

# DOCUMENT INSPECTION CAPABILITIES AT THE BORDER

Strengths and Weaknesses of Humans and  
Machines

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# FRONTEX

The European Agency for the Management of the **Operational Cooperation** at the External Borders of the Member States of the EU (EU Council Regulation (EC) No 2007/2004 of 26 October 2004)

- Mission: ***"Intelligence driven operational cooperation at EU level to strengthen security at external borders"***
  
- **Tasks:**
  - carry out risk analyses;
  - coordinate operational cooperation;
    - joint operations
    - support with technical and operational assistance
  - assist EU Member States with training their Border Guards (Common Core Curriculum);
  - **follow up and contribute to research relevant for the control and surveillance of external borders.**



# DOCUMENT CHALLENGE II Basic Facts

- **Simulation of Document Inspection in the First line** (Lisbon SEF Headquarters: 19 September - 1 October 2013; Joint Action Lusitania)
- Evaluation of performance and usability
- Participants (Humans and Machines) tasked to correctly classify genuine and false documents :
  - ◇ 42 Officers
  - ◇ 7 document inspections systems
  - ◇ 3 different test-sets (a total of 215 documents)
  - ◇ 3 scenarios:
    - A) Machine Only,
    - B) Human Only (with/without time constraint),
    - C) Human with Machine

## Document Inspection System

AU10TIX

Morpho

Regula

ARH

Keesing

Bundesdruckerei GmbH

Foster&Freeman



### In cooperation with:

PT SEF, UK National Document Fraud Unit, NL Royal Marechaussee,  
DE Forensic Science Institute (Bundeskriminalamt),  
Frontex Joint Operations Unit (Air Border Sector)

# DOCUMENT CHALLENGE II: Rationale

- Lack of reliable data concerning the security performance (accuracy, errors etc.) of document inspection systems and border control officers :
  - ◇ How do we know how good we are (detection dilemma)?
  - ◇ How do we know how bad we are and what type of capacity building is needed? (Training? What type?; New Equipment? Upgrade? )
- Lack of standard methodology to assess operational performance of document inspection capacities in the first line (... and beyond)
- Lack of standards on performance of document inspection systems (+certification etc. etc., BSI but...)

# DOCUMENT CHALLENGE II: Objectives

- Contribute to the development of a **usable metric to assess operational performance of document inspection capabilities** (!)
- Understand **current performance levels and vulnerabilities**(how many false documents pass undetected - falsely accepted as genuine - and why)
- **Recommend solutions** for technical vulnerabilities to participating DIS providers in order to contribute to the **overall fight against document fraud**
- **Recommend solutions** for human/operational vulnerabilities to Frontex and MS in order to **strengthen the security at the first line** of control

# Main Findings

# A. Machine Only Use Case

- Human Factor always plays a role

- Presentation of document
- Interpretation of result on front-end application (interface)

- **Inconsistency in results**

- Hypotheses:
  - Subjective interpretation of Machine Decision (Due to front end App?) - Human Factor
  - Variability in Machine results when scanning same doc several times by the same user - Machine Inconsistency (Technical)



Analysis of **Front-End App** and language used by Machine  
(**USABILITY**)

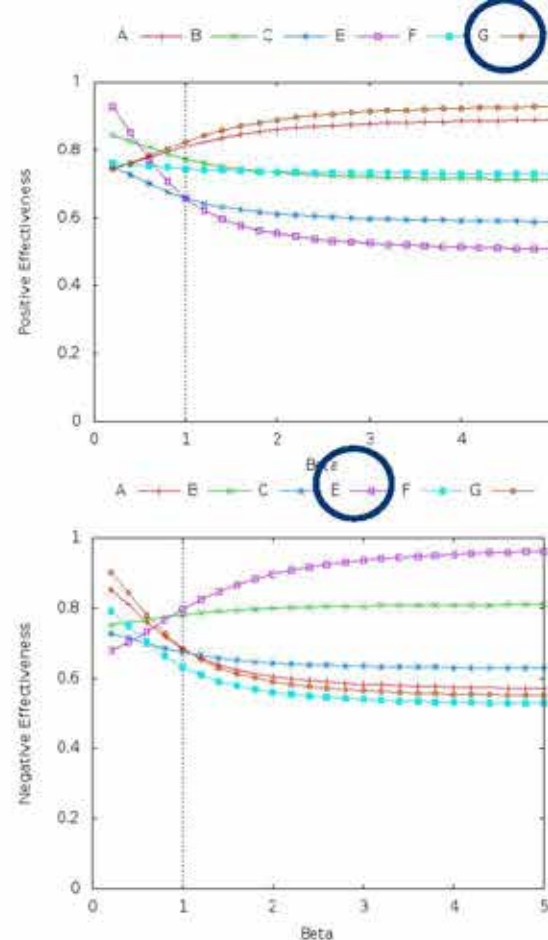


Analysis of logs to check for machine inconsistency and/or presentation issues  
(**RELIABILITY**)

