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Voice Signature Is Convenient and Secure

MITRE has developed a biometric approach for electronic document signing that is the functional equivalent of a traditional handwritten signature. Voice Signature (Voice Sig) allows a user to sign a document with their voice. The approach uses a combination of voice recognition and verification technology, public key encryption, and symmetric key encryption.

This signing capability can be used as a stand-alone application to sign any document; user registration is not required. It also can be integrated with an existing application and a back-end verification capability. Voice Sig offers comparable security and ease of use as a handwritten signature. Voice Sig is also resistant to replay, ensuring that the signature is in some way unique so that it cannot be copied and employed by other parties pretending to be the original signer.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office recently issued a patent on the Voice Sig technology.

Applications

The inventors created Voice Sig for the Internal Revenue Service as a method for signing electronic tax forms. But the technology may be used for any electronic transaction requiring a signature, including purchase agreements and contracts, where it is important to ascertain the authenticity of a signature on a transaction in the event of a dispute.

Benefits

Voice Sig is easy to use, incurs minimal back-end infrastructure costs, can be used virtually anywhere, and requires little or no training. In addition, it can also be used by multiple signers who are either co-located or geographically dispersed.

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Additional Information and Links

Abramowitz, B.S., 2003, "Voice Signatures with Strong Bindings," The MITRE Corporation,
www.mitre.org/news/events/tech03/briefings/info_assurance/abramowitz.pdf.

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