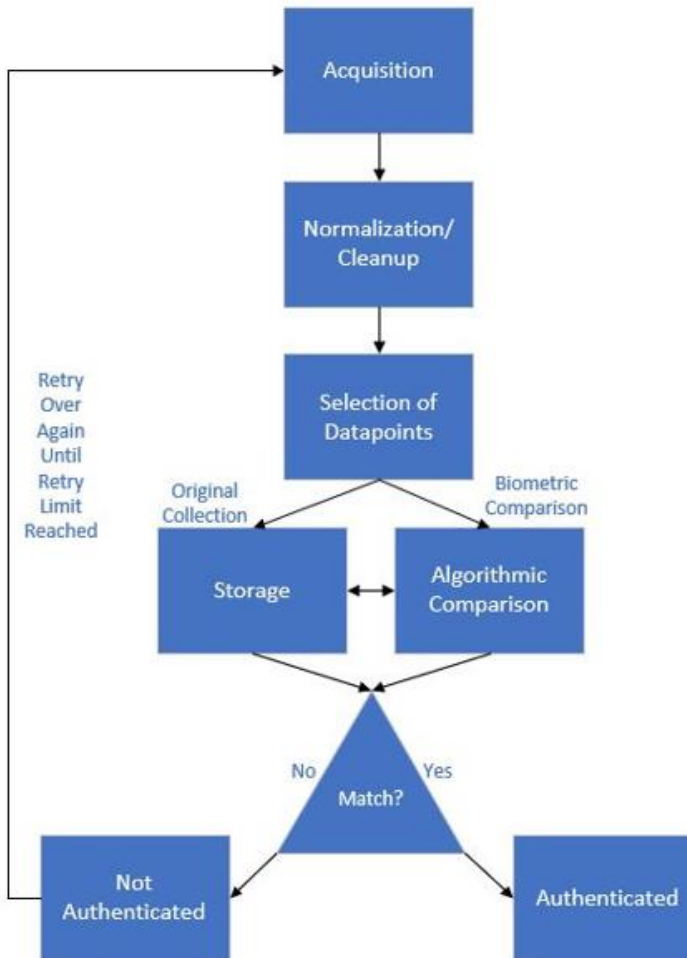


- Generally, one-to-one mode is easier

# Biometric Basics

## Basic Process

- Capture
- Storage
- Usage



From Chapter 16 of Hacking Multifactor Authentication book



# Biometric Basics

## Problem Summary

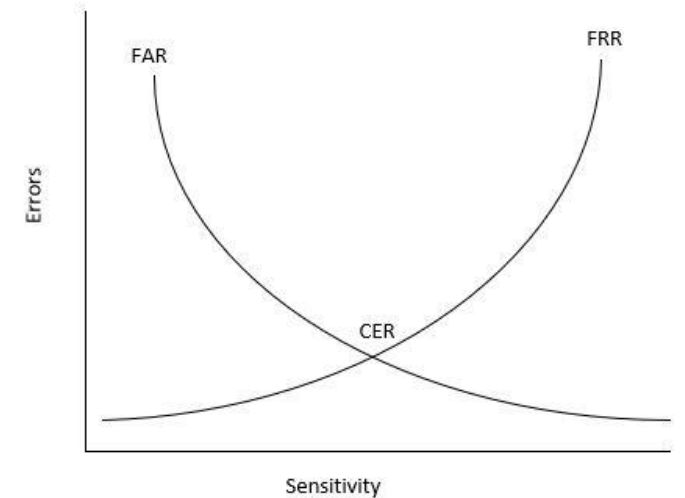
- Accuracy
- Security/Hacking
- What to do if biometric attribute stolen?
- Shared systems can promote disease transmission
- Privacy issues, government intrusion, etc.
- Bias

# Biometric Basics

## Problems

### Accuracy

- Biometrics can have a high number of:
  - False-Negatives/False Reject Rate (Type I error)
  - False-Positives/False Accept Rate (Type II error)
  - Cross-Over Error Rate (CER)

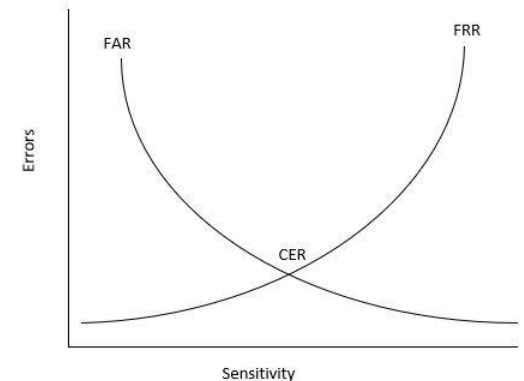


# Biometric Basics

## Problems

### Accuracy

- What Everyone Wants: Low number of false-negatives and false-positives
  - But, in most cases, as you lower false-negatives you raise false-positives and vice-versa
- In general, if you have to make a trade-off:
  - Want low false-negatives for verification
  - Want low false-positives for identification





# Biometric Basics

## Problems - Accuracy

Edge Cases - Some people can never use a particular biometric solution

- People born without fingers, eyes, mute, etc.
- Biological dupes may exist (i.e., twins, etc.)
- Eye diseases cause constant change
- Adermatoglyphia – born without fingerprints
- Facial hair changes, new scars, tattoos, weight gain, etc.
- Play guitar, work with abrasive materials, paint, garden, etc.
- Glasses, masks, lighting, angles, etc., undermine accuracy

# Biometric Basics

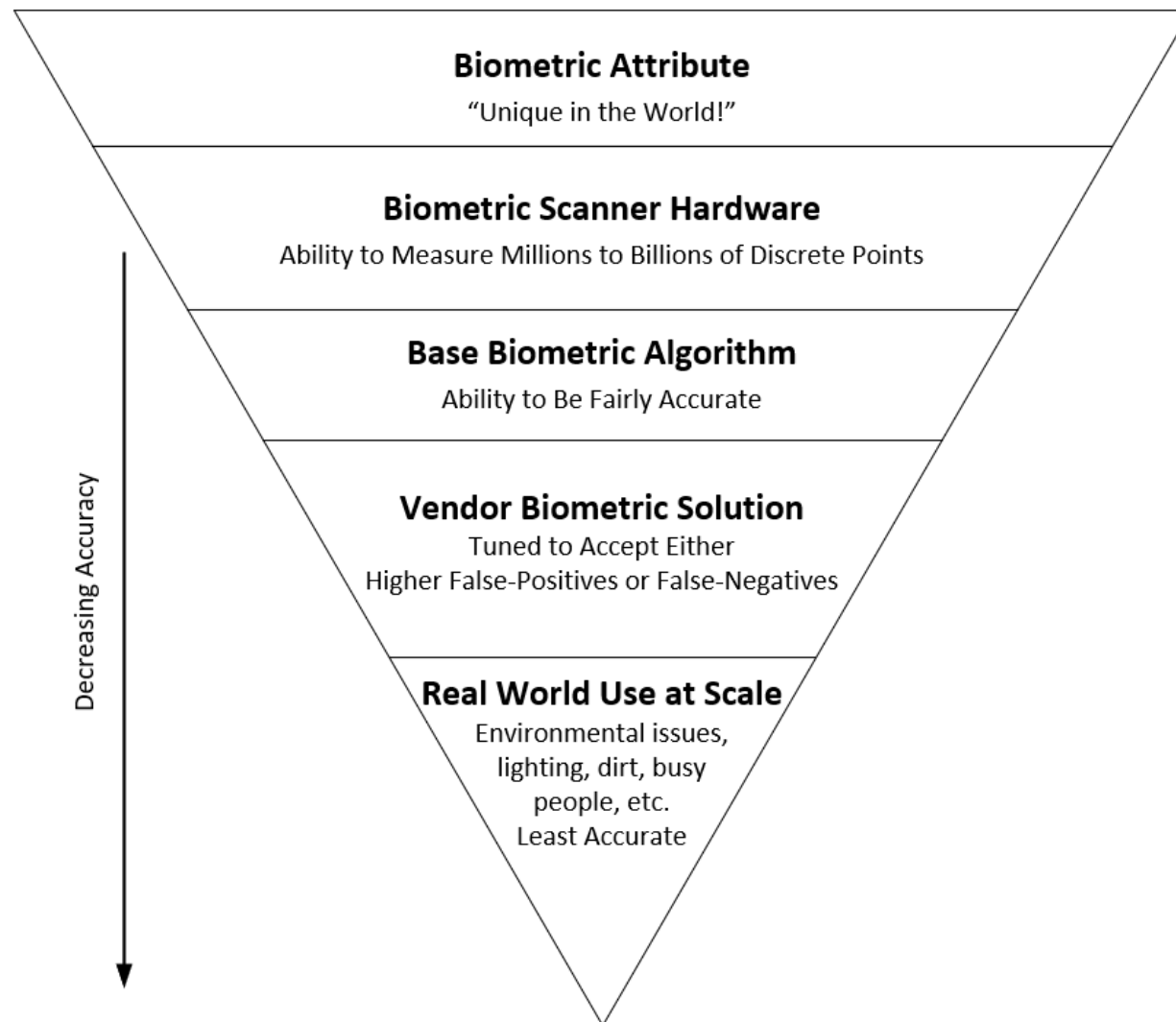
## Problems

### Accuracy

- Some/most vendors claimed accuracy rates are suspect
  - They will tell you how the biometric attribute involved, itself, is “unique in the world”
  - They will tout the involved hardware’s “great” potential accuracy rate
  - They will point to the theoretical boundaries of what their solution is capable of
- But the only accuracy you should care about is the solution’s complete, end-to-end, accuracy as used in the real world