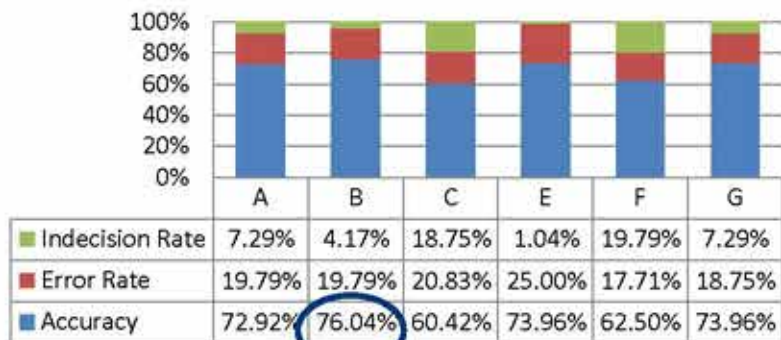


# A. Machine Only Use Case:

- No clear best (it depends on the objective)
- Trade-off security (Negative Effectiveness) and Facilitation (Positive Effectiveness).
- Balance (accuracy) at the cost of slightly higher errors in both (FPR/FNR aka false acceptance/false rejection)



Test121(96)(MT2) Classification Success



Machine D excluded !

## B. Human Only Use Case

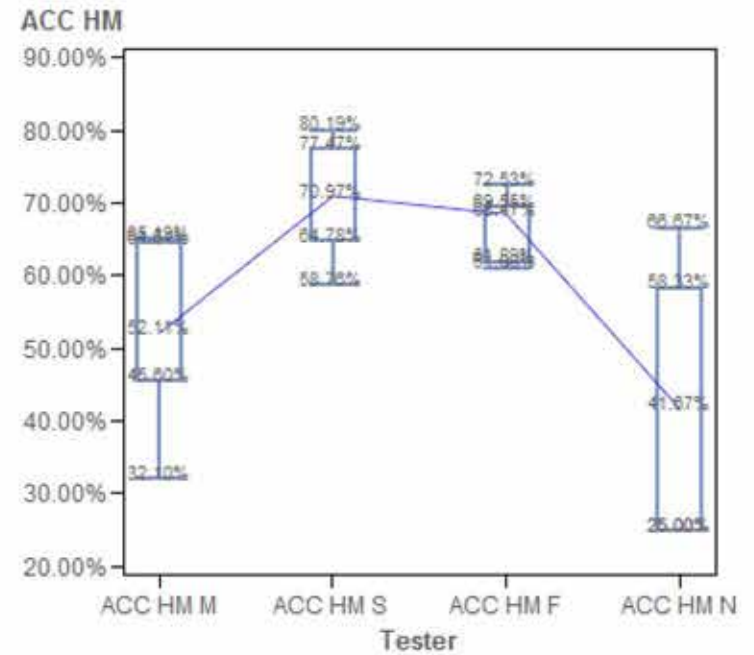
- Time Restricted: 60 seconds to take decision on 4 docs at a time
- Some officers with very high accuracy (>90%) and very low errors (FPR/FNR)
- Big variations across groups (high standard deviation): issue of subjectivity/consistency
- What affects human performance?

Wizards ?

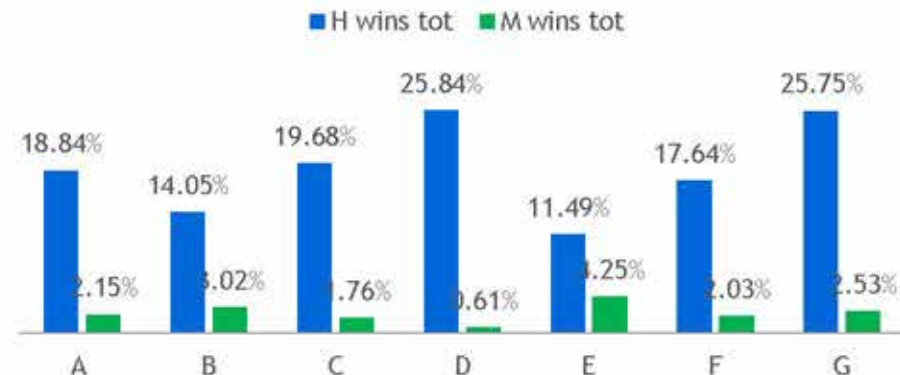
# C. Human-Machine Use Case:

## Test:

- Machine gives result and Tester records it
  - Tester records whether he/she agrees
  - Tester records final result
- Accuracy increases when humans disregard machine results and take **their own decisions** (except than for non-experienced)
  - Humans tend to **win against the machine** (correct answer) when they don't accept (trust) the machine result (except for non-experienced)



