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Request for Information on the National Cyber-Physical Systems Resilience Plan

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10/25/2024; anonymous and received via FDMS

Biometrics don't work. Refer to the latest USCCR report on this, about facial recognition. The official recommendation is to NOT use biometrics because they have very high error rates among POC and the elderly, and there are currently no biometric data use policies posted on the DHS website to deter privacy concerns. See https://www.usccr.gov/reports/2024/civil-rights-implications-federal-use-facial-recognition-technology With respect to FRT accuracy and bias, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) testing is voluntary and represents laboratory—not real-world—results. Thus, NIST cannot say that its evaluated programs are accurately representative of the performance of all FRT deployed throughout the country. Algorithmic accuracy rates can vary widely among developers, but even with the highest-performing algorithms, tests have shown there are likely to be false positives for certain demographic groups, specifically Black people (particularly Black women), people of East Asian descent, women, and older adults. A promising FRT testing model does exist: DHS, through its Science and Technology Directorate, funds FRT research, testing, and evaluation at MdTF, which specializes in “scenario testing” of the entire FRT system as it is intended to be deployed. DHS is the only agency known to be testing FRT in this way. Any agency using FRT should have a publicly available use policy. If agencies do use FRT, they should audit their use to ensure it complies with government policy. FRT vendors providing the federal government with solutions should provide users with ongoing training, technical support, and software updates to ensure their systems can maintain high accuracy across demographic groups in real-world deployment contexts. Furthermore, agencies should ensure their CAIOs work in close coordination with existing responsible officials and organizations within their organizations, including Civil Rights and General Counsel offices, to advise and update agency FRT guidance, implementation, and oversight. Federal grantees using FRT should provide verified results with respect to accuracy and performance across demographics from NIST’s FRT Evaluation or similar government-validated third-party test.