# Biometric Basics

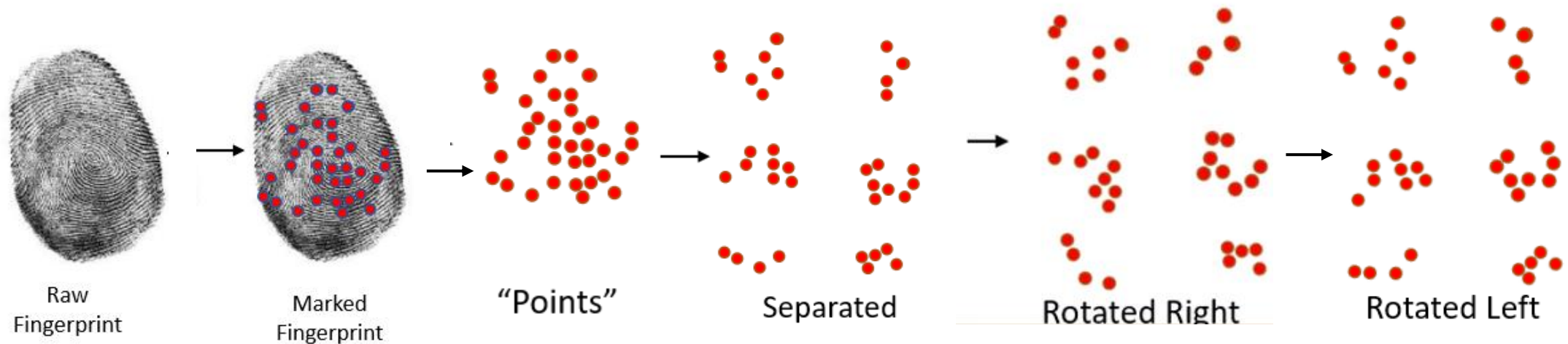
## Inverted Cone of Decreasing Biometric Accuracy



# Biometric Basics

## Accuracy – Example: Fingerprints

- “Your fingerprints are unique in the world!”
- Likely a true statement, but we aren’t even sure about that



What is actually stored and used is far less unique in the world

# Biometric Basics

## Accuracy –Example: De-Tuning

- Biometric readers in most popular consumer devices and even in corporate environments are intentionally significantly “detuned” to lower false-negatives
- Because people get mad if the system doesn’t recognize them or if they have to do repeated submissions
- This increases the chances of false-positives significantly



# Biometric Basics

## Accuracy – Example: Fingerprints

- False-positive fingerprint matches on real-world biometric systems are fairly common
- Example real world: 500-person organization, had:
  - Multiple fingerprint matches among employees
  - Several employees had to use different fingers than first one requested to achieve separation
  - At least 1 employee just couldn't use the system

# Biometric Basics

## Accuracy – Example: Fingerprints

- False-positive fingerprint matches on real-world biometric systems are fairly common

## Example real world: My cell phone

- Supposedly the standard is 1:50,000 accuracy
- My cell phone has been unlocked by a customer's fingerprints

## Other Examples

- <https://www.cnbc.com/2022/08/26/google-pixel-6a-fingerprint-issue-my-friend-unlocked-my-phone.html>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RqkydbXgbMA>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-kflCMQWxiY> (around 15:50)

# Biometric Basics

## Accuracy – Example: Fingerprints

NISTIR 8034

### Fingerprint Vendor Technology Evaluation

- December 2014
- The largest study of real-world fingerprint solutions
- <https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/ir/2014/NIST.IR.8034.pdf>
- 733 participants
- **Most accurate “miss rate” was 1.9%**
- **Most solutions were 5%-15%**
- **But in general, fingerprint technology gets better every year**

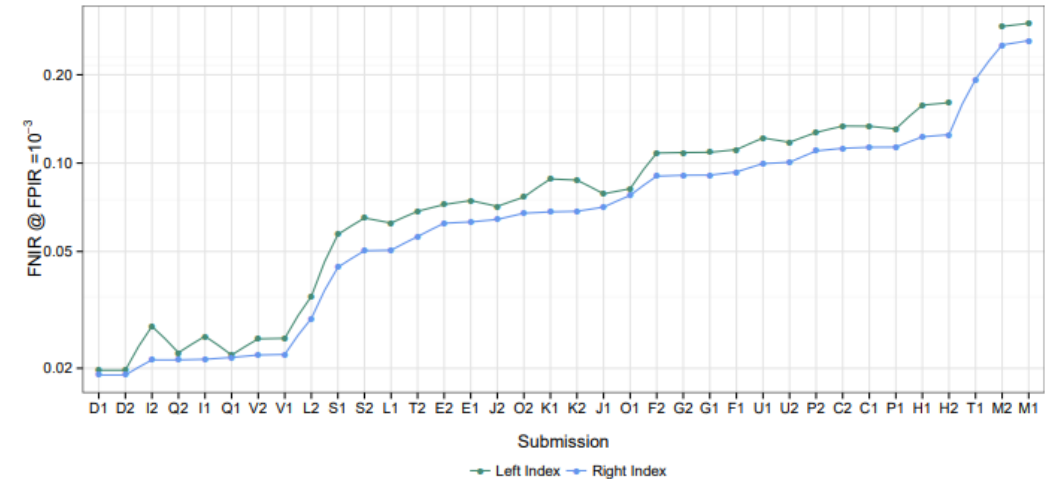
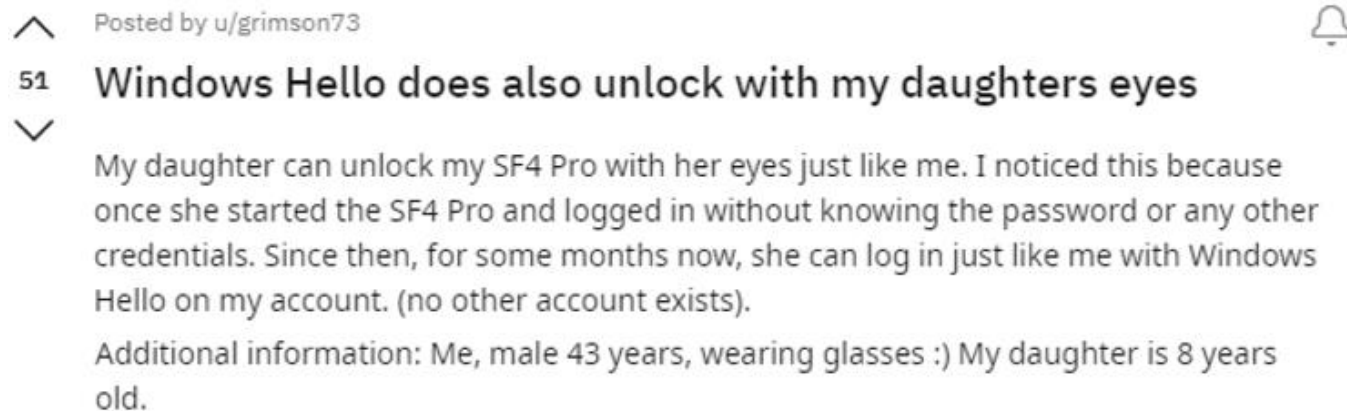


Figure 12: Rank-sorted FNIR @ FPIR = 10<sup>-3</sup> for Class A — Single Index Finger searching 30 000 subjects against 100 000 subjects. Submissions “1” and “2” from round 3.

