

Digital Technologies and Law

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The use of biometrical signatures for the detection of forgery in Document Examination



Document Examination/Forensic Graphology

What is all about ?

- Expertise dealing with handwriting and signatures in their classic form of 'pen and paper' documents on 'wet ink'.

- Digitalization has created an expansion of various forms of digital documents though, which demand a different analysis' approach.

- Digital documents are not always analyzed by the traditional document examination method based on the comparison (comparative method).

Among the methodological mentalities of approach we have to mention :

- Graphology
- Document Examination
- Graphometry (or biometrical signature in its modern form)

Graphometry or biometrical signature

Method of measurement of particular traits and elements of handwriting.

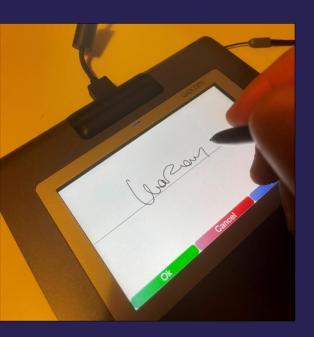
It is the method applied on the famous Dreyfus case (1894) in a traditional methodological conception, which was incomplete (Graphometric system of Bertillion).

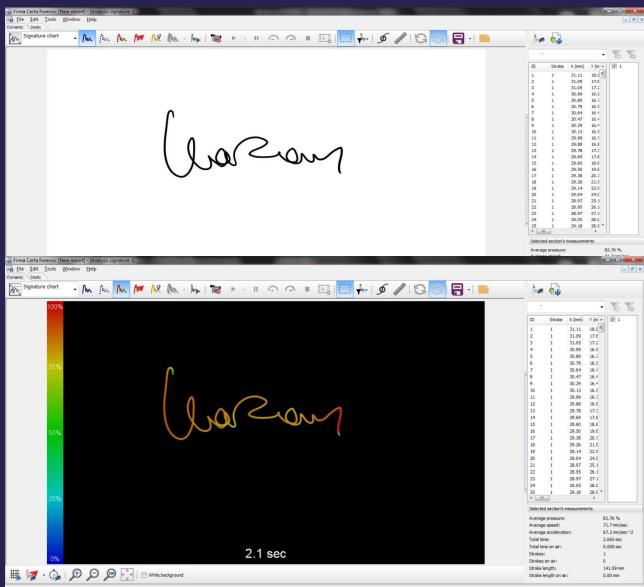
In the modern era technology has given the opportunity to replace the classic paper by 'digital paper' (tablets), where we use a specific type of magnetic pen, in order to sign documents.

Characteristics

- It is not a digital document
- It is a digitally produced normal signature
- It does not create any trace on the surface of the tablet, but, according to the software it can leave a digital trace which is magnetically transmitted
- Its legal entity depends on the law provision of every state
- It can be graphologically examined by the use of particular s/ws

Procedure of handwriting production





Cases of forgery

Digital forgery or classic application

- -Digital forgery in cases of 'stolen' genuine biometric signatures (hacking)
- Forgery by imitating a signature in its biometric application
- Forgery by imitating a signature in a classic 'pen and paper' form

How can a biometric signature be applied to forgery detection ?

-'Pen and paper' handwritings are produced before a criminal procedure has started

-Biometric signature is a quite new system of signing. It is possible that there will be no biometric specimens for comparison

-Comparison between 'digital' and traditional signatures

-Qualitative characteristics of traditional signatures

-Qualitative characteristics of digital signatures

Is a comparison possible ?

'Hybrid' biometrical signatures

-Apparatus with 'hybrid' digital pen

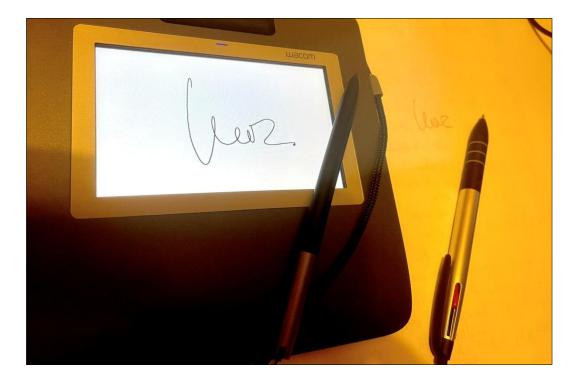
-Double production of the same signature

-Does it give a scientific comparative basis?

Where can we apply biometric signature in Law

-In cases of forgery suspects should provide a writing sample

-By using the 'hybrid' mode, we can collect objective graphical data, which help us identify better the graphical characteristics of traditional 'pen and paper' specimens.



Thank you for your attention!

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