

**The 3rd International Conference on
Ethics and Policy of Biometrics and
International Data Sharing
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***Ethical Values for E-Society:
Information, Security and Privacy***

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Overview

1. Information explosion and its ubiquity

2. Biometrics as one form of information, whether direct or derived

3. The ethics of biometrics – normative or practical? Yours or mine?

4. The scope for ethics, policies and regulations is rapidly changing

5. Alternating between “Personal Computing” and “Cloud Computing”

6. Foundations for enhancing ethical values for an e-society in the HKSAR

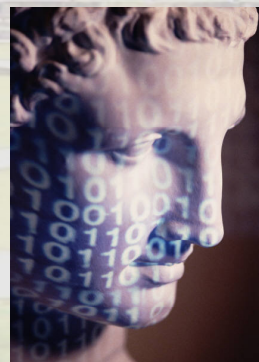
7. Importance of Security Risk Assessments & Privacy Impact Assessments

8. Concluding remarks



Information explosion and its ubiquity

- The rate of information generation and collection transcends our daily lives and business operation
- Information collection, use, distribution and inference take on many new forms
- Inter-related issues of information explosion, security, privacy and ethics can no longer be considered in isolation in various stages of technology innovation



Biometrics as one form of information, whether direct or derived

- Biometrics is directly linked with in-born, personal attributes
- This facilitates strong identification & authentication
- Misuse or abuse of the technology can cause serious problems on personal data privacy
- Increasing connectivity of electronic devices to the Internet, embedded with biometric-like functions
- “Derived” biometrics takes on additional meanings



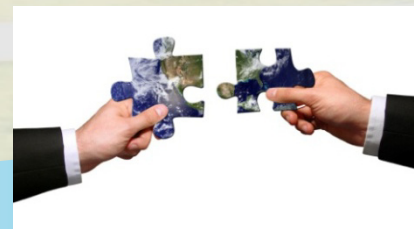
The ethics of biometrics – normative or practical? Yours or mine?

- Biometric products & solutions are under continuous development and the market is huge globally
- Biometrics is also increasingly taking on expanded meanings and contexts
- Security and privacy considerations stand out as major issues that affect adoption and governance
- Consideration from different angles will lead to different emphases
- A holistic approach when considering the ethical issues is called for



The scope for ethics, policies and regulations is rapidly changing

- The global ICT infrastructure is rapidly changing with major implications on user behaviours
- The notion of biometrics “belonging” to individually identified persons is changing with ICT advancements
- The scope for policies, regulations and ethics is fast changing as a result
- New applications of technology may lead to frequent and voluntary use of biometric data
- The scope for ethical and policy considerations becomes even more multifarious and complex



Alternating between “Personal Computing” and “Cloud Computing”

- There have been major and alternating changes in responsibilities for security, privacy and ethics in the past 30 years of ICT innovations
- From personal computing to cloud computing - from everything “personalized” to everything “available on demand”
- The roles of innovators, entrepreneurs, vendors, regulators and governments need to be redefined
- All parties have a role to play in every step of technology innovation



The foundations for enhancing ethical values for an e-society in the HKSAR

- Legal Framework – Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance & Electronic Transactions Ordinance
- The eHealth Initiative – electronic health record (eHR) sharing infrastructure
- Biometric applications and technologies
- General guidelines to facilitate wider use of biometrics exist, but additional ones for specific use can be developed
- Industry, academia and domain experts and regulatory bodies can collaborate on these



The importance of Security Risk Assessments and Privacy Impact Assessments

How to more effectively use/deploy biometrics?

- Fundamental respect for privacy designed into products, systems and solutions
- Better informed users and customers
- Better industry “norms”
- Better integration among systems, toolkits, processes and management practices
- More explicit but “business-friendly” guidelines and regulatory regimes
- Explicit and early conduct of Privacy Impact Assessments and Security Risk Assessments



Concluding remarks

- The fast developing nature of the enabling technologies of an e-society affects the very definition of biometrics, user behaviour, business models, etc
- If properly and timely addressed, the real and perceived concerns over ethical issues will take on new or different dimensions
- This will affect considerations on governance over data sharing, whether in the local or international context



Thank you



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