# Biometric Basics

## Accuracy –Example: Windows Hello Facial Recognition

- I've had many people over the years email or come up to me to say that Windows Hello logged in their young son or daughter as them, even though they look nothing alike

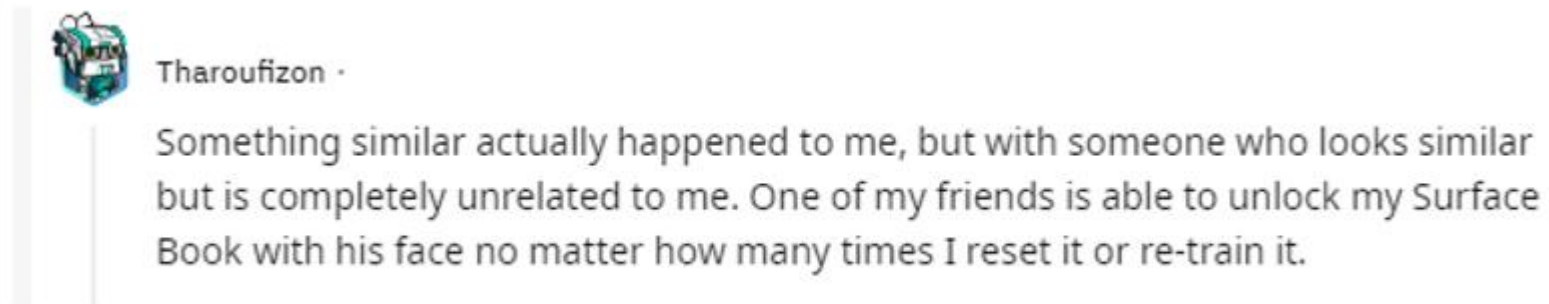


[https://www.reddit.com/r/Surface/comments/5h1zb5/windows\\_hello\\_does\\_also\\_unlock\\_with\\_my\\_daughters/](https://www.reddit.com/r/Surface/comments/5h1zb5/windows_hello_does_also_unlock_with_my_daughters/)

# Biometric Basics

## Accuracy – Example: Windows Hello Facial Recognition

- More stories



[https://www.reddit.com/r/Surface/comments/5h1zb5/windows\\_hello\\_does\\_also\\_unlock\\_with\\_my\\_daughters/](https://www.reddit.com/r/Surface/comments/5h1zb5/windows_hello_does_also_unlock_with_my_daughters/)



# Biometric Basics

## Problems

### Accuracy

- **NIST Face Recognition Vendor Test (FRVT)** is a multi-year, ongoing evaluation of face recognition algorithms applied to large image databases sequestered at NIST.
- Since 2017, over 450 algorithm applications submitted so far
- <https://www.nist.gov/programs-projects/face-recognition-vendor-test-frvt-ongoing>
- [https://pages.nist.gov/frvt/reports/11/frvt\\_11\\_report.pdf](https://pages.nist.gov/frvt/reports/11/frvt_11_report.pdf)

# Biometric Basics

## Problems

### Accuracy

- A “false non-match rate” or FNMR is the rate at which a biometric solution says the same person is not the same person

Ongoing Face Recognition  
Vendor Test (FRVT)  
Part 1: Verification

Patrick Grother  
Mei Ngan  
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Joyce C. Yang  
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Information Access Division  
Information Technology Laboratory

This publication is available free of charge from:  
<https://www.nist.gov/programs-projects/face-recognition-vendor-test-frvt-ongoing>

2022/09/26

**NIST** } NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF  
STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

# Biometric Basics

1.0 = 100%, Lower numbers are better

Problem

Accuracy

- A “false biometric person”

same

		FALSE NON-MATCH RATE (FNMR)											
		CONSTRAINED, COOPERATIVE											
Algorithm Name		VISAMC		VISA		MUGSHOT		MUGSHOT12+YRS		VISABORDER		BORDER	
FMR		0.0001		1E-06		1E-05		1E-05		1E-06		1E-06	
1	20face-000	0.1268	394	0.1828	388	0.1748	395	0.2768	395	0.1765	382	0.1864	298
2	20face-001	0.0521	373	0.0732	372	0.1414	393	0.2549	394	0.0769	360	0.1354	290
3	3divi-006	0.0064	184	0.0094	183	0.0047	165	0.0066	169	0.0091	175	0.0191	157
4	3divi-007	0.0024	54	0.0038	60	0.0028	61	0.0034	56	0.0046	87	0.0101	80
5	acer-001	0.0294	354	0.0504	356	0.0240	347	0.0463	349	0.0436	340	0.0622	259
6	acer-002	0.0169	322	0.0262	321	0.0103	282	0.0167	291	0.0182	277	0.0281	198
7	acisw-007	0.4276	422	0.5493	424	0.8425	435	0.9185	435	0.8424	420	0.9976	412
8	acisw-008	0.0100	251	0.0147	245	0.0094	277	0.0126	245	0.1740	381	0.6651	353
9	adera-002	0.0052	141	0.0071	137	0.0047	162	0.0064	163	0.0087	166	0.0159	132
10	adera-003	0.0043	121	0.0059	120	0.0036	116	0.0043	99	0.0076	145	0.0151	121
11	advance-003	0.0060	177	0.0087	173	0.0052	182	0.0067	170	0.0389	333	0.4914	337
12	advance-004	0.0083	227	0.0101	199	0.0037	123	0.0054	132	0.0051	100	0.3555	325
13	afisbiometrics-000	0.0051	139	0.0073	142	0.0030	78	0.0050	121	0.0044	82	0.0077	45
14	aifirst-001	0.0119	276	0.0170	268	0.0084	257	0.0127	252	0.0131	235	0.0212	167
15	aigen-001	0.0124	284	0.0219	299	0.0143	318	0.0217	314	0.0236	304	0.8960	380
16	aigen-002	0.0192	333	0.0343	338	0.0256	348	0.0402	343	0.0389	332	0.9196	384
17	ailabs-001	0.0158	314	0.0276	326	0.0192	334	0.0317	335	0.0352	327	0.0608	256
18	aimall-002	0.0119	277	0.0167	265	0.0224	342	0.0411	345	0.0233	301	0.0373	231
19	aimall-003	0.0033	87	0.0041	65	0.0033	102	0.0035	67	0.0056	112	0.0109	88
20	aiseemu-001	0.0021	43	0.0029	37	0.0027	49	0.0033	52	0.0038	60	0.0339	220
21	aiunionface-000	0.0104	256	0.0154	254	0.0082	255	0.0122	240	0.0141	242	0.0243	181
22	aize-001	0.0223	341	0.0344	339	0.0199	335	0.0313	334	0.0367	329	0.0522	250
23	aize-002	0.0210	339	0.0327	334	0.0280	351	0.0489	352	0.0504	346	0.0692	263
24	ajou-001	0.0093	240	0.0147	246	0.0071	232	0.0126	246	0.0173	275	0.0274	193
25	alchera-003	0.0044	123	0.0055	113	0.0031	83	0.0039	84	0.0042	77	0.0077	47
26	alchera-004	0.0035	98	0.0052	108	0.0028	66	0.0039	85	0.0029	24	0.0025	41
27	alfabeta-001	0.4867	429	0.5831	427	0.6855	422	0.8156	424	0.8253	419	0.7765	367

<https://www.nist.gov/progr>

NIST wants false match rate = 0.00001 as a goal or 1:100,000 errors

# Biometric Basics

## Problems

## Accuracy

NISTIR 8271 DRAFT SUPPLEMENT

## Face Recognition Vendor Test (FRVT) Part 2: Identification

2022/09/26

**“Recognition accuracy is very strongly dependent on the algorithm and, more generally, on the developer of the algorithm. False negative error rates in a particular scenario range from a few tenths of one percent to beyond fifty percent.”**

[https://pages.nist.gov/frvt/reports/1N/frvt\\_1N\\_report.pdf](https://pages.nist.gov/frvt/reports/1N/frvt_1N_report.pdf)



# Biometric Basics

## Problems

### Accuracy - Twins

**NIST Internal Report  
NIST IR 8439**

September 2022

**Ongoing Face Recognition Vendor  
Test (FRVT)**

*Part 9a: Face Recognition Verification Accuracy on  
Distinguishing Twins*

**“All of the algorithms submitted to the FRVT verification track are unable to distinguish between identical twins.”**

<https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/ir/2022/NIST.IR.8439.pdf>

# Biometric Basics

## Accuracy –Example: Voice-Recognition

1. Attacker captures victim's voice  
Multiple times is better
2. Uses deepfake technology to create new phrases
3. Uses against people or voice-recognition technology

# Biometric Basics

## Accuracy –Example: Voice-Recognition

- Red team tried to get past Help Desk voice recognition system used to authenticate people calling into Help Desk

```
python3 synthesize.py --text "Please authenticate me with my voice."  
--model_path ./checkpoint_60000.pth.tar --config_path ./config.json  
--out_path ./output.wav
```

The attack ended up being successful! Audio samples that don't sound realistic to human ears were accepted by the application as legitimate. The surprising part is how permissive the system actually was.

