Yoti Guardians Council Meeting
28th June, 2022

Attendance: See Table at end
Date: 28th June 3-5pm

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

Agenda	
- Approve Previous Guardians Minutes - Internal Privacy & Ethics Group review steps from last meeting - Facial age estimation - debrief Roundtable, research - Social Purpose Action Plan - Guardians interview outline and process for next stages	
Carry Over Actions from Past Meetings:	**STATUS UPDATE**
○ Continue the recruitment for new Guardians.	
Actions from this Meeting:	**OWNER**
○ Next stage review of new Guardians ○ Contact non profits recommended by Guardians re online verification ○ Consider CODES (Coalition for Digital Environmental Sustainability), share crisis response findings, consider wider funding for Yoti Fellowships	○ KB ○ KB ○ KB ○ KB ○ KB ○ JD ○ JD
Next Council meeting: June 28th, 2022	

Welcome	Meeting began at 3pm
	The April Minutes were approved. Until a new Chair is nominated from the wider Guardians Council, Ken will be picking up the reins to chair the Council Meetings.
Yoti Social	The Guardians welcomed the new recruit who joined the Social Purpose Team in May.

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Purpose team expansion	**Discussion:** At the last meeting, the Guardians discussed 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). Today the Guardians, discussed the ensuing Social Purpose Action Plan; where the focus is on supporting the overall digital identity ecosystem and building the right kind of tools. An update was given on each of the 8 commitments and going forwards there will be updates as to progress against the commitments. Based on the current Social Purpose budget, of 1% revenue, a reduced Fellowship programme is being considered for 2023, as is the option to potentially seek wider funding for this programme. The team were encouraged to consult with NGOs and to consider how best to extend Yoti's data set to support new use cases for facial age estimation. They advised to go slowly, research carefully to see what is deemed useful, not launch overnight. The team are considering ways to support Afrilabs innovation hubs with the generic digital identity toolkit. Academic partners may be one route for Yoti's offline identity solution, Yoti Keys to be picked up and made available on an open source basis. We would like to make it straight forward for any NGO to access the research to date, a simple info sheet, download the source code and get started with Yoti Keys. They were presented to Newcastle faculty where we are a partner of the Centre for Digital Citizens. An external report has been commissioned to review crisis response from an expert working in Madagascar and across other disaster zones, to better equip Yoti as to how we could support such circumstances. This may be for both aid workers, authorities in neighbouring countries and local people on the ground trying to engage with bona fide support structures. The Yoti African Conservative Challenge has showcased how verified identities can support civil and respectful communication online in a closed user group of invited individuals. Early results are positive and being monitored. We hope this could enable other closed networks of individuals to have conversations with civility. Currently Yoti is integrated into the login process and the website is run on buddipress/wordpress. The Guardians thought this approach could be game-changing and requested that results from this work be shared with a number of non profits working in this field who are concerned with how abuse online is silencing positive debate and participation. Going forward this could be available as [as a wordpress plugin, php, mysql]. In the current approach a full Yoti is required - however going forwards a lighter option would be to allow just a face and mobile phone number to be used, as a remember me ID. There could be an option via identity verification to allow the upload of local, non governmental ID. An internal group of staff from across teams convened recently to discuss a Social Purpose statement for Yoti. A shortlist of around a dozen ideas were generated, and will be taken to the next stage of the process (further internal workshops, and so on). A Yoti drafted social purpose pledge was discussed, inspired by the CDR Manifesto. The Guardians questioned whether a Yoti produced pledge would inspire confidence, if external organisations were not reviewing Yoti compliance against the pledge - in the same way that our BCorps compliance is audited biannually, and others e.g. accredited Living Wage employer, Fair Tax Mark. The Guardians asked us to reflect which is the best home for this type of pledge. The Guardians asked if we have considered how Yoti's work can fit with the CODES (Coalition for Digital Environmental Sustainability) action plan from the UN, led by DJ 'understood as the design, development, deployment and regulation of digital technologies to accelerate environmentally and socially sustainable development while mitigating risks and unintended consequences.'

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

	The Guardians asked for us to repeat in our plan and communications the basis and rationale for our social purpose work; why has Yoti chosen to do it, which of its original principles does it meet, why is Yoti committed, what do staff value about our social purpose work.
Guardians presentations to Yoti staff	Dates are being offered for the next Guardian Council member to brief Yoti staff on their role and wider work.
Internal Privacy & Ethics Group review	The Yoti's internal privacy and ethics group explained the challenge faced by our Security Operations and fraud teams of when new identity documents are issued to the public by a government, but no template of what an authentic document's security features are, is made available. [details not made public for security reasons] An update on next steps will be shared with the Guardians
Guardians feedback on how we've been running, role spec and recruitment target list, interview outline and process	The Guardians had been 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. The Guardians requested Yoti to reflect on what it found most useful in terms of support from the Guardians, to consider the current skill sets and gaps, in the light of Yoti's growth and direction over the next 4 years. The Guardians Council when it was founded was supporting a pre revenue business with under 100 members of staff, it was laying the ground rules. It was requested to table a one hour 'extraordinary session' to review the profiles.
Facial age estimation Roundtable	Facial age estimation - debrief of the 4th Roundtable on AI Age Estimation - we ran out of time for this update; so a written update was provided. We welcomed over 60 attendees from 12 countries including 6 regulators, 16 NGOs dealing with child safety, data & AI, 4 universities, several representatives from global platforms and consultancies. Thanks again to GS for facilitating exchange with the participants and keeping us on track with these initiatives.

Adjournment	The meeting was called to a close at 17.05

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

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