

ASSESSING THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF AUTOMATED BORDER CONTROL GATES PANEL

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The volume of global air traffic is expected to reach over 6.4 billion passengers by 2030. Airport operators are installing ABC systems with biometrics for efficiency, passenger convenience & enhanced security.



"When I'm getting off an eight hour flight, I don't want to chat with someone about why I am coming here, what is in my bag. I just want to get to where I am going, you know?"

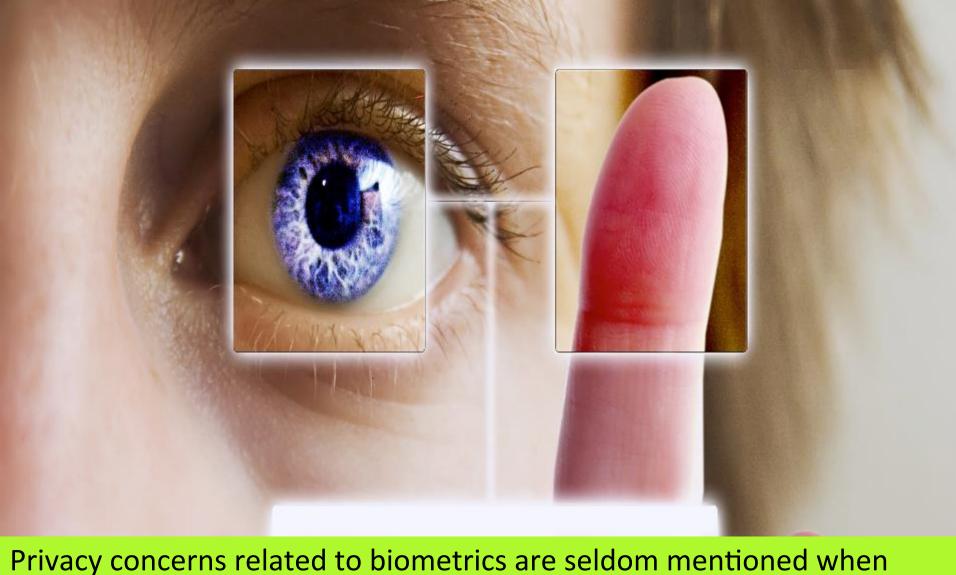


Reports, interviews with border guards, border management, and passengers show that ABCs are underused: people never heard of egates, don't know they have an e-passport, can't find e-gates, choose familiar over the new, excluded groups, benefits not clear.

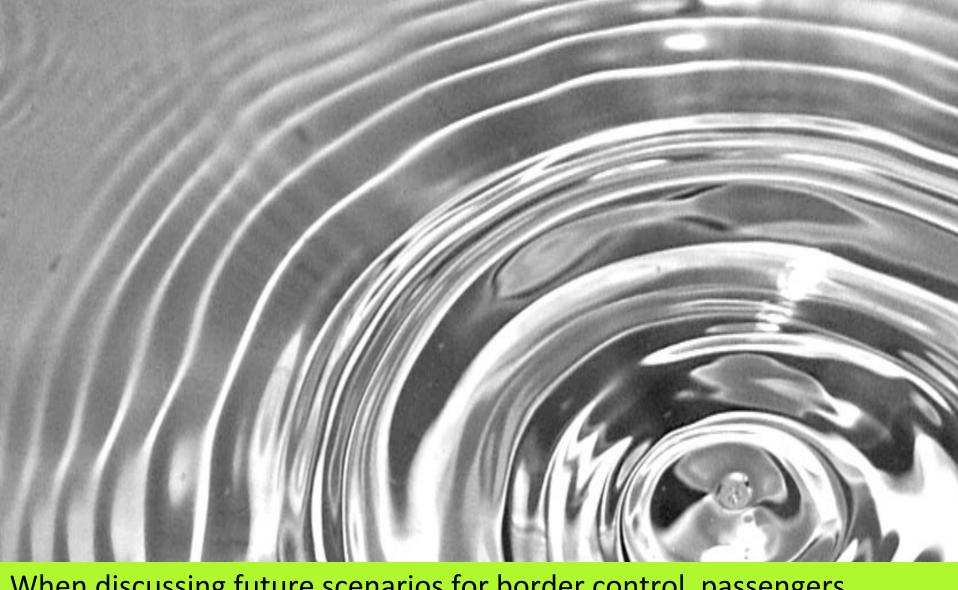
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E-gates are under development. There are still many problems related to usability of systems and lack of harmonization. Passengers experience service failure due to technical or human error. Sometimes the data on the e-passports is of insufficient quality.



Privacy concerns related to biometrics are seldom mentioned when passengers talk about current ABCs. People are unaware what data gets stored, how long for, and who has access to it. But they assume the worst.



When discussing future scenarios for border control, passengers become worried about intrusive technologies. Function creep is a worry: if it becomes possible to 'read' biometrics from a distance (corridor scenario), where else will this be used?