<https://www.netspi.com/blog/technical/adversary-simulation/using-deep-fakes-to-bypass-voice-biometrics/>

# Biometric Basics

## Accuracy – Example: Voice-Recognition

- Cybersecurity expert fools bank's voice recognition system

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CeYLyeWhi4E>





# Biometric Basics

## Accuracy – Example: Voice-Recognition

### Voice Conversion Challenge 2020

<http://www.vc-challenge.org/>

Table 7: Minimum *t*-DCF for each system of VCC 2020. Red cells indicate top-5 systems for each task.

System	Task 1	Task 2	System	Task 1	Task 2
T01	0.73542	–	T18	0.70372	0.81145
T02	0.85274	0.70888	T19	0.8743	0.90471
T03	0.01467	0.01467	T20	0.85301	0.77249
T04	0.88342	–	T21	0.86755	–
T05	–	0.60904	T22	0.86204	0.93512
T06	1.0000	0.72722	T23	0.8297	0.9037
T07	0.87227	0.9033	T24	0.76482	0.79092
T08	1.00000	1.00000	T25	0.85402	0.85048
T09	0.25987	0.29213	T26	0.71041	0.53263
T10	0.87126	0.91282	T27	0.80151	0.84287
T11	0.87531	0.88646	T28	0.91214	0.82598
T12	1.00000	0.84693	T29	0.83375	0.87311
T13	0.88646	0.79685	T30	0.04508	0.09695
T14	0.91708	–	T31	0.84069	0.70379
T15	–	0.8805	T32	0.80942	0.76208
T16	0.87633	0.88818	T33	0.78095	0.83375
T17	0.87734	–	–	–	–

1.0000=100% Detection of Deepfake Spoof,  
Higher is better

Table 8: Details of top-performing VC systems in terms of minimum *t*-DCF as a spoofing threat.

Task 1		
Team ID	VC model	Vocoder
T06	StarGAN	WORLD
T08	VTLN + Spectral differential	WORLD
T12	ADAGAN	AHOcoder
T14	One-shot VC	NSF
T28	Tacotron	WaveRNN

Task 2		
Team ID	VC model	Vocoder
T08	VTLN + Spectral differential	WORLD
T22	ASR-TTS (Transformer)	Parallel WaveGAN
T10	PPG-VC (LSTM)	WaveNet
T19	VQVAE	Parallel WaveGAN
T23	CycleVAE	WaveNet

“The VCC evaluation report indicates the merits of voice conversion are improving drastically in different aspects like naturalness, speaker similarity, amount of target voice needed to create a deepfake and robustness in synthesizing in real time.”

Forbes, May 2021

# Biometric Basics

## Bias

- Biometric solutions can have **TECHNICAL** higher false-positive and false-negative rates with particular populations
- “Performance variability due to demographics”
  - -Dr. Stephanie Schuckers, Director of CITeR, Clarkson University
- Often due to skin color
- Not talking about someone’s personal bias

# Biometric Basics

## Problems

### Bias

- A “false non-match rate” or FNMR is the rate at which a biometric solution says the same person is not the same person

#### Ongoing Face Recognition Vendor Test (FRVT) Part 1: Verification

Patrick Grother  
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This publication is available free of charge from:  
<https://www.nist.gov/programs-projects/face-recognition-vendor-test-frvt-ongoing>

2022/09/26

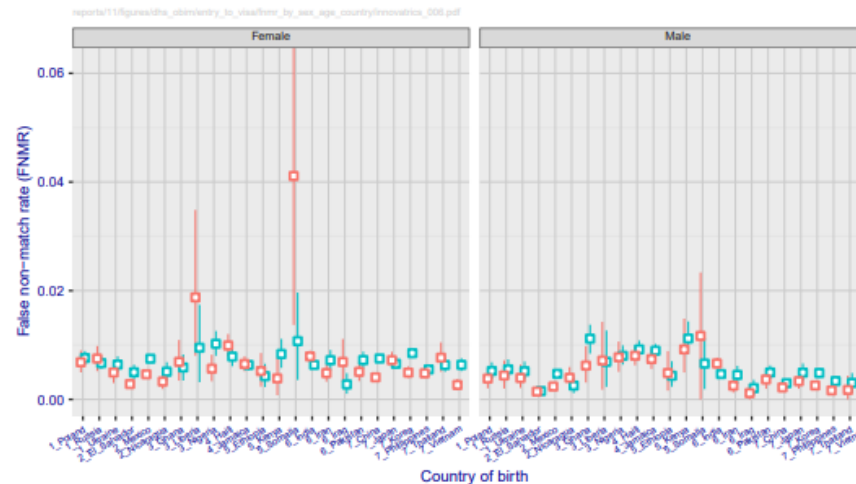


Figure 57: FNMR by sex, age and country of birth, innovatrics-006

#### Example Results for False Non-Match Rate for Verification (1:1)

“False negative error rates vary strongly by algorithm, from below 0.5% to above 10%.”

[https://pages.nist.gov/frvt/reports/demographics/annexes/annex\\_14.pdf](https://pages.nist.gov/frvt/reports/demographics/annexes/annex_14.pdf)

# Biometric Basics

## Bias

Can be an economic problem, for example:

- Poorer people might be less likely to be able to afford a cell phone capable of doing fingerprints
- Might have more fingerprint abrasions due to hard work
- May have less experience with using a smartphone
- May not have a smartphone or any cell phone
  - 25% of the world does not have a cell phone
- May share a phone with someone else
  - May not even trust that person

# Biometric Basics

## Bias

Can be a disability problem, for example:

