Biometrics

Rebecca Balebako
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Carnegie Mellon University CyLab



Engineering & Public Policy



Today's Agenda

- Quiz
- Discussion on Biometrics
- Field trip to Biometrics lab

By the end of class, you should be able to:

- Describe several types of biometrics and how they are used
- Reason about privacy concerns related to biometrics

Types of biometrics

- DNA
- Ear
- Iris matching
- Face recognition
- Fingerprint
- Gait
- Hand Geometry

- Odor
- Signature
- Typing patterns
- Voice recognition

Biometrics used for

- Authentication
 - One to one matching
- Identification
 - One to many matching

- Security
- Alternative to passwords

Privacy concerns of biometrics

- If your biometrics are stolen or compromised, can not be reset or replaced
- Can be detected without your cooperation
 - Surveillance
- Creation of databases with information
- Implicated in crimes

Other ethical concerns with biometrics

- Only as good as the initial identification
- Accuracy may differ in minority populations
- Trade-off between false-positive and falsenegative

Case Study

- Biometrics in national identity cards
 - Which biometric?
 - When is it issued (e.g. at birth)
 - Why?
 - Why not?