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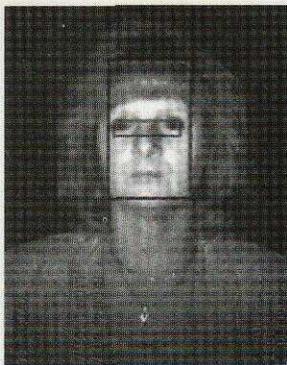
**Technology  
Today**

Alan J. Pierce



**(Eye)Dentification**

In the movie *Mission: Impossible*, Tom Cruise is out to steal a list containing the names and locations of all American secret agents. This list is kept in a top-security place with access protected in part by an eye scan.



Eyescans, voice prints, and hand-geometry scans are all linked to a specific area of biotechnology called biometrics. Biometrics uses the human body to provide information to unlock doors, start machines, start a computer system, protect a police officer's gun against unlawful

**Irisident automatically finds the customer's face and determines the position of the eye.**

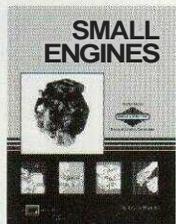
use, and now replace PIN codes for access to ATM accounts. In time, anything that requires a key or PIN number may be protected by a biometric device.

Whether your eyes are blue, brown, black, or violet, it is the iris part of the eye that has the color. Even when you get up close and personal, you probably never noticed the complex pattern of lines found in the iris. For bio-

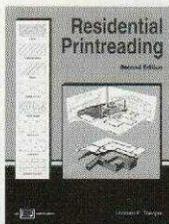
metric security identification, the iris works better than a fingerprint because it doesn't get dirty, cut, or burned;

metric security identification, the iris works better than a fingerprint because it doesn't get dirty, cut, or burned;

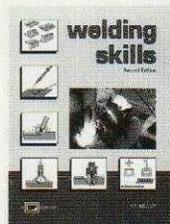
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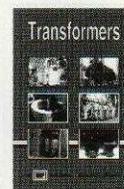
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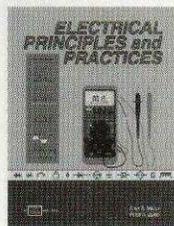


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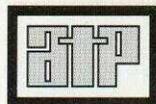
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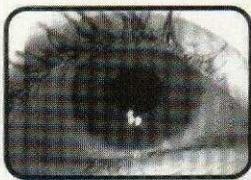
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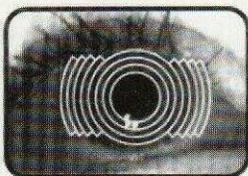
A second camera takes a single black and white digital picture.

change until a few minutes after you die.

In June 1997, the world's leading supplier of ATM machines teamed up with Sensor, Inc., the exclusive supplier of the IrisIdent identification system, to market a biometric security system. This system could replace the use of PIN numbers during the ATM banking process with eye scans.

The system that they developed uses standard video cameras to locate a person's face from as far away as three feet. Another camera then zooms in on the eye to digitally scan a black and white image.

doesn't change over time; and can't be surgically altered. Eye patterns are fully formed by 18 months of age and they don't



A grid measures the pattern structure in the iris to generate a "human bar code."

Even at night, eye glasses or contact lenses won't affect a positive identification. The scan is passive in nature, which means that it does not expose you to any energy source. Your ATM card helps the system locate your filed eye-scan



Unique bar code is checked and verified within two seconds.

image, which now takes the form of a unique bar code. In under three seconds the system compares the new eye image with your file's bar code for positive identification. The system can't be fooled by photographs or image patterns placed on opaque contact lenses because it looks for blood flowing through the eye capillaries.

The IrisIdent system will start to be installed or tested by banking institutions worldwide this year. England's Nationwide Bank started replacing customer passwords with Sensor's eye scan technology this January.

Recalling the Facts

1. Define biometrics.
2. Why is the eye better for

biometric security identification than a fingerprint?

3. Why does an eye scan provide better security than a PIN number? **TD**

Alan J. Pierce is a professor, Department of Technology, Elizabeth City State University, Elizabeth City, NC 27909.



"You have reached a number for a fax for a modem for a server for a computer that is no longer in service."

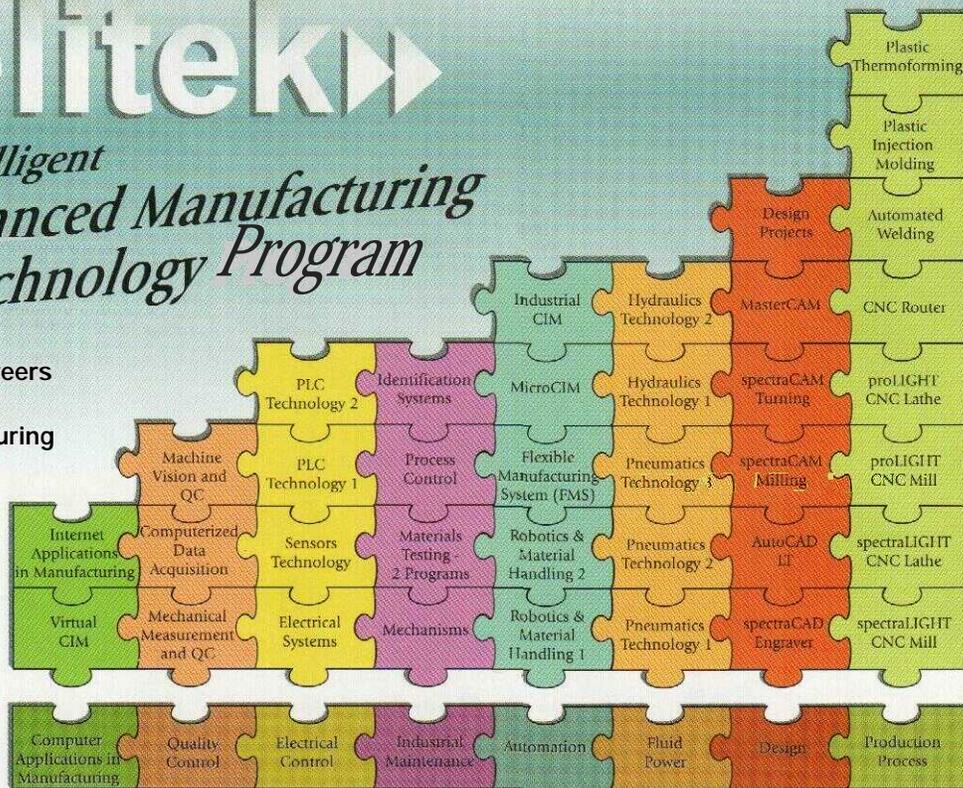
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