

Biometric Consortium 2004 Conference

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Topic: An Overview of Biometrics

Abstract: The presentation will show that biometrics are based on statistical methods and that the discussions of the underlying science and measurements of performance are hobbled by a lack of common vocabulary. For several biometrics (e.g., face, fingers, etc.) the presentation will show the background, the accuracy, the techniques, and the typical uses. Performance will be presented with comparable numbers yet it will be seen that accuracy alone is not a valid metric. Certain biometrics (e.g., hand geometry) can only verify identity not determine it yet are powerful and effective tools in many applications. The changing sets of standards and their role in biometrics will be explored.

Biography: Peter Higgins, founder of Higgins & Associates, International (merged with ASCG of Nevada to form The Higgins-Hermansen Group, LLC in 2003), has 36 years experience in the information technology field and has been involved with biometrics since the late 1980s. Mr. Higgins is an instructor in Biometrics at the UCLA Extension School. He chaired the International Association for Identification's AFIS Committee for 5 years and is a well known consultant in the field of large-scale biometric procurement and testing. In 2002 he joined John Woodward and Nick Orlans in authoring the McGraw Hill/Osborne book *Biometrics – Identification in the Information Age*.

Previously Mr. Higgins served as Deputy Assistant Director – Engineering with the FBI and the Program Manager for the FBI's Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System. Prior to that he served in technical, operational, and executive positions with the CIA.

Mr. Higgins received a BA in Mathematics from Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY and an MS in Theoretical Math and Computer Science from Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, NJ.