- Sight impaired
- Uncontrolled tremors
- Missing biometric trait being measured



# Biometric Basics

## Summary Lesson

Some biometric solutions are more accurate than others

You need to know which you are buying/using

# Agenda

- Biometric Basics
- Hacking Biometrics
- Safer Biometrics

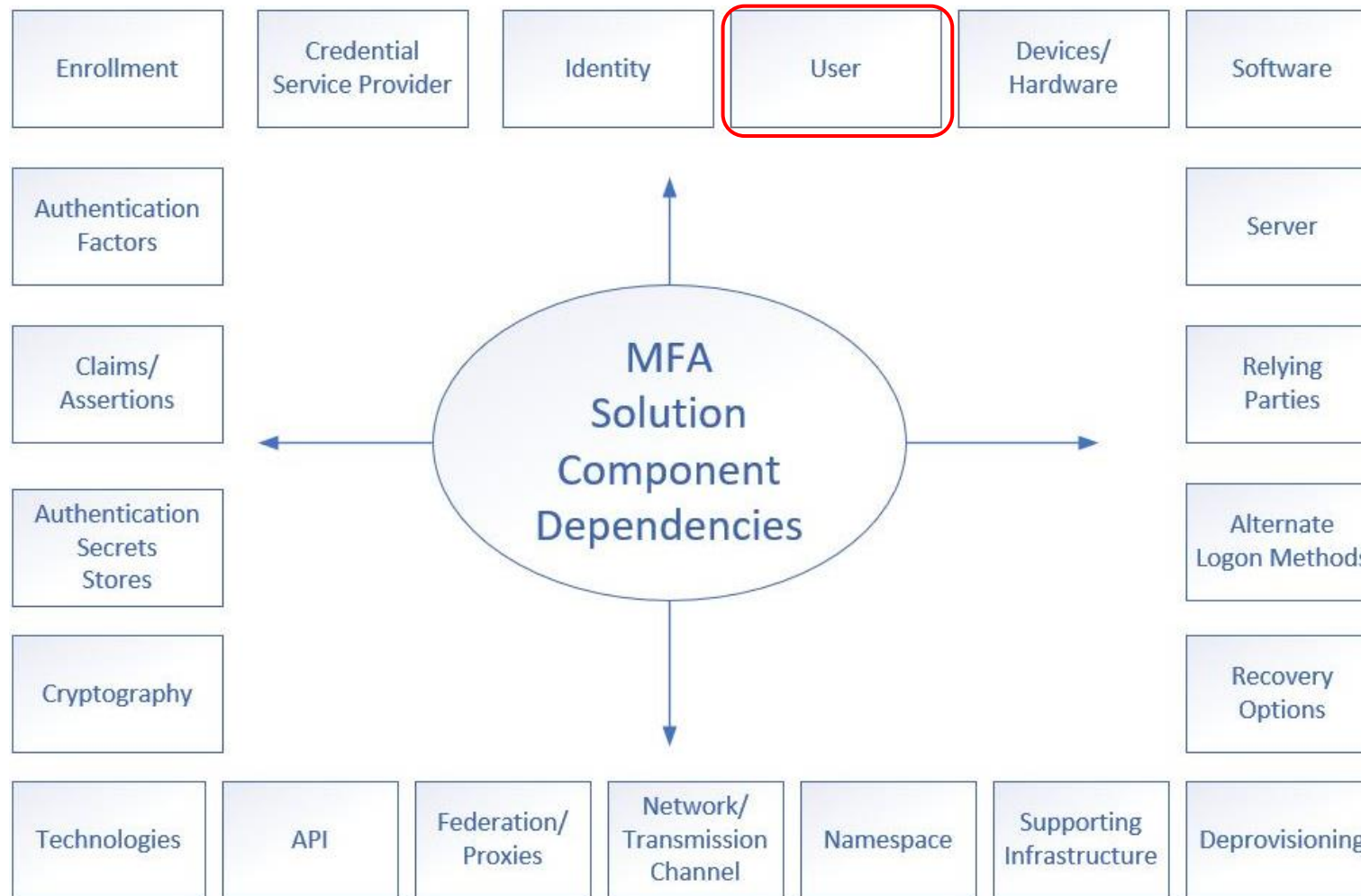
# Hacking Biometrics

## Summary

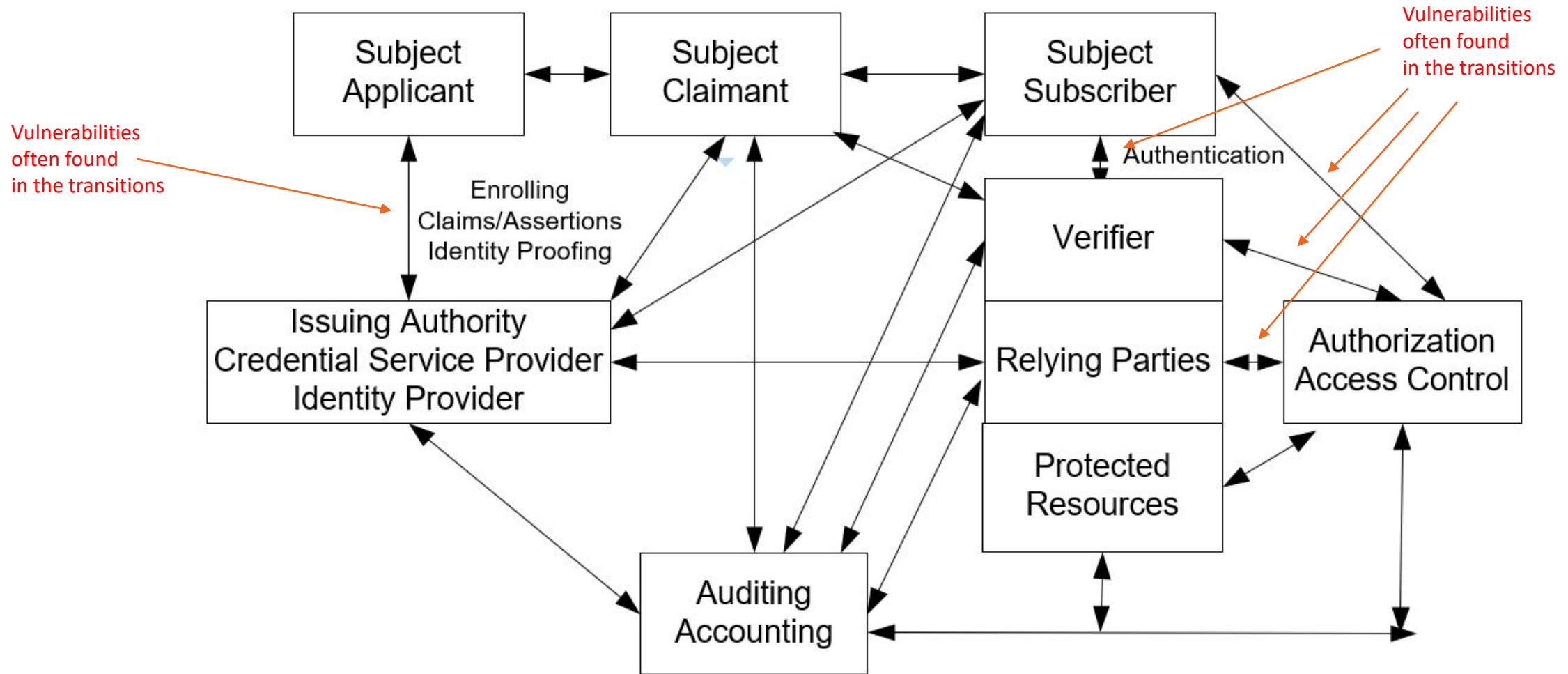
Hack the:

- Biometric Reader and/or process
- Any other component involved
- MitM/AitM Attacks
- Fake the biometric attribute (i.e., Presentation Attacks)
- Steal attributes

# Hacking Biometrics



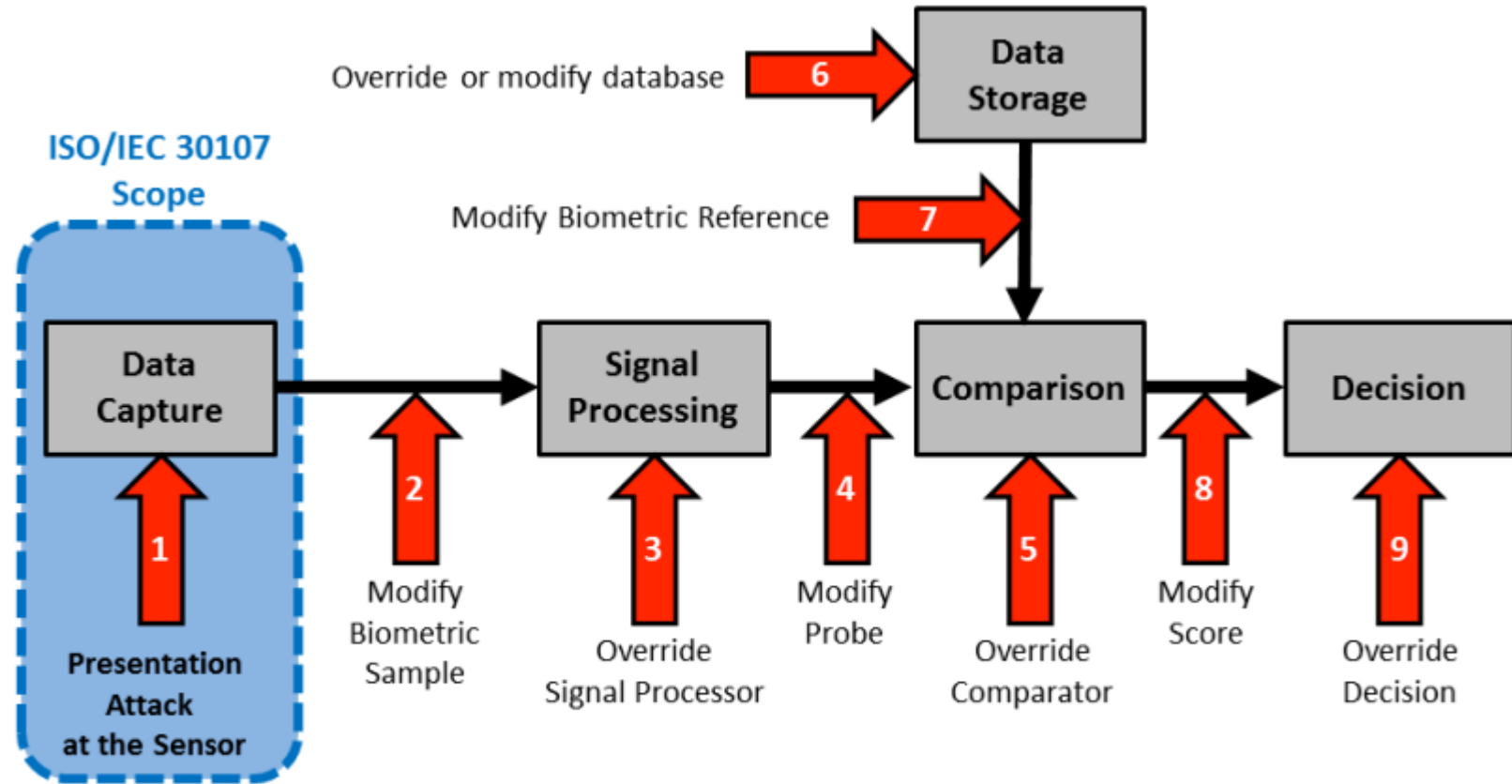
# Hacking Biometrics





# Hacking Biometrics

## Hacks on Biometric Device/Reader/ System Itself



Source: ISO/IEC 30107-1  
Inspired by N.K. Ratha, J.H. Connell, R.M. Bolle, "Enhancing security and privacy in biometrics-based authentication systems," IBM Systems Journal, Vol 40. NO 3, 2001.

