Qualcomm Intros Ultrasonic Fingerprint Scanning

Written by Marco Attard
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Qualcomm reveals what it claims is a better means for fingerprint scanning at Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2015-- a technology using ultrasonic waves to "read" fingerprints in 3D dubbed "Snapdragon Sense ID."

The technology penetrates the dermal layers of fingers to identify the sweat glands and generate a detailed 3D map of user fingerprints. As a result it should be more accurate than current capacitive touch sensors and harder to fool.

Additionally Qualcomm claims it scans through "glass, aluminum, stainless steel, sapphire and plastics," making it easy to integrate in device design elements (such as bezels) without need for additional materials.

For further security the Sense ID verification process sits outside Android and uses a dedicated channel to communicate with the Qualcomm biometric technology. It is also compatible with the security protocols developed by the FIDO Alliance.

Snapdragon Sense ID first appears built-in the Snapdragon 810 and 425 mobile processors, but will also be available as a standalone component. The first devices carrying the technology should hit the market later during 2015.

Watch Snapdragon Sense ID Announcement

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