

Biometrics - strengths and weaknesses

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Strengths

- Efficient verification and identification
- Easy application
- Enhance the protection of human rights

Weaknesses

- Sensitive data
 - Iris and face scans
 - deduction from templates to accessible information
- Maximization of data retention
 - biometric data is linked to other personal data and stored
 - eg. commercial airline systems and border control, criminal registers

....data retention

- lack of proportionality when compared to the aim pursued
 - ex. registration and storage of telecommunication traffic
- lack of necessity
 - eg. the combat against terrorism - investigatory means, not preventive
- lack of adequate supervision
 - eg. legal framework encompassing protection, safeguards and monitoring function

Risks

- Mass surveillance infrastructure
 - eg. an EU database, linking to the SIS system
- Risk of identity theft
 - data leaves the sphere of owners control
 - eg. RFID with weak encryption
- Risk of reuse and abuse
 - Public and commercial interests
- Violation of the right to privacy
 - Creation of personal profiles, eg. Lifetime biographic and biometric travel histories