From: [https://www.nist.gov/system/files/documents/2020/09/15/12\\_buschthieme-ibpc-pad-160504.pdf](https://www.nist.gov/system/files/documents/2020/09/15/12_buschthieme-ibpc-pad-160504.pdf)

# Hacking Biometrics

## Hacking Methodology

Basic attack methods that work against most biometric solutions

- Social Engineering (most popular and successful method)
- Eavesdropping/MitM
- Exploit Programming bug
- Weak verification between components
- Alternate recovery/bypass
- Weak default configuration settings
- Data/Network traffic malformation
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Reliance issue (e.g., DNS, Active Directory, etc.)
- Physical attacks
- Others

# Hacking Biometrics

## Bypass Attacks

There are dozens to hundreds of companies with products that bypass phone lock screens



**Unprecedented Lawful Access to iOS  
and High-End Android Devices**

---

Tackle your locked and encrypted devices to lawfully obtain critical mobile evidence.

# Hacking Biometrics

# Bypass Attacks

There are often bugs which allows a knowledgeable attacker to bypass the biometric screening

- Run exploit code in debug session:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QHY\\_gtCM7y0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QHY_gtCM7y0)

[illegible]

# Hacking Biometrics

## Bypass Attacks

There are often bugs which allows a knowledgeable attacker to bypass the biometric screening

- Trick app into bypassing biometric lock screen, and use it to access device
- On phone: Use emergency phone number screen to cause a phone reset:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TnKChcnX0KQ>



# Hacking Biometrics

## Presentation Attacks

**Presentation Attack** = submitting fraudulently created biometric attribute

- ISO/IEC 30107-3:2017

<https://www.iso.org/standard/67381.html>

- Deals with automated detection of presentation attacks (i.e., Presentation Attack Detection (PAD))

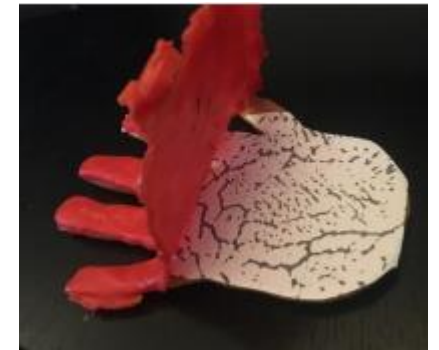
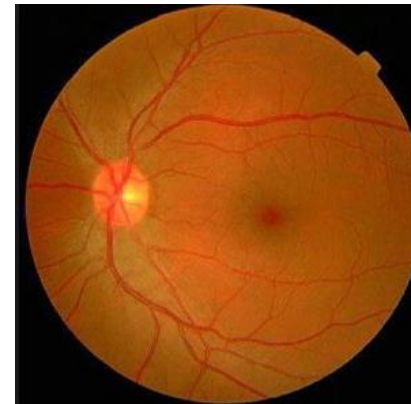


# Biometric Fakes

## PAD Attacks

### Biometric Recreations

- Fake fingerprints, fake faces, deepfake voices, etc.
  - Biometric vendors try to prevent fakes, but hackers just get around
- Stolen and replayed



# MFA Hacks

## Physical Attacks

### Biometric – Fake Faces

- Pictures
- 3D Masks
- Photoshopped blinking eyelids in animated gifs

## Facial recognition doesn't work as intended on 42 of 110 tested smartphones

Devices from Asus, BlackBerry, Huawei, Lenovo, LG, Nokia, Samsung, Sony, and Xiaomi failed a basic "photo test."



By Catalin Cimpanu for [Zero Day](#) | January 5, 2019 -- 13:49 GMT (05:49 PST) | Topic: [Security](#)

# YouTube Video Search

## MFA Hacks



We 3D Printed Our Heads To Bypass Facial Recognition Security And It Worked |

Forbes

240K views • 3 years ago



Forbes's Thomas Brewster wanted to know just how secure facial recognition technology is today and how easy it would be to trick ...



Can I unlock it with my photo? Face ID vs Windows Hello vs Samsung Facial Recognition

25K views • 7 months ago



How safe are facial recognition systems on various devices? In this video, I try to fool the iPad Pro with FaceID, the Razerblade ...

4K

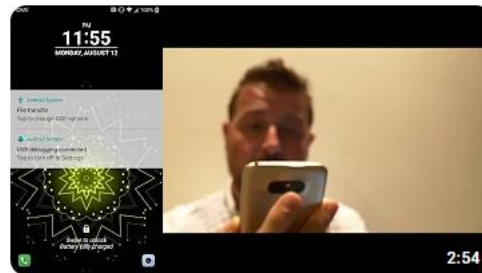


Defeating Facial Recognition - Retia on Hak5

411K views • 2 years ago

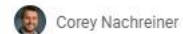


Hak5 – Cyber Security Education, Inspiration, News & Community since 2005: How to defeat facial recognition in 2020? How to ...



Easily bypass Android's Trusted Face biometrics.

7.1K views • 2 years ago



In this short, daily video post, Corey Nachreiner, CISSP and CTO for WatchGuard Technologies, shares the biggest InfoSec story ...

4K

# Safer Biometrics

## Liveness Detection

Is the attribute being presented to the biometric reader involve a live person?

- Look for changing light, heat, 3D geometry bouncing off face
- Look for blinking eyes
- Look for blood flow

# Safer Biometrics

## Liveness Detection

- Hackers and researchers always trying to fool liveness detection
- Often successful
- Face - Using 3D masks, silicon masks, video of person



<http://livdet.org/>



# Safer Biometrics

## Liveness Detection

### **Face Liveness Detection Competition (LivDet-Face) - 2021**

[https://livedet.org/face2021-livdet-org/face\\_2021.pdf](https://livedet.org/face2021-livdet-org/face_2021.pdf)

- The winning solution of the image category convinced facial scanners to accept fake images 16.47% of the time



# Safer Biometrics

## Liveness Detection

### Apple FaceID

- Didn't fail amateur silicon mask trick
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FhbMLmsCax0>



# Safer Biometrics

## Liveness Detection

Make sure what you're using is one of the accurate solutions

- Look for ISO/IEC 30107-3
- NIST PAD testing standard coming soon
- NIST NVLAP accrediting independent labs, like
- iBeta independent lab

# Safer Biometrics

## Continuous Detection

- Instead of measuring once, measure all the time?
- Part of zero-trust initiative
- Layer traditional logon security partnered with keystroke/cursor dynamics?

