Definitions for NTIA Privacy Multistakeholder Facial Recognition

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Algorithm

A limited sequence of instructions or steps that directs a computer system how to solve a particular problem or perform a function.

Example of Algorithm: A facial recognition system will have multiple algorithms for: image processing, template generation, matching, etc.

Custodian

The entity or individual that holds Facial Recognition Data

Database

The facial recognition system's database or set of known subjects. May include biometric image and template data as well as biographic, demographic and other data.

Delete

To make unreadable Facial Recognition Data so that after deletion it cannot be used by reasonable means.

OR

To remove (something, such as words, pictures, or computer files) from a document, recording, computer, etc.

Encryption

The protection of data using reasonable means that have been generally accepted by experts in the field of information security, which renders such data unintelligible or unreadable.

Enroll

The process of storing and maintaining Facial Recognition Data.

Existing Privacy Laws and Regulations:

Any state or federal law or regulation that governs the collection or use of personal data from a Subject, where Facial Recognition Data could be considered one type of such data. These laws and regulations may include, but are not limited to, the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, the Children's Online Privacy Protection, the California Online Privacy Protection Act, the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, and state UDAP ("Unfair or Deceptive Acts or Practices") laws.

Facial Authentication

A task where the Facial Recognition System attempts to confirm an individual's claimed identity by comparing the template generated from a submitted face image with a specific known template generated from a previously enrolled face image. This process is also called one-to-one verification.

Facial Detection

A task where the Facial Recognition System distinguishes the presence of a human face without creating or deriving a Facial Template.

Facial Detection Software

Software used to detect the presence of a human face.

Example of Facial Detection: A store uses *facial detection* to more accurately count the number of people entering the store.

Facial Identification

Searching a database for a reference matching a submitted Facial Template and returning a corresponding identity.

Example of Facial Identification: A casino uses *facial identification* to ascertain the identity of a Subject who has entered the premises based on a photo database of known card counters.

Facial Recognition Data:

Data derived from the application of Facial Recognition Software, including Facial Template and associated metadata.

Facial Recognition Software:

Software used to compare the visible physical structure of an individual's face with a stored Facial Template.[1]

Facial Recognition System:

A system that uses Facial Recognition Software.

Facial Template:

A digital representation of distinct characteristics of a Subject's face, representing information extracted from a photograph using a facial recognition algorithm or Facial Template.

Facial Image

A photograph or video frame or other image that shows the visible physical structure of an individual's face

Operation of Facial Detection Software

Facial Detection Software is considered "in operation" when the process of Facial Detection is occurring.

Secure Storage of Information

Using commercially reasonable measures to secure information.

Share Information

The disclosure of information to an entity other than the User or Subject.

Subject:

The individual represented in a Facial Recognition System and/or a facial recognition database.[2]

Example of Subject: When gaining access to the apartment building, John became the *subject* of the building's Facial Recognition System.

Threshold

A user setting for Facial Recognition Systems for authentication, verification or identification. The acceptance or rejection of a Facial Template match is dependent on the match score falling above or below the threshold. The threshold is adjustable within the Facial Recognition System.

Entity using Facial Recognition

An entity that uses Facial Recognition Systems to Collect and/or Use Facial Recognition Data about Subjects.

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[2] Based on the NSTC definition of User, however, separated out to clarify the subject and the user are different.