Human-Machine WIN-LOSE in case of disagreement



# Comparison Human-Machine Performance

Study of difficult and easy documents to detect

## Issue of Function Allocation

| Humans are Better at  | Machines are Better at                    |
|---|---|
| Inspecting Physical integrity of booklet                      | Field comparison (including chip/viz-mrz) |
| Inspecting Substrate features                                 | Mathematical checks (check digit)         |
| Dealing with exceptions (especially if object of alerts etc.) | Electronic authentication                 |
| Dealing with operational praxis (ex. Stamps/visa etc.)        |   |
| tbc   | tbc                                       |





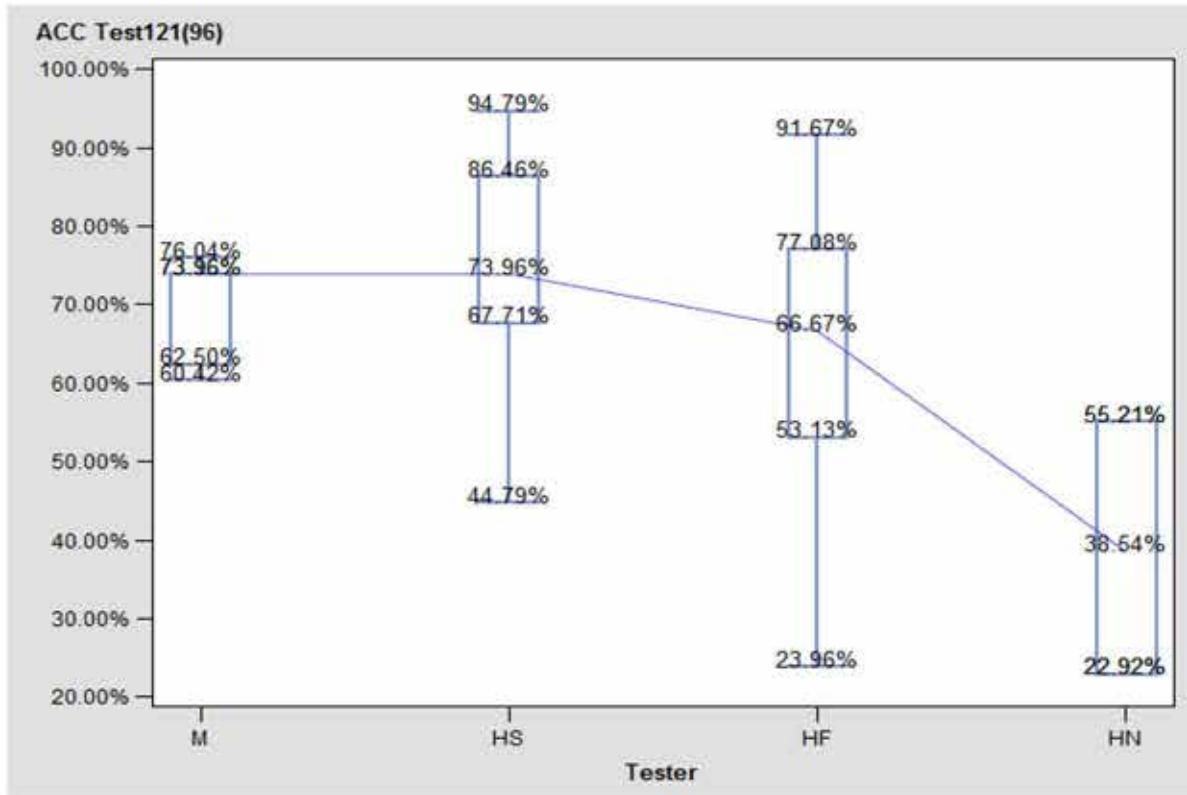
# General observations related to weaknesses identified for Machine Authentication

(based on classification outputs)



- Difficulty in verifying certain **substrate** (watermark etc) and **optical features** (translucent, IPI, laminates and glare, total UV luminiscence etc.)
- Different **illumination intensity, exposure, angles** (UV, IR, VIS) affect correct identification and especially false document detection. Only 2 machines used glare compensation.
- Difficulty with dealing with **ICAO non-compliant documents, production errors and exceptions**
- Difficulty with identification of some genuine documents (**reference database?**)
- Difficulty in identifying wrong **printing techniques**
- **Field comparison**: not all compare portrait and photo on chip
- **Check digits**: not all calculate the optional digit
- **ID cards**: not all check both sides
- Different strengths of the **pattern recognition algorithm** used

# Overall Comparison of Accuracy Test121(96) Machines vs Humans by type of experience



**Thank you for your attention!**