# Man-in-the-Middle Attacks

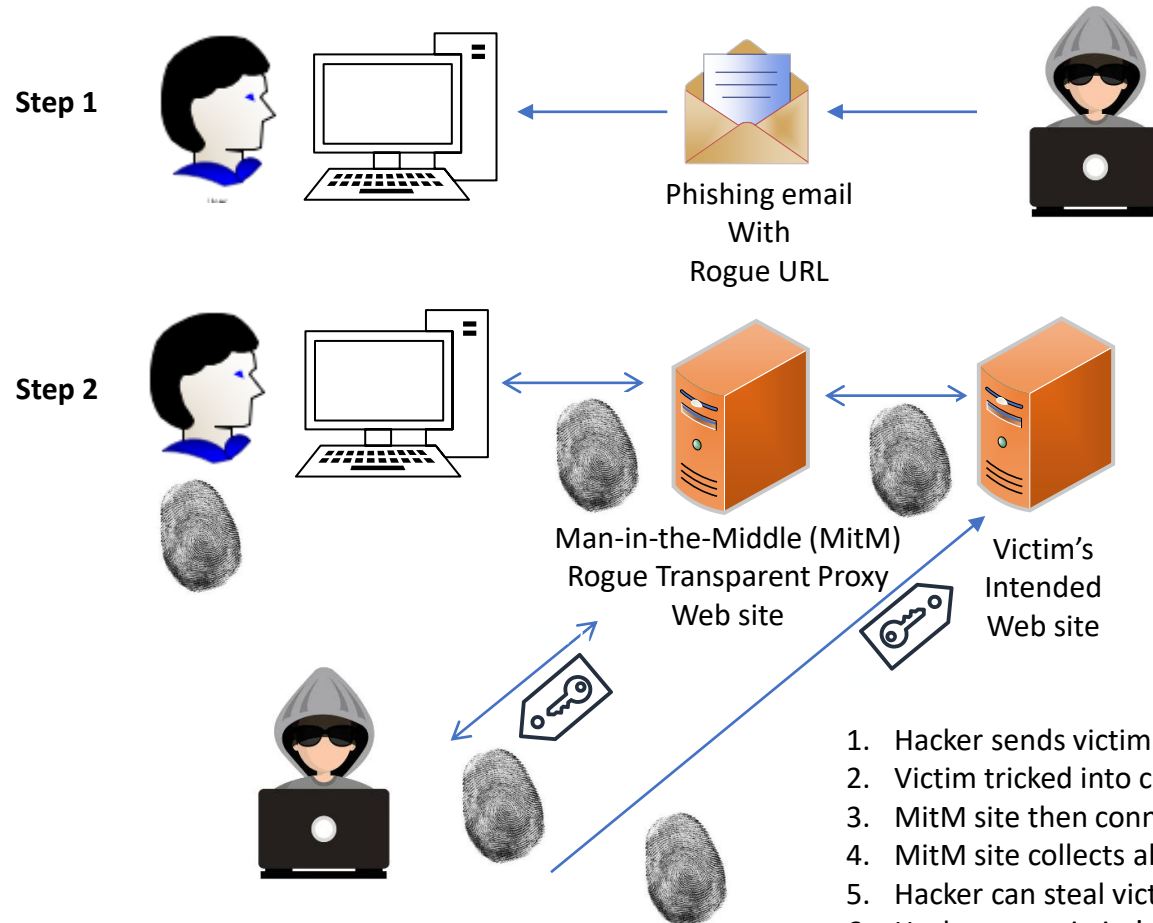
## Copied Biometrics



- There is nothing inherent in biometrics that stops Man-in-the-Middle (MitM) attacks
- If an attacker can insert themselves between client and the server and neither side is able to tell, then the method is susceptible to MitM attacks

# MFA Bypass Hack

## Network Session Hijacking Proxy Theft Logical Diagram



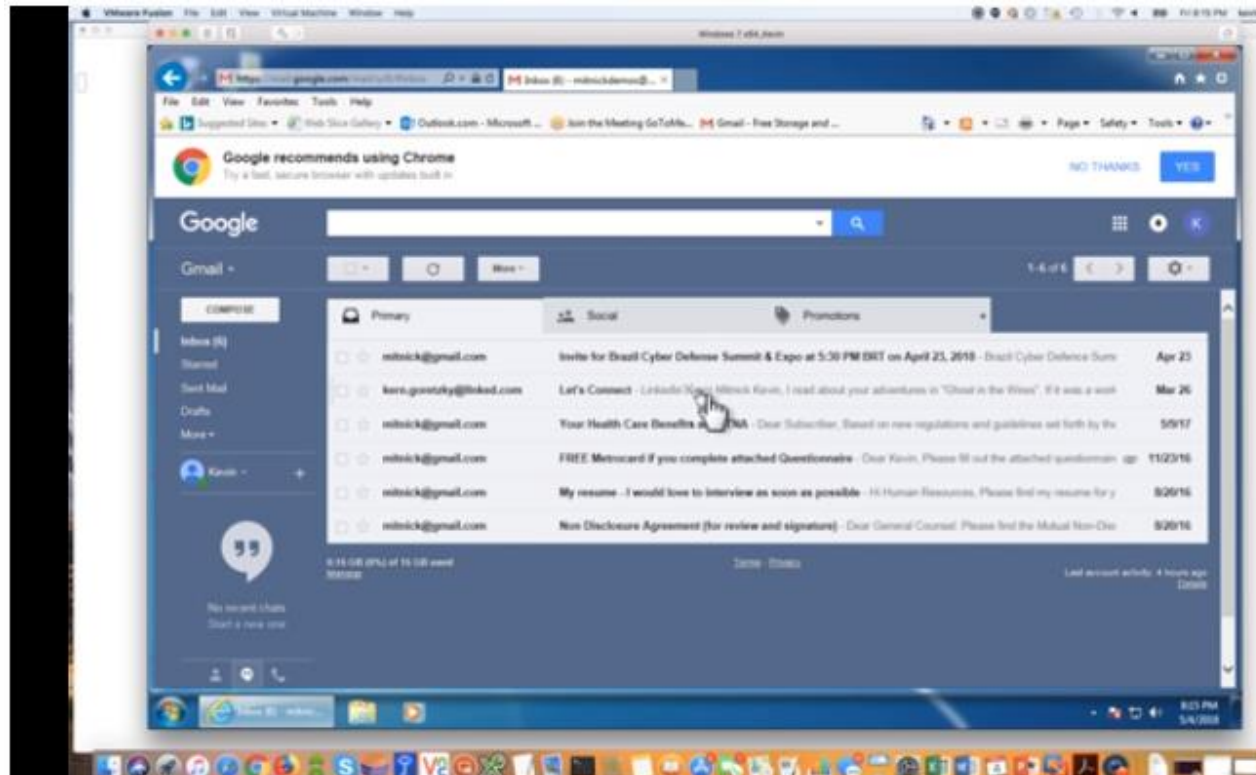
1. Hacker sends victim phishing email with rogue URL
2. Victim tricked into clicking on rogue URL, taking victim to rogue MitM site
3. MitM site then connects to victim's intended legitimate, real, web site
4. MitM site collects all info/data sent between victim and real web site; and vice-versa
5. Hacker can steal victim's logon creds, bio attrib, access control token cookie, etc.
6. Hacker uses victim's access control token cookie to logon

Network  
Session  
Hijacking

# MFA Hacks

## Kevin Mitnick Hack Demo

## Network Session Hijacking



<https://blog.knowbe4.com/heads-up-new-exploit-hacks-linkedin-2-factor-auth.-see-this-kevin-mitnick-video>



# Man-in-the-Middle Attacks

## Copied Biometrics



- Although most biometrics are involved in device logons and not app logons, making them less likely to be MitM'd
- But this does not mean fully resistant
- Remote biometric logons are becoming far more common
- Is biometric auth?:
  - On local device (most common, less susceptible)
  - Or remotely (less common, growing, more susceptible)
- Good if biometric solution cannot be MitM'd either way

# Stolen Biometric Attributes

## Reuse Stolen Biometrics



- If your biometric identity is stolen, how do you stop a bad guy from re-using it?
- Once stolen, it's compromised for your life
- You can change a password or smartcard, you can't easily change your retina veins or fingerprint
- Known as non-repudiation attack in the crypto world

Example: June 2015 OPM attack stole biometrics of 5.6 million people

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Office\\_of\\_Personnel\\_Management\\_data\\_breach](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Office_of_Personnel_Management_data_breach)

# Stolen Biometric Attributes

## Reuse Stolen Biometrics



### Another example:

- Aug. 2019 breach
- Biostar2 platform
- Fingerprints and facial recog
- Top 50 biometric app vendor
- Over 1 million fingerprints breached
- The breachers claim company was largely unresponsive and uncooperative to their reports and ongoing discussions

Report: Data Breach in Biometric Security Platform Affecting Millions of Users



# Agenda

- Biometric Basics
- Hacking Biometrics
- Safer Biometrics

# Safer Biometrics

## Summary

- Choose an Accurate solution
- Choose a Secure solution

Choose solutions that:

- Protect storage of biometric attributes
- Prevent presentation attacks
- Prevent MitM attacks
- Recognize the role bias might play

# Safer Biometrics

## Accuracy

- Make sure the system is accurate
- Not all biometric systems are equally accurate, you must research if you plan to rely on
- Review error rates and compare to competitors
- Don't just rely on the vendor's accuracy attestation
- Ask the vendor what algorithm they use and then look up its accuracy
  - Ex. <https://www.nist.gov/programs-projects/face-recognition-vendor-test-frvt-ongoing>
- Ask for 2-3 large customers to contact that are using the product



# Safer Biometrics

## Accuracy

- Maybe consider a different, better, biometric system, with more points of measurement
- Example: Too many false-positive matches with a fingerprint scanner
- Move to fingerprint/finger vein geometry
  - More points to consider
  - Less chance of a false-positive



# Safer Biometrics

## Accuracy

- Sometimes OK is good enough

# Safer Biometrics

## MFA is Better

- All other things considered equal, MFA is better than 1FA for security
- Is 1FA biometrics ever right for remote logons?

