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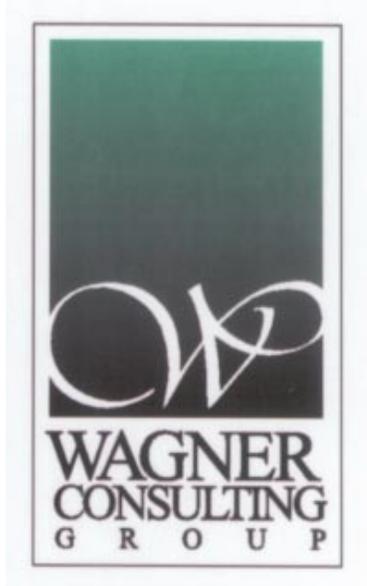
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Focus

A Newsletter published for clients and friends of Wagner Consulting Group

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Big Brother is Smelling You!

George Orwell's classic novel of political satire 1984 was written in 1949 (five years after he penned Animal Farm) and envisioned an intrusive central government epitomized by "Big Brother." Although Big Brother has not yet arrived in America to the degree described by Orwell, new biometric security technologies bring monitoring of the populace closer.

OK, true confessions: I am not an alarmist. If you want to fret about surveillance, be my guest. However, some of the latest developments in using a person's attributes to provide access security for electronic data and physical locations are interesting.

You have probably heard of using **fingerprints**, **voice authentication**, and **retinal scanning** for access control. **Facial recognition** (comparing a digitized picture of a face with distinctive features scanned by a camera) and **signature verification** (measuring the speed and pressure used when signing, and comparing the shape of the completed signature) may also be familiar to you. Some technologies that were new to me follow.

- **Hand geometry** examines 90 characteristics of the hand, including the fingers and shape of the knuckles.
- A **Vein check** examines the vein "tree" on the back of a hand.
- **Facial thermography** measures the pattern of facial heat caused by the distinctive flow of blood under the skin.
- **Ear shape** measures the bone structure and shape of the outer ear and ear lobe.
- **Gait recognition** examines the pattern of movements made when the body is walking or running.

And finally (I am not making this up!), biometric research is directed at identifying the chemical pattern of human body smell. So the winner of our Biometric Measurement Contest is:

- **Body odor scanning**

Take baths regularly boys and girls, lest the Stink Police issue you a citation!

Tom Wagner

We help clarify options so our clients
identify the Right Questions

MAY 2003

and solve the Right Problems.

Call us at 800 422-1374 to learn more.

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