Yoti Guardians Council Meeting
20th April, 2022

Attendance: See Table at end
Date: 20th April 11-12

Location: Google Hangout and at Yoti offices
Recorder: J.Dawson

Agenda	
● Social Purpose team expansion ● Guardians Minutes updated ● Guardians presentations to Yoti ● Internal Privacy & Ethics Group review - use of facial age estimation for sensitive use cases ● Facial age estimation next steps ● Guardians feedback on how we've been running, role spec and recruitment target list, interview outline and process	
Carry Over Actions from Past Meetings:	**STATUS UPDATE**
○ Continue the recruitment for new Guardians. ○ The Guardians are working on developing the paper gathering the story of our Founding Guardians after six years of involvement in the founding of the Council.	
Actions from this Meeting:	**OWNER**
○ Keep Guardians abreast of Social Purpose statement progress ○ Plan Roundtable, with Guardians participation ○ Invite Guardians to future family meetings ○ Reshare updated Guardians Candidates target list, terms of reference, role specification ○ Draft Yoti tech deployment guidelines	○ KB ○ JD ○ JD ○ JD
Next Council meeting: June 28th, 2022	

Welcome	Meeting began at 11.00
	Welcome to Ken Banks, Head of Social Purpose at Yoti and previous Yoti Guardian who during 2022, until a new Chair is nominated from the wider Guardians Council, will pick up the reins to chair the Council Meetings.
Yoti Social	**Topic: Social Purpose Team**

Yoti Guardians Council Meeting
20th April, 2022

Purpose team expansion	• We are delighted to announce that the company has made a commitment of budget (1% of revenue) to the social purpose team; which is enabling the team to expand and plan a fuller programme of work for 2022-2023 year. A new recruit will join in May. **Discussion:** There has been healthy discussion as to what has been achieved over the last 2 years during Covid, based on the previously outlined Social Purpose Strategy Framework[1] (as published on the Yoti website). This is now being reviewed to work out the next steps. An internal group of staff will be convening to discuss the Social Purpose statement for the company. Many of the opportunities that have come up over the last couple of years can now be better explored, given new capacity.
Guardians Minutes	The Yoti website has been overhauled and now the full set of Yoti Guardians Minutes, since 2016 have been made available on www.yoti.com - see the public link **https://www.yoti.com/ethical-framework/** In addition the role and code of conduct are available for download. We know that the Guardians Council model has inspired other organisations (e.g. Togetherall formerly Big White Wall (https://www.yoti.com/wp-content/uploads/YotiGuardians_Role_and_Code.pdf) and we hope that the sharing of these documents will encourage more companies to go down this route.
Guardians presentations to Yoti staff	We have piloted a format of inviting Guardians individually to present to Yoti staff at the fortnightly Yoti family meeting. The objective is for them firstly to explain their role on the Guardians Council, how that experience has been for them and secondly to explain their wider activities outside of Yoti, for which they were selected as leading experts in their fields. A Q&A session after the presentation offers staff the opportunity to pose further questions. Given positive feedback from the first session, we plan to continue this and to schedule to invite other Guardian Council members to participate in future.
Internal Privacy & Ethics Group review	To recap, Yoti's internal privacy and ethics group is composed of staff in all teams across the company. The meetings are held under Chatham House rules. Staff can suggest topics for review. The group regularly can review actual or hypothetical scenarios. The group considered inclusive communications to minors and adults about facial age estimation, building on the work undertaken following the UNICEF policy guidelines of explaining AI to children[2]. It considered the downstream use of technology by public and private sector clients. It considered the positive and negative intended and unintended consequences of deployment of facial age estimation in the context of sensitive deployments such as immigration. The Guardians suggested that Yoti consider building a set of guiding principles for our product deployment to approach working with and in countries or areas that may pose challenges - e.g. on sanctions lists, where there are human rights abuses or LGBTQ intolerance…. We may have to weigh up the pros and cons of benefits to citizens, versus utility to public or private sector

---

[1] https://www.yoti.com/blog/yoti-social-purpose-strategy/

[2]

https://www.unicef.org/globalinsight/media/1171/file/UNICEF-Global-Insight-policy-guidance-AI-children-draft-1.0-2020.pdf

	organisations.
Facial age estimation next steps	The white paper is soon to be updated - it will be available on this page (https://www.yoti.com/blog/yoti-age-white-paper/) Our key focus has been 1. reducing bias re skin tone 2 & 3 relative to skin tone 1 2. improving accuracy for females 3. improving accuracy of young people 6-20 given that under 18s are the key area of regulatory focus 4. extending the algorithm's age range to span from 6-70 We have made improvements in MAE in the under 6s and 10-19. This was one of two key objectives. The algorithm has reduced bias overall. The algorithm shows improvements in both (a) gender equality by improved performance for females and (b) skin tone equality by improved performance for skin tones 2 and 3 (though it has a very small deterioration for skin tone 1 male). This was the second of our key objectives. There is a large improvement in accuracy for the age ranges 31-46 and 58-70. We have added 60-70 because there are organisations who are beginning to signal that they want to know if some adults are older than 60 years for older person entitlements. It is hard to compare the results in our previous white paper against the results of the new algorithm (because they are tested against different datasets). So we are reflecting and consulting on the topic of amending our data retention policy for our test data to allow a comparison of algorithms over a longer period. We are planning a 4th Roundtable for regulators and child safety experts and we will invite the Guardians to chair and participate. Proposed topics for the Round Table are likely to include: ● How the AI has progressed in accuracy and in range ● New platform deployments for the AI - including on device ● New use cases, e.g. parental consent mechanism ● Review of key data protection elements, e.g. not unique recognition or 'special category' data ● Regulatory approvals ● The education resources available based on the Unicef policy guidance on AI for children, so that young people can understand: 　○ How age estimation is built, including training, tagging, testing. 　○ The ethical considerations, including dataset consent, diversity, transparency, no recognition just analysing an image - when it estimates age) 　○ Where the technology can help keep young people safe. ● Next steps in terms of research
Guardians feedback on how we've been running, role spec and recruitment	The Guardians were invited to add comments to the public facing Guardians Council Terms of Reference and Role Specification. A sizeable list of potential candidates has been gathered from the current and recent Guardians. The Guardians were invited to contribute any further suggestions to the target list of potential future Guardians Council Candidates.

Yoti Guardians Council Meeting
20th April, 2022

target list, interview outline and process	

Adjournment	The meeting was called to a close at 12.00

Meeting Attendance													
Guardians						Yoti Staff							
Gavin Starks	●					Robin Tombs	●						
Seyi Akiwowo	◯					Julie Dawson	●						
						Ken Banks	●						

● = in attendance   ◯ = absent/ apologies   ⊠ = Not scheduled to attend