# Safer Biometrics

## Secure By Design

- Make sure the entire end-to-end solution is secure
- Vendors developers should know and practice secure development lifecycle (SDL)
  - [www.microsoft.com/sdl](http://www.microsoft.com/sdl)
  - <https://wiki.sei.cmu.edu/confluence/>
- Vendor should have in-house code review and penetration testing
- Vendor should hire external pen testers
- Vendor should participate in bug bounties

# Safer Biometrics

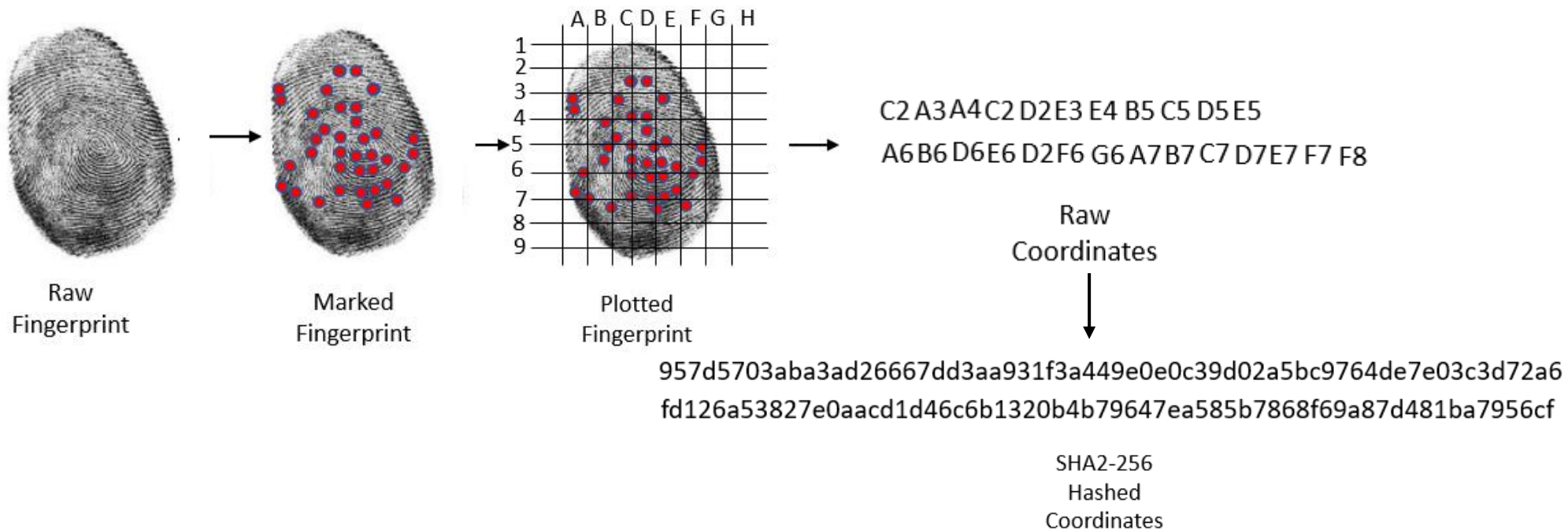
## Secure Storage

- How are biometric attributes stored?
  - As exact copies or transformed?
  - You want transformed biometric attribute storage
- Hardware protection is best (TPM chip or something like it)
- Encrypted attributes
- Hashed attributes
- Token attributes

# Safer Biometrics

## Secure Storage

- Hashed/Token attributes





# Safer Biometric

## Summary

Does biometric solution prevent MitM attacks?

- Is solution susceptible to MitM attacks?
- Would client or server recognize MitM attack?
- FIDO-enabled solutions are resistant to MitM attacks
  - <https://fidoalliance.org/certification/biometric-component-certification/>

# Safer Biometric

## Secure

- Submission rate-limiting
- Time-out/lock-out periods for bad submissions

# Safer Biometric

## Bias

Be Aware of Design and Implementation Biases

- Some solutions have higher biases
- Some populations may not have same awareness, education, capability or availability

# Key Takeaways

## Parting Thoughts – Education is Necessary

**No matter which type of biometrics you choose, educate everyone:**

- Buyers, Evaluators, Implementors, Users, Senior management

### **Topics:**

- Strengths and weaknesses
  - How to correctly use the biometrics solution
    - Including what might indicate a malicious attempt to abuse it
    - And what to do during rogue attacks
  - What biometrics does and doesn't prevent
  - The common possible attacks for that type of biometrics and how to prevent and detect
- 
- You wouldn't give people passwords without warning them about common hacker tricks

# Safer Biometric

## More Reading

<https://www.biometricsinstitute.org/>

<https://fidoalliance.org/certification/biometric-component-certification/>

<https://citer.clarkson.edu/>

# KnowBe4 Security Awareness Training



## Baseline Testing

We provide baseline testing to assess the Phish-Prone™ percentage of your users through a free simulated phishing attack.



## Train Your Users

The world's largest library of security awareness training content; including interactive modules, videos, games, posters and newsletters. Automated training campaigns with scheduled reminder emails.



## Phish Your Users

Best-in-class, fully automated simulated phishing attacks, thousands of templates with unlimited usage, and community phishing templates.



## See the Results

Enterprise-strength reporting, showing stats and graphs for both training and phishing, ready for management. Show the great ROI!



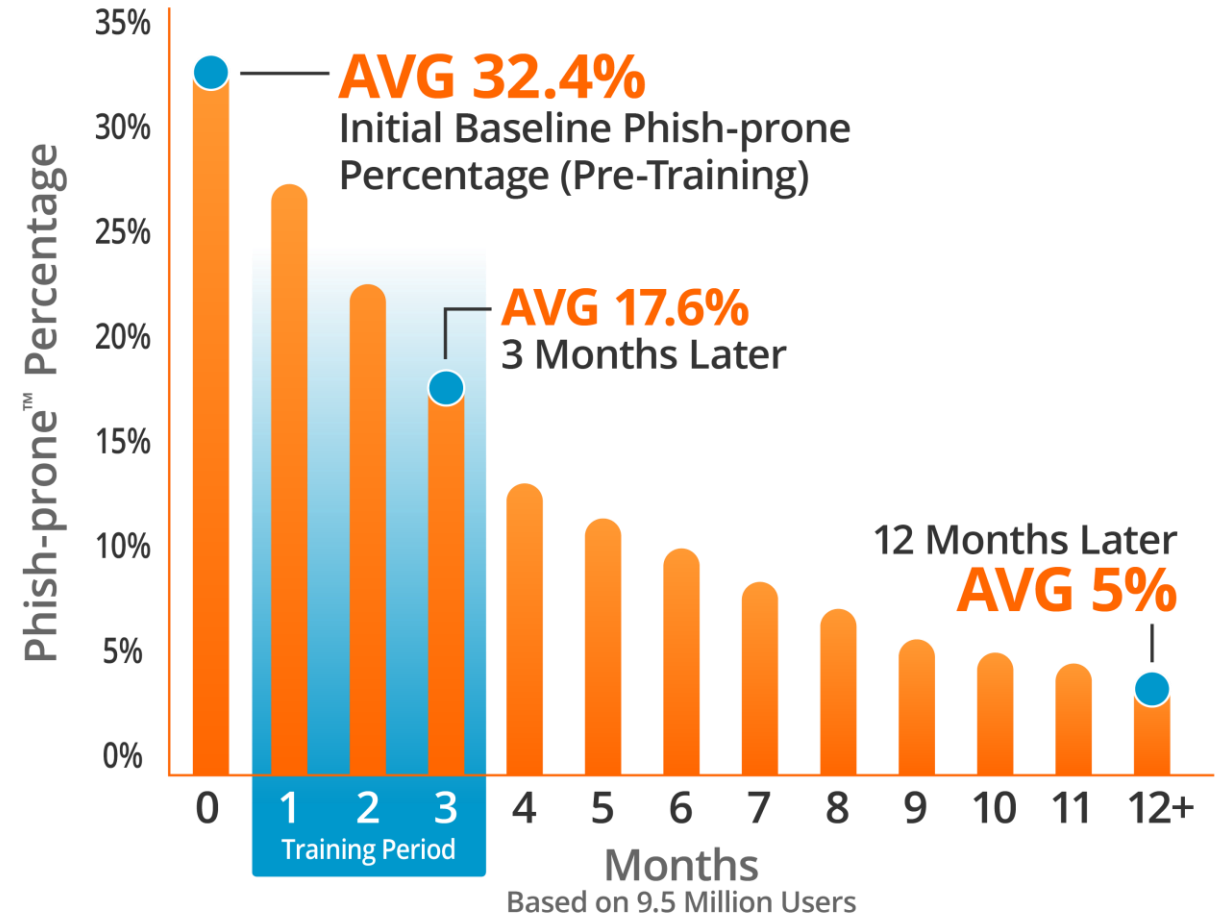


# Generating Industry-Leading Results and ROI

- Reduced Malware and Ransomware Infections
- Reduced Data Loss
- Reduced Potential Cyber-theft
- Increased User Productivity
- Users Have Security Top of Mind

**85%** Average Improvement

*Across all industries and sizes from baseline testing to one year or more of ongoing training and testing*



Source: 2022 KnowBe4 Phishing by Industry Benchmarking Report

Note: The initial Phish-prone Percentage is calculated on the basis of all users evaluated. These users had not received any training with the KnowBe4 console prior to the evaluation. Subsequent time periods reflect Phish-prone Percentages for the subset of users who received training with the KnowBe4 console.

# Questions?

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