

“Age Verification, Free Speech, and Privacy”

Conversation Guided By

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My (Idiosyncratic) Definitions

Term	Definition
Age Authentication	Genus descriptor
Age Assurance	
Age Estimation	Determine age within an error band
Age Verification	Determine age precisely
Age Gating	Self-reporting

Age Authentication Options (selected)

- Visual inspection
- Document inspection
 - Zero-knowledge proofs
- Data mining
- Social vouching
- [Not credible: capacity testing, credit cards, self-reporting]
- Special problems with parental authentication

Authenticator Identity

- Publisher/service (home-brewed)
- Third-party service
- App store
- Device seller

13 Objections to Mandatory Online Age Authentication

- 1) Authentication invades consumer privacy
- 2) Children will devalue privacy
- 3) Data disclosures create security risks
- 4) Children will cheat the authentication
- 5) Children will switch to riskier Internet areas
- 6) Children won't prepare for their digital futures
- 7) Children blocked from beneficial Internet usage
- 8) Some heterogeneous subpopulations hurt by the compelled blocks
- 9) Authentication increases services' costs & reduces their revenues => exit
- 10) Reduced competition among publishers/services = higher costs, lower quality, less dynamism
- 11) More paywalls, deeper digital divides
- 12) Loss of unattributed speech
- 13) Infrastructure will be coopted for increased government surveillance and control

“I view mandatory age authentication as the single biggest regulatory threat to Internet freedom”

Conversation Starters

- What opportunities are created by increased age authentication?
- What challenges are posed by increased age authentication?
- How are you deciding which age authentication method to use? How are you navigating vendor selection?
 - How are you handling erroneous classifications?
- How are you coping with heterogeneous statutory requirements?
 - Under what circumstances does it make more sense to geoblock rather than comply?
- How are you keeping up with new statutory obligations?
- Are there better approaches to child welfare online than segregate-and-suppress?