

Biometric screenings speeds up security process at US airports

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A new biometric screening program is now being offered at 24 airports around the US that may help speed up the security process, particularly useful as the busy holiday season travel time approaches.

The company name, Clear, says it all, and the company promises travelers, that by giving Clear access to their personal biometrics "waiting in security lines is a thing of the past".

Biometrics is a technology that verifies a person's identity through their fingerprints, facial features or other physical characteristics. Basically, the way Clear works is by confirming a traveler's identity through biometrics by a fingerprint scan or an iris scan of the eye. When Clear members arrive at an airport, they go through a dedicated Clear lane to a pod where they either scan their fingerprints on a fingerprint reader or look at a camera that can read iris images.

The company has its own dedicated security lines at 24 major US airports, and if your scan is a match, you're clear and can proceed to travel.

Presently, Clear is offered at 24 major US airports including Atlanta, Dallas, Houston, Miami, Orlando, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Dulles and Baltimore in the Washington, D.C. area, and La Guardia and Kennedy in New York.

The company confirmed that Clear membership does not replace TSA precheck. Clear members must still go through TSA screening. However, instead of heading to the end of the security line, members go directly to the TSA employee who checks their identification, once they have passed through Clear.

The company's clearance procedure is based on membership fee of US\$15 monthly fee, or US\$179 a year. Currently, the company offers a one-month free trial membership. Those interested can enroll online at clearme.com and then complete their application in person at an airport where Clear is offered.