

IEEE Standard for Biometric Liveness Detection

IEEE Computer Society

Developed by the
Cybersecurity and Privacy Standards Committee

IEEE Std 1790™-2020

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Cybersecurity and Privacy Standards Committee
of the
IEEE Computer Society

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IEEE SA Standards Board

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Abstract: A biometric lifeless attack is one of the indispensable issues within biometric authentication. There are three major components in liveness detection systems: lifeless attack presentation, liveness detection, and lifeless attack instruments. The lifeless attack presentation is divided into artifact presentation and human-based presentation. The liveness detection method includes subject-based and scenario-based solutions, as well as other attributes such as decision elements, detection patterns, and implementations. The lifeless attack instrument is specified from aspects such as production elements, production types of artifacts, efficacy, etc. This document establishes terms and definitions in the field of biometric liveness detection and identifies characterizations of lifeless attack and liveness detection methods, with analysis on lifeless attack instruments. In addition, this document specifies the liveness detection process, implementation model, and metrics.

Keywords: IEEE 2790™, lifeless attack, lifeless attack instrument, liveness detection, presentation, attack detection

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Introduction

This introduction is not part of IEEE Std 2790-2020, IEEE Standard for Biometric Liveness Detection.

With the rapid development of mobile device capability in computation and functionality, especially in consumer intelligent mobile devices, urgent demand for strong identity authentication in cyberspace becomes increasingly important. Traditional models, such as password, short message, band card verification, security questions, etc., cannot meet the challenges because they are vulnerable to attacks and are inconvenient to store or remember.

There are three types of authentication methodologies: what you know, what you have, and who you are.

Biometric-based authentication is a typical who you are methodology. Biometrics are used to recognize individuals based on biological and behavioral characteristics. More biometric authentication technologies, such as fingerprinting, face imaging, and iris imaging, have been adopted by intelligent terminals and widely applied in various scenarios.

Biometric authentication has become more widespread in daily life because of its convenience, portability, unique, universal, and acceptable characteristics.

Biometric authentication brings users convenient access, however, it presents some special security challenges that will result in severe problems if not resolved properly. Notably, the possibility of subversion of the system has been widely acknowledged, which is called a presentation attack. The countermeasures to automated detection of presentation attacks undertaken by biometric capture subjects are collectively called presentation attack detection (PAD).

Liveness detection is an important part of PAD, indispensable in biometrics. If subverters attack biometric data by using an artificial subject or some part from a deceased person, and the biometric system cannot identify and handle such an attack, the whole biometric system is vulnerable. A biometric liveness attack presents a biometric sample to a biometric capture subsystem through an artifact from a deceased person. Biometric liveness detection determines if a biometric sample is being captured from a living subject present at the point of capture. Considering that different lifeless attack detection (LAD) methods have different characteristics and act as countermeasures of different kinds of lifeless attack instruments (LAIs), different scenarios require different LAD methods, and different biometric modalities adopt different LAD methods. This standard introduces basic concepts, analyses the LAIs and LADs, describes biometric modality-specific LADs, and specifies metrics.

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1. Overview

1.1 Scope

This document establishes terms and definitions in the field of biometric liveness detection and identifies characteristics of lifeless attacks and liveness detection methods, with analysis of lifeless attack instruments (LAIs). In addition, this document specifies liveness detection process and metrics.

The following is outside of the scope of this document:

- Standardization of specific liveness detection methods
- Detailed information about countermeasures, algorithms, or sensors
- Overall system-level security
- Security evaluation and vulnerability assessment
- Integrated implementation of liveness detection subsystem within general biometric framework

1.2 Purpose

This document provides a foundation for biometric liveness detection through which lifeless attacks can be specified, detected, and subsequently categorized and analyzed for biometric system performance.

1.3 Word Usage

The word *shall* indicates mandatory requirements strictly to be followed in order to conform to the standard and from which no deviation is permitted (*shall* equals *is required to*).^{1,2}

The word *should* indicates that among several possibilities one is recommended as particularly suitable, without mentioning or excluding others; or that a certain course of action is preferred but not necessarily required (*should* equals *is recommended that*).

The word *may* is used to indicate a course of action permissible within the limits of the standard (*may* equals *is permitted to*).

¹The use of the word *must* is deprecated and cannot be used when stating mandatory requirements, *must* is used only to describe unavoidable situations.

²The use of *will* is deprecated and cannot be used when stating mandatory requirements, *will* is only used in statements of fact.