ABAC

APEC Business Advisory Council

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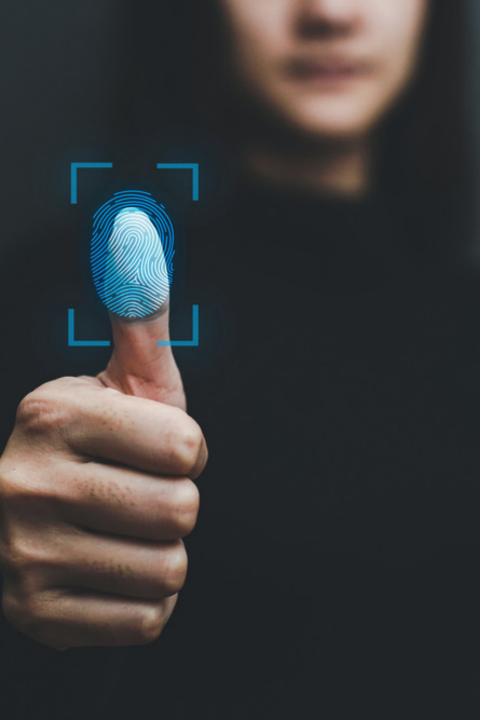
DWG IV

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Digital ID Research

Context

- "Good" digital identity systems could be worth up to $6.8 trillion by 2030 in APEC

- Benefits accrue to individuals, businesses, policymakers; and for business, trade, social and civic activity

- But digital identity barely features on APEC's radar – except in finance

This year's research

- Research looks at the current digital identity landscape, potential benefits, and how to enable wider adoption and interoperability

- We are hugely grateful to ABAC colleagues for their thought-leadership, including ABAC Japan, ABAC PNG, ABAC Singapore and ABAC USA

Findings

- Potentially **large benefits**
  - People, business, economies

- Also **risks**
  - Privacy, cybersecurity, exclusion, misuse – COVID has made this more important

- The **landscape is fragmented**

- Digital identity does not need to be 'one size fits all' – but it does need to be **more coherent and ideally, interoperable**

3 challenges

1. How to design good systems in economies?
- Principles-based
- Partnership with business

2. How to increase uptake?
- Deepen awareness and digital literacy

Challenges cont./

3. How to achieve interoperability?

- Standards
- Regulatory alignment
- Mutual recognition
- Mechanisms for specific use-cases
- Digital Economy Agreements

Recommendations

- Economies should design digital identity systems that incorporate strong privacy and cybersecurity protections, are user-centric, and integrate inclusion, sustainability and interoperability – based on a set of coherent principles developed in APEC;

- Economies should engage closely with the private sector on the design and implementation of digital identity systems, and should foster an enabling and competitive business environment;

- Economies should engage on uptake and interoperability, including through strengthening awareness and digital literacy, and exploring interoperability mechanisms including mutual recognition and for specific use cases.