How Much Does the Government Know About You?
By Christian Chandler

Over 75% of consumers have some sort of biometric technology, meaning the government knows what you look like and your genetic makeup. Biometrics, a relatively created piece of technology, has raised many questions and controversy among the United Nations. Biometrics is the analysis and computerized calculation of a person's physical features such as facial recognition, fingerprints, and retina scans. The issue with the use of biometrics is the risk of someone or something being able to use a person's personal information without their consent. The delegates at Model United United Nations San Antonio has had the task of finding the best policy that benefits most countries when it comes to the use of biometrics.

"There are many positive outcomes of using biometrics such as being more apt to stabilize a growing nation through national identification cards, neutralize threats to a country, and make voter registration easier," says the delegate of Liberia. The biometrics are able to keep records on any person's DNA or fingerprints which assists in the government of a country to catch criminals or find the identity a person trying to immigrate into a country. The use of biometrics will obviously help governments of all nationals with internal and external affairs, through being able to precisely identify a person.

Although biometrics have many positives, it poses many risks to the basic human right of privacy. Countries like the US, Haiti, and Turkey were very concerned about keeping people's privacy safe when using biometrics. The United States stated, "The use of biometrics poses a direct threat to the privacy of any person, which is why we must have a committee dedicated to keeping that information safe." The databases or private companies that hold biometric authentication aren't fool-proof and can be hacked by various places throughout the world. Also, governments with malicious intent could control this technology, for example, the Rwandan genocide could have been even more devastating with the biometric information.

The countries came to the point where they were discussing proposed solutions and how they benefited each country. The United States said "There should be a committee that oversees biometric data, which will ensure the basic right of human privacy," in countries like Haiti, Liberia, and Serbia. The next delegate, Indonesia, agreed and showed that there was already a dedicated committee, but it should receive more funding. Turkey proposed a plan that the UN invests more money in order to use more advanced technology to improve the privacy of collecting, transferring, and storing people's information.