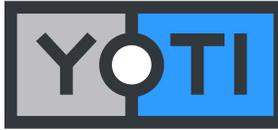**Yoti Guardians Council Meeting**
External Minutes
Q1 2023
21-03-2023

YOTI GUARDIAN COUNCIL MEETING
External Minutes Q1 2023

Attendance: See Table at end
Date: 21/03/2023 -15.00/17.00

Location: Google Hangout
Primary recorder: VD
With edits by: KB

Agenda	
- Approve the internal minutes from the last meeting. - For feedback - How should Yoti engage with some US Bills and Acts for the protection of minors online in the United States that are tied with with the access to adult content. - For information Yoti's preparation for 'Good-AI' legislation. - Client request to review racial bias - Guardians next stage of Recruitment	
Carry Over Actions from Past Meetings:	**STATUS UPDATE**
○ To reach out to previous Guardian re: getting in touch re proposed/nominated Guardian candidates	Resolved
Actions from this Meeting:	**STATUS UPDATE**
○ Guardians to read document covering Yoti's preparation for the 'Good AI' legislation (for information only)	In progress
Next Council meeting: 27th June, 2023	

Summary notes from the meeting are provided below, with points of agreement and actions clearly noted.

Welcome 15.00	Quick rounds of introductions, update and a welcome to our latest new Guardian.
1. Update on Actions from Past Meetings *15.00 -15.36*	- News shared from the newsletter including closing the initial funding (£10m convertible loan) with Lloyds. The goal is to close the Series B funding round by April 2023. Funding is a positive outcome that might help attract trade investors in particular. - Silicon Valley Bank buyout (and other financial provider news) creating a less than favourable environment for investors. - Yoti has been awarded NIST level 2 - New age estimation model is due in the next 10 days - aimed at furthering the reduction in bias around skin colour. - UK legislation is still not well aligned on digital identity (only positive is that for RTW and DBS 30 companies are certified, and it is working well both for businesses and individuals) - The Australian government, after a major data breach, is gearing up to digitalise identity document to limit data breaches - Minutes from the previous meeting on 18th January, 2023 were approved.

Topic
 	
"How should Yoti engage with some US Bills and Acts for the protection of minors online in the United States that are tied with with the access to adult content."
 	
15.36-16.36
	Presentation:
	
	- Briefing on the content of the bills
	- What is Yoti is doing:
	    - Yoti provides some services to certain sectors to comply with legislation (we have a tiered business principle approach for engagement).
	    - The sector is favourable to age checks. Businesses are keen, and motivated, to comply with legislation.
	
	Discussion:
	
	The Guardians
	
	- Concerned about the implications and meanings of these bills.
	- Definition of a reputational risk, are there any precedents on this?
	- There is one Yoti precedent with not engaging: Guardians previously cautioned against Yoti getting involved with elections in the US
	- The same principle could be applied, keeping in mind Yoti's principles : to make Yoti available to anyone, act in the interest of the users, and keep the community safe (the difference here is that with voting Yoti was an enabler here. Yoti is helping a certain sector comply with the legislation.)
	- Mitigation: transparency.
	
	The Guardians
	- What is the high road?

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Yoti staff. provided some examples to answer the question posed by the Guardians
- Yoti is collaborating with some sites around consented model videos and a full ID check + consent form (preventing underage access and content upload) with a quick integration into the portal with technical solutions to pick up on problematic activity.
- Yoti should not become the "moral guardian" in these issues.

The Guardians
- Yoti needs to walk a fine line between 'enabling' and 'protecting'. it is important for Yoti to anchor any decision by going back to its principles: to act in the interest of the users, and keep the community safe.
- Whatever it chooses, Yoti should be open, honest and transparent about its policy.
- Yoti could facilitate a roundtable about this issue (the positives outweigh the negatives in this case). Transparency and consistency are key. Yoti should remain neutral around state (or country) level policy and engagement should be based on objective decisions based on neutral facts.

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Topic

"What more can Yoti do to improve approaches to diversity in Security Centre decisions"

16.36-16.47

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Presentation:

  A. Presented the issue
- Yoti is helping a client with vetting and checking for RTW.
- Concerns have been raised about how Yoti tests for racial bias in its human decisions to approve/reject a user when going through identity checks to undertake a Right To Work check.
- Yoti will have a meeting with their internal legal team and data protection officer to determine how to best evaluate this (Yoti has no data it could use to determine whether there is bias or not).
- Guardians received an explanation of Yoti's process around identity checking.

Discussion:

The Guardians discussed
- What is the definition of racial bias? How could Yoti be at risk of racial bias? (It was argued that the argument that there may be bias was a bit vague, and perhaps it masks a wider problem in the client's recruitment process).

Reply from R.
- All manual face matching is undertaken at Yoti security centre. We employ super recognisers. That said, the majority of checkers are of Asian ethnicity. Opinions in some quarters argue that people are generally better at face matching to the same skin tone, or possibly even gender, but does this happen in reality? Yoti does not have the answer, but might be able to do some research (supported by established literature) as an internal exercise.

Reply from A. (clarification of the question posed by the client)

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- The question posed by the client to Yoti is: is Yoti's Security Centre taking more time, using a different process, or rejecting more people with a specific skin tone than for others?
- From research conducted internally, it was concluded that there is no known pattern or issue within the Security Centre which points to any actual bias taking place at present.

R. further clarifies
- Yoti should carry out periodic internal cross-checking to ensure that (informally) Yoti's security checks continue to be bias free.
- This test could be extended to include actual data from users, with their consent.
- Yoti could commission an independent party to test for bias with manual checkers;

The Guardians were in agreement and supported further internal testing of this issue.
The Guardians suggest clearly defining the term "race" in future to avoid misunderstanding; which came from the client's question..

Yoti agreed and the Guardians supported the company in agreeing on a glossary of definitions of terms around the topic of skintone bias.
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Topic

"Guardians next stage of Recruitment"

16.47-17.00
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Presentation:
- Nominations from R. have been very hard to contact (we've been trying to get hold of them for about four months now).
- The suggestion is to pause attempts to try and reach out those nominations.
- The question: Should we now try a different approach to recruiting new Guardians?

Discussion:

The Guardians
- Should the current Guardians reach out to potential candidates they personally know to help boost the recruitment process?

Yoti staff & Guardians. reply
- We need to think and plan carefully before approaching any candidates in their networks. We don't want people to feel rejected if their nomination isn't taken forward.
- Yoti needs skills diversity in the Council, and a reasonable geographical spread, so this should be taken into account when compiling a shortlist of nominations.
- The Guardians made the point that Guardians should reach out to prospective Guardians in a friendly, informal way. This initial phase is not meant to be a formal recruitment process.

The Guardians
- Shared their experiences about the recruitment process.
- Shared best practices about the recruitment process.

The Guardian Convenor will follow up with an email around: skills needed, best practices, and likely process.
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Topic	For information
"Good AI Preparation"	- Yoti is developing and rolling out a workshop about the upcoming legislation about 'Good AI'
Adjournment	The meeting was called to a close at 17.00.

Meeting Attendance

Meeting Dates							Yoti Staff								
Gavin Starks	●						Robin Tombs	●							
Seyi Akiwowo	●						Julie Dawson	●							
Danny Whitehorne	●						Ken Banks	●							
Valentina Dotto	●						Ana Castanheira	●							
Jerry Michalski	●														

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