Technology is built to improve the quality of our life. It brings betterments in the way of our life in every aspect. Biometric technology is also a great invention that brings significant changes in our lifestyle. As said, with great power comes even greater responsibility, biometric technology is a good example of this quote. With all the goosebumps surrounding the positive news about biometrics, it also has a dark side of its own. We know very little about the disadvantages of biometrics, compared to its well-known advantages.

While the introduction of biometrics bring many benefits, unfortunately, it also came with its own set of problems. You may want to know the disadvantages of biometrics technology. Here are some key points to consider regarding the disadvantages of biometrics:

1. Error Rate:

Biometric machines are less than perfect and mistakes can happen. Usually, biometric devices make two types of errors, False Acceptance Rate (FAR) and False Rejection Rate (FRR). When the device accepts an unauthorized person, it is known as FAR and when it rejects an authorized person, it is known as FRR.

The error rate in some cases are so high that it creates great chaos for the entire security system. It could happen due to weather, physical condition, age and other issues. A turmoil could happen with an error rate of as low as 1% in a large-scale authentication process.

2. Cost:

The cost of biometric devices are comparatively higher than other traditional security devices. The costs of biometric software, devices, programmers, server and other relative equipment combined is a large amount of money.

3. Delay:

Some biometric devices take more than the accepted time and a long queue of workers form waiting to be enrolled in large companies. In these cases, people get hard time while scanning the biometric device every day. It is hard for a person when he/she has to go through a biometric verification system before entering into school, office or other places every day.

4. Unhygienic:

There are various types of biometric modalities. Some of them are contact based like fingerprint and palm vein scanner; some are contactless like iris and face recognition, etc. In contact-based modalities, a biometric device is used a zillion times by enormous amount of people.

Everyone is actually sharing their germs with each other via the device. You never know what you are taking with you after placing your finger on the device. You wouldn’t have any option to change the system.

5. Scanning Difficulty:

Some biometric modalities like iris scan can go through scanning difficulties. It happens due to several reasons including eyelashes, eyelids, lens and reflections from the cornea. For these reasons, iris scanning may not be as reliable for use.

6. Physical Disability:

Some people aren’t fortunate enough to be able to participate in the enrollment process. They might have lost or damaged body parts such as fingers or eyes. In this type of case, a fingerprint/ Iris recognition device to recognize would be embarrassing and simply offensive. These types of people will surely pass a hard time to cope up with others in the system.



