

No.45/DG-UIDAI/2009
Government of India
Planning Commission
Unique Identification Authority of India

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New Delhi – 110 001

Dated : September 29, 2009

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

The UID Authority of India has been setup by the Govt. of India with a mandate to issue a unique identification number to all the residents in the country. The main objective is to improve benefits service delivery, especially to the poor and marginalised sections of the society. To deliver its mandate, the UID Authority proposes to create a platform to first collect the identity details and then to perform authentication that can be used by several govt. and private service providers. A key requirement of the UID system is to minimize/eliminate duplicate UIDs in order to improve the efficacy of the service delivery. A possible way to ensure uniqueness of IDs (so that one resident gets only one ID) is to use biometric technologies. In order to ensure that an individual is uniquely identified and authenticated in an easy and cost-effective manner, it is necessary to ensure that the biometric information which is captured is capable of carrying out the de-duplication at the time of collection of information. Further, in order to achieve interoperability it is important that the capture and use of biometric information is standardized across all the partners and users of the UID system.

The Government of India, in the past, had set up a number of expert committees for standards to be used for various e-governance applications in areas of Biometrics, Personal Identification and location Codification Standards. These committees have worked out few standards in the respective categories to be uniformly applied for various e-governance standards.

As UIDAI proposes to use biometrics for de-duplication and verification/authentication, it becomes essential to review the applicability and sufficiency of these standards in UID applications, modify/extend/enhance them to ensure that they serve the specific requirements of UIDAI and frame the methodology for its implementation.

In view of the above, a Committee for framing the Biometric Standards for UIDAI is being setup to review the existing standards and modify/extend/enhance them so as to achieve the goals and purpose of UIDAI for de-duplications and authentication.

1. Charter of the Biometric Standards Committee

- To develop biometric standards that will ensure interoperability of devices, systems and processes used by various agencies that use the UID system.
- To review the existing standards of Biometric and, if required, modify/extend/enhance them so as to serve the specific requirements of UIDAI relating to de-duplication and Authentication.

2. Composition of the Biometric Standards Committee

Following will be the composition of the Biometric Standards Committee:

1. Dr. BK Gairola, Director General, National Informatics Centre – Chairman
2. Dr. C. Chandramauli – Registrar General of India - Member
3. Dr. DS Gangwar, Jt Secretary, Min of Rural Development - Member
4. Dr. AM Padgaonkar, Reserve Bank of India – Member
5. Mr. Pravir Vora, ICICI - Member
6. Dr. Deepak Phatak, IIT Bombay - Member
7. Dr. Phalguni Gupta, IIT Kanpur – Member
8. Two Representatives from Technology Team of UIDAI – Members
9. Director General, UIDAI or his Nominee – Member/Convenor

Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) will service this Committee.

The Committee will be able to invite representatives from user organisations and other Technology Experts as Special Invitees to solicit their views and advice on various aspects on the issue.

3. Technical Committee and Working Groups

The committee can also set up sub-committees that focus on various aspects of biometric standards such as fingerprints, Iris and facial image and working groups for conducting/developing reference implementations/proof-of-concept (POC) studies, specific research, field testing etc. on an as-needed basis. The Committee may meet from time to time and draft the standard document based on the feedback of sub committees and working groups and submit recommendations. The Committee may also set its own review process before recommending the final standards.

Working Groups can be created to assist the above committees by conducting proof-of-concept (POC) studies, specific research, field testing etc.

4. Review process

It is important that the standards remain unbiased, pragmatic, vendor neutral, interoperable, and cost effective. In biometrics where technology continues to progress rapidly, three parties - vendors, academia and enterprise users - have great deal of knowledge of the technology. The Committee's review process will leverage their knowledge without compromising on its charter.

The technical committee will publish a draft version of the document and solicit structured feedback from the members of the committee, technology vendors, academia and enterprise users. Such review process will also provide sufficient advance notice to the vendors to begin upgrade to their solution, thus reducing lead time between the final standards adoption and conforming solutions.

The feedback from the various groups will be reviewed by the technical committee and suitable changes made in order to incorporate useful inputs. The final draft will be sent over for a final review and then the ratified version of the standards will be released.

5. Deliverables of the committee

- Obtain consensus from Government stakeholders to adopt and use a common set of standards for interoperability, containment of biometrics system cost and wide spread propagation of Biometrics in governmental and private sectors.
- Review the existing standards of Biometric and, if required, modify/extend/enhance them so as to serve the specific requirements of UIDAI relating to de-duplication and Authentication.
- Ratify Biometrics standards from applicable base Indian and International standards, which meet needs of the UIDAI.
- Recommendation to UIDAI users to assure Interoperability of biometrics data
- Develop certification criteria for conformity, interoperability and performance.
- Maintain & Publish registry of recommended biometrics standards, interoperability recommendations and certification criteria.

6. Time-Frame

Keeping in view the commitment of UIDAI to start issuing UIDs within twelve to eighteen months, it is necessary that the Committee presents its report on standards as early as possible. Hence the Committee will present its Final Report to the undersigned on Biometric Standards to be adopted by UIDAI within 90 days of its constitution.

7. Miscellaneous

The non-official members of the Committee and Special Invitees will be reimbursed the cost of their travel and other incidental expenses as per Rules as and when they travel to attend the Committee meetings.

Handwritten signature of R S Sharma in black ink, with the date 28.9.09 written below it.

(R S Sharma)
Director General & Mission Director

Copy forwarded to the Chairman and Members of the Committee for information and necessary action.

Copy to: Cabinet Secretary/ Principal Secretary to the PM/All Secretaries to Govt. of India/All Chief Secretaries of the States/UTs for information.