

Biometric Consortium 2005 Conference

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Topic: Biometrics Alone Won't Do: Developing Holistic Identity Management Solutions

Abstract: American society is facing a barrage of identity management problems, and the question is can biometrics help or hurt? Problems include serious issues with Social Security numbers, credit card transactions, and travel documentation. While some may champion biometrics as the solution to personal authentication, identification, recognition and authorization concerns, this talk will show how biometrics can only partially solve these problems. Further, widespread deployment of biometrics can generate its own privacy concerns. What is needed are holistic systems in which biometrics are embedded with provable guarantees of appropriateness and utility. Biometrics with accompanying policy and technical infrastructures can allow society to reap potential benefits without introducing new problems or exasperating old ones. An example of a holistic solution to many identity management problems (the Sweeney Identity Phone) will be introduced and compared to the current identity management problems and to the application of biometric band-aids. The construction of holistic solutions can allow society to best reap the benefits of biometric protection.

Biography: Latanya Sweeney, PhD is an Associate Professor of Computer Science, Technology and Policy in the School of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University. She also founded and serves as the Director of the Data Privacy Lab, which works with real-world stakeholders to solve today's privacy technology problems. Her work involves creating technologies and related policies with provable guarantees of privacy protection while allowing society to collect and share person-specific information for many worthy purposes. Dr. Sweeney's work has received awards from numerous organizations, including the American Psychiatric Association, the American Medical Informatics Association, and the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association. Her work has appeared in hundreds of news articles, numerous academic publications, and was even cited in the original publication of the HIPAA Privacy Rule and the TAPAC report on TIA. Companies have licensed and continue to use her privacy technologies. Dr. Sweeney received her PhD in computer science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2001. More information is available at privacy.cs.cmu.edu/people/sweeney/index.html.