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Re-registering
Fingerprints

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Why do users have to re-register their fingerprints?

If you are wondering why a person's fingerprint would not match after an extended period of time? They do match, however, there are several factors that could make it difficult, or near impossible to confirm read the fingerprint.

1. Over time, our skin wrinkles and forms permanent creases. These may interfere with a comparison, obscuring the fine details needed to match the registered fingerprint against the current presented fingerprint.
2. Damage to the skin over time may do the same as wrinkles or creases. Scars form when skin is damaged to the point of bleeding, sometimes these scars go away over time, but the more severe ones last forever and can affect prints. For example, the skin could pucker making the ridges bend a bit as they place the finger on the reader or as much as shifting ridges out of place, or actually deleting a portion of the ridge, therefore erasing some of the minutiae (the fine details where ridges end/begin/split). Also, skin disorders such as eczema, warts, psoriasis, or dysplasia will damage the skin creating various aberrations on the surface.
3. The ridges could wear down, such as a bricklayer who would damage their fingerprints in their daily brick layering activity and over time making it difficult to get an accurate and clear impression of the fingerprints.

The recommendations are that should any of these factors be encountered the user's fingerprints should be re-registered.