

Letters.(Letter to the Editor)

12/01/2002

PC World

45

Copyright 2002 Gale Group Inc. All rights reserved. COPYRIGHT 2002 PC World Communications, Inc.

Biometrics not ready for prime time. (Letter of the month)

I WAS INTRIGUED by Andrew Brandt's online article on **biometrics**, which reported on how easily many **biometric** security systems can be fooled [find.pcworld.com/31589]. As an inventor of a **biometric** ID system myself, I have also discovered vulnerabilities in these systems. In fact, one doesn't need to melt down **gummy** bears (as the story suggests) to "lift" a fingerprint. Wal-Mart has a silicon gel kit for \$15-used to record baby footprints and fingerprints-that can do the same thing.

Forgeries are not the only problem. As a Department of Defense contractor, I was recently issued a Common Access Card as part of a DOD-wide program that will eventually cost taxpayers untold billions of dollars. Its fingerprint identification system not only failed to recognize my right index finger after several registration attempts, it also recognized three other people as being me after it did work!

Michael Willmore Lexington Park, Maryland

THOSE PC ANNOYANCES

I THOROUGHLY enjoyed Steve Bass's article ["How to Fix the Biggest PC Annoyances," October]. So often I see users (myself included) who deal with these things as a necessary evil and lose productivity rather than fixing them.

Chris Cain, via the Internet

THANK YOU, thank you! You just saved me the cost of a new cooling fan for my expensive graphics card. The fan was making such a racket that I was thinking of purchasing a whole new card. The tip on how to lubricate the fan did the trick! It's now as quiet as when it was new.

Ja Anne Lambert, Mantoloking, New Jersey

THE OCTOBER cover story is a terrible article. In my opinion, a more appropriate title would have been "Steve Bass's Preferred Windows Settings," because much of what was addressed is a matter of personal preference, not "broken" things within Windows.

John King, Waterloo, New York

YOUR SOLUTIONS to common Windows annoyances were terrific; however, in Windows, three or more approaches to a task often exist. Take, for example, the annoyance of automatically created hyperlinks when you type URLs or e-mail addresses in Word or