

How are biometrics changing travel?

Andrew Bud, CEO & Founder

Biometrics are going to change the whole travel experience. A revolution in technology based upon outstanding performance in face matching is going to help us relieve one of the great challenges of modern travel - which is queuing, people densely packed together. Even the throughput rate for operators being limited by how rapidly people can get through exit and entry processes.

How is this gonna happen? Well, in most ports of entry and exit ..space is a premium. There are limited amounts of space to process people, and there are limited amounts of space to queue people. And the longer that any entry or exit process takes, the more space is taken up by people queuing. So if it's possible to move processes that take time away from the point of entry or exit that relieves the constraint, it increases throughput, it increase the number of people who can be processed by given port and it enhances the traveler experience.

How can we do this? The answer is to move security processes away from the point of border entry or exit to people's couches. To assert what I semi seriously call the 'centrality of the couch.'

If we can get people to upload the information on their security documents, like their passports -in a secure manner on their couch and capture a contemporary selfie that can be absolutely relied upon on their couch. Then border entry and exit organizations and operators have absolutely reliable information beforehand about a user, which they can then use to confirm the presence of a person as they pass through the point of entry and exit far, far faster.

If the NFC chip on an ICAO 9303 passport, for example, can be read at home. Then it either doesn't need to be read at the border at all. Or it can be read just by scanning the MRZ area, which is funnel far, far faster. If the person's selfie can be captured reliably at home, then at the point of border entry and exit, it just needs to be checked. With the great advantage that you don't have to compensate for the growth of facial hair or other forms of facial furniture or up to 10 years of aging. Making the face matching process far, far more reliable, far, far less demanding, far, far more accurate and far faster.

So the combination of asserting the centrality of the couch and a super rapid potentially almost instantaneous check process at the border will revolutionize the travel experience and the administrative challenges for border control authorities and for operators.