

Feasibility Studies for Biometric Deployments

Introduction

One of the consulting services that International Biometric Group (IBG) offers is a Feasibility Study and business case development for government organizations that are considering deploying biometric technologies.

Determining how to deploy biometrics in Public Sector applications requires a broad understanding of various biometric issues, from performance to standards to privacy. IBG can help public sector institutions evaluate biometric projects, particularly large-scale, citizen-oriented projects such as ID cards and access to government services.

Project Evaluation Methodology

IBG's proven Project Evaluation Methodology addresses the following areas:

- Core technology capabilities
- Process flows for enrollment, verification, and identification
- Accuracy, response time, and security
- System architecture, interoperability and standards, and integration into external systems
- Privacy and legislative requirements
- Cost/benefit analysis

IBG provides its public sector clients with proven experience in evaluating and deploying biometrics in complex, mission-critical environments. From internal deployments for IT security to nationwide identification systems, IBG consultants are highly familiar with both the real-world capabilities of biometric technology and the challenges involved in successful deployment. IBG has provided industry leadership on complex issues such as standards, interoperability, privacy, and legislative issues involved in biometric usage.

IBG's experience in assessing large-scale biometric systems helps government agencies make informed decisions on the benefits, risks, costs, and potential impact of biometric deployment.

Case Studies: Feasibility Studies

Following are a few examples of Feasibility Studies that IBG has conducted in the past.

White House Office of Science & Tech. Policy

In 2002, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) engaged IBG to evaluate the role of biometric technologies in implementing the legislative requirements of the USA PATRIOT Act and the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Reform Act. IBG provided the OSTP with detailed technology recommendations based on (1) extensive requirements gathering and (2) development of detailed concepts of operation for 1:N identification, 1:1 verification, and watch-list applications.

U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

In the wake of September 11, 2001 – just prior to the formation of the Transportation Security Administration – the FAA engaged IBG to develop a framework for evaluating biometrics in a range of large-scale, mission-critical air travel applications, including smart card-based Trusted Travel, Access Control, and Surveillance. Because of the enormous potential scale of air travel biometric systems, special attention was paid to critical biometric deployment challenges of enrollment, interoperability, performance, and fallback processes. IBG's detailed framework helped direct key decisions in the piloting and deployment of biometric technology in U.S. air travel applications.

California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)

The California DMV engaged IBG to develop a business case and strategic plan for deployment of biometrics for secure enrollment and verification of nearly 30 million holders of California Driver's licenses and ID cards. IBG also evaluated legacy fingerprint data for potential use in a new AFIS system. IBG's detailed recommendations for deployment of biometrics at more than 100 DMV offices addressed every possible aspect of biometric usage from cost, to accuracy, to detailed process flows. IBG's technology-independent perspective allowed it to evaluate the entire range of technologies and IBG's hands-on experience allowed us to make realistic assessments of which technologies might "fit" the DMV's current operating environment.

Standards Compliance and Interoperability

An important aspect of a Feasibility Study is assessing the potential impact of issues relating to standards compliance and interoperability.

IBG has played a central role in a number of standard-related activities in the biometric industry. IBG's knowledge of biometric standards and interoperability issues, critical to both public and private sector deployment, ensures that our clients develop and deploy systems with long-term viability.

IBG has also participated in a number of key industry standards and interoperability efforts, including the Biometric Interoperability committee of the [GSA's Common Access Card Smart ID Project, X9.84](#) (a cryptographic committee workgroup standardizing the format of biometrics in financial services), [ANSI B10.8](#) (dedicated to creating an interoperability specification for finger-scan and other biometric technologies in drivers' license applications), and the [Biometric Consortium's Interoperability, Performance, and Assurance Working Group](#).

While biometric standards are essential to the growth of the industry, there are many areas of biometrics not addressed by standards. IBG provides its clients with an understanding of the "gaps" in current and proposed standards and interoperability efforts, and has developed solutions designed to address these areas of oversight.

Privacy Impact Assessments

Another consulting service that IBG offers, which often goes hand-in-hand with a Feasibility Study, is a [Privacy Impact Assessment](#).

Privacy is central to any Public Sector deployment of biometrics. Issues such as data collection, storage and retention, linking and common identifiers, physical and logical access controls, and consent and control over information must be thoroughly addressed to ensure that deployments are consistent with generally accepted privacy principles.

IBG has extensive experience in assessing Public Sector compliance with privacy principles, analyzing proposed and operational systems to determine whether biometrics and associated technologies pose a risk to personal or informational privacy. IBG is a founder of the [BioPrivacy Initiative](#) (www.bioprivacy.org), which advocates best practices for deploying biometric technology.

Why do you need IBG?

- Breadth of capabilities, from research to strategic development to technical design and deployment
- Hands-on expertise with all biometric technologies, and fields related to biometrics, such as cryptographic systems, tokens and smart cards, application development
- Vendor-independent/technology-neutral with working relationships with all leading biometric vendors – across technologies
- Proven hands-on expertise in travel and transportation, financial services, enterprise security, and civil ID systems

About IBG

Founded in 1996, International Biometric Group, LLC is the biometric industry's leading independent integration and consulting firm, providing a broad range of services to government and private sector clients. IBG has unparalleled hands-on experience with every biometric technology. IBG is completely vendor-independent and technology-neutral, allowing it to objectively and independently assess companies, technologies, products, and projects.

- **Consulting services** include feasibility assessments, business case development, biometric system design and requirements gathering, technology evaluation, strategic assessment of market opportunities and competitors, and privacy impact analyses of biometric deployments.
- **Integration services** include evaluating, designing, and deploying biometric solutions for Internet and e-commerce applications, large-scale public sector identification and authentication initiatives, network security applications, point of sale environments, and smart card applications.
- **Research services** include industry-leading Comparative Biometric Testing, advanced market analysis on biometric technologies and the biometric marketplace, and customized analysis on topics such as biometrics and smart cards, user perceptions of biometrics, and strengths and weaknesses of companies in the biometric marketplace.

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