

PROCEEDINGS OF SPIE

Mobile Multimedia/Image Processing, Security, and Applications 2009

**Sos S. Agaian
Sabah A. Jassim**
Editors

**14–15 April 2009
Orlando, Florida, United States**

*Sponsored and Published by
SPIE*

Volume 7351

Proceedings of SPIE, 0277-786X, v. 7351

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Mobile Multimedia/Image Processing, Security, and Applications 2009, edited by Sos S. Agaian, Sabah A. Jassim,
Proc. of SPIE Vol. 7351, 735101 · © 2009 SPIE · CCC code: 0277-786X/09/\$18 · doi: 10.1117/12.834319

Proc. of SPIE Vol. 7351 735101-1

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Author(s), "Title of Paper," in *Mobile Multimedia/Image Processing, Security, and Applications 2009*, edited by Sos S. Aghaian, Sabah A. Jassim, Proceedings of SPIE Vol. 7351 (SPIE, Bellingham, WA, 2009) Article CID Number.

ISSN 0277-786X
ISBN 9780819476173

Published by

SPIE

P.O. Box 10, Bellingham, Washington 98227-0010 USA
Telephone +1 360 676 3290 (Pacific Time) · Fax +1 360 647 1445
SPIE.org

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Introduction

While rapid technological advances provide new and exciting opportunities for wide ranging applications, they also present the research community with numerous challenges that are exacerbated by growing security concerns. Among the serious security challenges generated are those associated with modern multimedia systems transmitted and exchanged over wireless networks and pervasive computing environments. The main motivation for defence and security research activities is associated with the rapid growth in mass deployment of programmable mobile devices equipped with low-cost, high-resolution digital cameras, sensors, the rise of cybercrime, and identity theft. The most significant challenges in this respect include: efficient and secure processing of image/video, processing suitable for implementation on mobile devices that are constrained in their memory capacities, computational powers, and developing innovative solutions that facilitate the convergence of different wireless technologies (e.g. WiFi and WiMAX).

This year's conference was characterised by high quality research manuscripts presented as full papers or posters which together made significant contributions to meeting some of the challenges listed above. The dominating theme was the development of simple and efficient proactive security solutions for protecting computing infrastructures and sensitive information systems while preserving the privacy of the citizens. Several papers propose novel, secure, and efficient image/video encryption and steganography schemes for mobile devices/environments. Feature detection and extraction in images are dealt with in a number of papers that also propose approaches to improving the accuracy of such schemes. Various aspects of identification schemes are tackled with emphasis on the effect of image quality measures and adaptive human recognition schemes, faces, and irises, as well as mechanisms to protect biometric data. The conference also included number of invited presentations that fit the main issues and concerns raised in the symposium.

The various presentations encouraged quality questions and interactions among the researchers attending the conference.

**Sabah Jassim
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