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## **The Impact on Privacy from the Application of Biometrics**

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### Abstract

After the 911 attack on the U.S., governments all over the world look for help of technology to enforce the airport surveillance and to avoid terrorist attacks. Biometrics compares the physiological or behavioral characteristics by computers to identify a person. The use of biometrics in the control of public places and airports can reduce the problem of identity theft. In private houses and companies, the application of biometrics can accrue safety. Because the application of biometrics requires the collections of fingerprints, irises or other personal information alike, it's important to protect personal information from disclosure or abuse. In addition, the biometrics information can be used as an identifier because it is difficult to change, the government may therefore use it to surveillance people's behavior through cross-linking all databases the government owns. In addition to researching on the development of the biometrics technology and its impact on privacy, this article argues that the use of biometrics is inevitable and the government should assess the impact on privacy and set up the mechanism of supervision to avoid possible abuses.

**Keywords:** biometrics, information privacy, identity theft