Charter for the OASIS Biometric Web Services (BWS) TC

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DRAFT

Name
OASIS Biometric Web Services (BWS) Technical Committee

Statement of Purpose

Despite existing efforts, there remain opportunities for improving the state-of-the-art in interoperability among biometric-related systems or system components.

The purpose of this TC is to define, enhance, and maintain open standards that facilitate the use of biometrics and biometric operations over a services oriented architecture, such as web services. Improving interoperability is a key enabler for making biometrics more viable within multifactor authentication. The TC will help bring parity to biometrics as compared to other technologies, such as cryptographic certificate use and management, where web service standards are markedly more mature.

Improving interoperability through open standards is a primary purpose of this TC. Therefore, this TC is dedicated to the concept that conformance to the standard(s) will imply a guaranteed, well-documented, level of interoperability. Additionally, standards developed in the TC should both minimize and segregate components where requiring unique knowledge might hinder interoperability.

Scope of Work

The purpose of the TC is to provide a general, yet targeted forum for developing a suite of open standards that will foster and accelerate the use of web services within the biometrics community.

List of Deliverables

The defined scope of the TC is designed to encourage the introduction of documents and standards that will further contribute to the use of web services between and within biometric systems or system components. Additional documents and standards are both anticipated and encouraged.

At its inception, the TC will target two different standards:

1. **Biometric Devices.** A standard for controlling the 'low-level' operations necessary for performing biometric acquisition (e.g., sensor initialization, sensor configuration, capture, sensor data download.)
2. **Biometric Workflow Description Language.** A standard for describing a specific series of biometric acquisition activities, along with the conditions and rules that might dynamically change its execution. For example, a language that could describe, in machine and human readable formats, a construct such as "If the presenter is a glasses wearer, take one face photo with their glasses on, and one with their glasses off. Otherwise, take two face photos (no glasses)."
The provided names and scopes are tentative—the scope and precise nature of these standards are expected to evolve as TC work progresses.

To demonstrate interoperability, the TC aims to include cross-implementation interoperability testing as a core component of any reference implementation activities.

**Audience**

The primary audience for the final output of this TC is anyone involved with producing or consuming biometrics-related operations over web services. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, developers, integrators, and owners of systems that incorporate biometrics.

**Language**

All business of the technical committee shall be conducted in English.

**Comments**

Feedback on this draft should be directed to Ross J. Micheals, rossm@nist.gov.