



BioAPI™



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BioAPI Consortium Releases for Testing the Beta Version of the Windows CE™ Reference Implementation Software

The BioAPI Consortium today announced the release of the beta version of the BioAPI Windows CE™ reference implementation. Once tested by the BioAPI members, and others upon request, the new Windows CE software will be released to the general public. This version of the Reference Implementation is the result of efforts sponsored by the National Biometrics Security Project (NBSP). SAFLINK Corporation managed the project with work provided by BIO-Key International.

This effort entailed “porting” the existing Windows™ (Win32™) Reference Implementation to execute on the Windows CE platform, further broadening the available environments for standards-based biometric systems. The Reference Implementation is the software instantiation of the BioAPI framework. As an “open systems” specification, the BioAPI is intended for use across a broad spectrum of computing environments to insure cross-platform support.

“NBSP is proud to sponsor the development of BioAPI for WinCE,” said John E. Siedlarz, Chairman and CEO of NBSP. “The infrastructure to support standards adoption and the availability of standards-based biometric components is important to the use of this technology in national security applications. The BioAPI Consortium has been a pioneer in developing and promoting these standards and supporting this effort directly aligns with the NBSP mission.”

The BioAPI Specification defines an open system standard application program interface (API) that allows software applications to communicate with a broad range of biometric technologies in a common way. Version 1.1 of the BioAPI Specification and the associated Win32 Reference Implementation software were released in March 2001, with the Unix/Linux Reference Implementation subsequently released in April of 2002. All are freely available for download from the BioAPI Consortium’s website (<http://www.bioapi.org>). The Win32 and Unix/Linux Reference Implementations are available royalty-free as open source software, as will be the WinCE version once publicly released.

“The BioAPI Steering Committee is excited that NBSP has sponsored this software development effort. The release of this beta version of the BioAPI WinCE Reference Implementation software is another

milestone in the history of BioAPI”, said Cathy Tilton of SAFLINK Corporation, who chairs the BioAPI Consortium. “One of the main strengths of the BioAPI Specification is that it is an open, platform independent standard. The availability of the BioAPI for Windows CE platforms as well as the availability of the previous Win32 and Unix/Linux versions of the Reference Implementation proves this and will greatly affect the availability of biometric solutions for heterogeneous systems”, concluded Tilton.

Biometric technologies automatically identify or verify the identity of a person through measurable physical or behavioral characteristics, such as fingerprint, voice, or iris recognition. The BioAPI Specification defines an open system standard application program interface (API) that allows software applications to communicate with a broad range of biometric technologies in a common way. The BioAPI specification is the result of several years of collaborative effort between the biometrics industry, government, and major information technology vendors. The 100+ members comprising the BioAPI Consortium cover a broad cross section of biometric technology manufacturers, integrators, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), and end users from around the world. In direct support of Homeland Security legislation, the InterNational Committee for Information Technology Standards (INCITS) fast-tracked the BioAPI specification to become an American National Standard, ANSI/INCITS 358. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approved BioAPI on February 13, 2002. BioAPI has also been submitted by the US as a candidate for further standardization as an international standard through ISO/IEC Joint Technical Committee 1 Subcommittee 37 – Biometrics (JTC 1 SC 37).

The BioAPI supports a wide range of biometric technologies including fingerprint imaging, speaker verification, facial recognition, iris scanning, dynamic signature, and hand geometry. It is designed for use in a broad array of applications, extending from embedded devices (such as cell phones) to large-scale identification systems (such as national ID systems), as well as user authentication applications associated with computer and network access. BioAPI is compatible with the *Common Biometric Exchange Formats Framework* (CBEFF), NIST Publication NISTIR 6529-A which defines a single approach for a biometric data structure to assure biometrics companies and their potential customers that different biometric devices and applications can exchange information efficiently, and the ANSI X9.84 standard, *Biometric Management and Security for the Financial Services Industry*©.

About BioAPI

The BioAPI Consortium was formed to develop a widely available and widely accepted Application Programming Interface to serve any type of biometric technology. Additional information about the BioAPI Consortium and the BioAPI Specification can be found at www.bioapi.org.

About NBSP

NBSP is a not-for-profit research, test, and analysis organization focused entirely on the application of biometrics to improve the security of the U.S. civil infrastructure. NBSP services are available to government agencies at the federal, state, and local level and private sector agencies responsible for maintaining key components of the national infrastructure. The organization can also support non-U.S. nations and organizations involved in the international anti-terrorist coalition when sanctioned by the U.S. government. Established as a non-profit agency to assure its objectivity and user-oriented approach, NBSP client services range from operational/functional requirements definition to standards development, test and evaluation, research, and technology and product performance analyses.

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