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The Business of Identity Management

## Legal Person: Humans, Clones, Virtual and Physical AI Robotics – New Privacy Principles



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## Note to Reader I:

I have been writing about rethinking civil registration systems since 2006

- [“The Challenges with Identity Verification”](#)

Over the last several months, I have written 15 papers. Here’s a listing of them, by subject area, with links to each one:

- Example story of an identity’s lifecycle
  - [The Identity Lifecycle of Jane Doe](#)
- One-page summary
  - [New Age Identity– Privacy in the Age of Human Clones & Robotics](#)
- New laws required to do this
  - [“Why We Need to Rethink Our Vital Stats Laws”](#)
  - [“Why Your Digital Consent Matters – Including Sex”](#)
  - [“Why We Need New Biometric Laws Protecting Our Privacy”](#)
- What the new age civil registration/vital stats service does and doesn’t do
  - [“New Age Vital Statistics/Civil Registration Services: What They Do and Don’t Do”](#)
- Leveraging Blockchain and Sovrin
  - [“A Modern Identity Solution: New Age Vital Stats/Civil Registries, Self-Sovereign Identity, Blockchain, Kantara User Managed Access & EMP Resistant Data Centres”](#)
- Protecting the civil registration/vital stats infrastructure
  - [“When Our Legal Identity System Goes “Poof!”](#)
- Separating vital stats services/databases from other identity authentication services
  - [“Architecture Summary”](#)
- Creating Estonia Version 2.0
  - [“Creating Estonia Version 2.0 – Adjusting for Changes From 1999 to 2018”](#)
- Rethinking identity assurance using new age vital stats
  - [“New Age Identity Assurance – Turning it on its Head”](#)
- Rethinking Civil Registrations in Remote Locations
  - [“Where Shit Happens - Rethinking Civil Registrations in Remote Locations”](#)
- New Age Civil Registration/Vital Stats Design, Implementation & Maintenance Vision
  - [“Guy’s New Age Civil Registration/Vital Stats Design, Implementation & Maintenance Vision”](#)
- Robotics, Clones and Identity
  - [I’m Not a Robot](#)
  - [Legal Person: Humans, Clones, Virtual and Physical AI Robotics – New Privacy Principles](#)

All papers are available off my website at <http://www.hvl.net/papers.htm>.

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**Note to Reader II:**

This paper deals with the privacy principles and issues of legally identifying people, robots and clones.

## Legal Person: Humans, Clones, Virtual and Physical AI Robotics – New Privacy Principles

The old question “Who am I?” has taken us, as a society, legally down many roads. The definition of a “legal person” is complicated.

If one reads the Wikipedia on “legal person” ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legal\\_person](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legal_person)), one quickly learns that there are “natural persons” and “judicial persons”.

“Natural persons”( [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural\\_person](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_person) ) can, in some jurisdictions be legally defined before a person is born while in many other jurisdictions, it begins when a person is born (i.e. commonly birth registration and issuance of a birth certificate). Judicial persons([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juridical\\_person](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juridical_person) ) are non-human legal entities are “authorized by law with duties and rights and is recognized as a legal and as having a distinct identity”.

For the last couple of hundred years, our societies have used paper-based documents/civil registration systems, like birth certificates, to legally identify someone and issued paper-based certificates to incorporate legal entities. The point of this post is that this no longer works. Why? The advent of human cloning, virtual/physical robots and technology to easily duplicate paper-based registrations.

We need a new framework. One that can legally differentiate:

- Real people from each other
- Real people from human clones
- Human clones from each other
- Real people from robots either humanoid or virtual
- Humanoid robots from each other
- Virtual robots from each other

This is not a tweak of existing old school technology. It requires us to rethink the underlying legal framework of who we are.

Let me potentially muddy the waters even further. Using one’s imagination, it’s not hard to envision a future where:

- Physical robots create their own virtual robots
- Virtual robots create physical robots
- Physical robots are merged, via genetic engineering, with human biometrics

This puts the cat amongst the legal identity pigeons.

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I've been asking myself this dumb question "How are we going to be able to differentiate all of the above, legally speaking, whilst still protecting privacy?"

Note that I said "privacy" and not "our privacy" or "human privacy". Why? Because in the future, one can see that robots will likely require their privacy as well. So, yes, it's very complicated.

Before crafting a new legal framework, FIRST, we need privacy principles. Here's my suggestions for discussion:

- A person is able to have multiple personas either physical and/or digital
- A person is able to have one or more virtual selves
- A person is able to have one or more physical robots
- A person should have ways of anonymously identifying themselves
- Virtual selves should have ways of anonymously identifying themselves
- Physical robots should have ways of anonymously identifying themselves
- A person or physical robot should have the right to live off the grid
- When a physical person, interacts with government or financial enterprises, there should only be one physical identity per person
- When a physical robot or, group of robots acting together, without being tied to a human person, interacts with government or financial enterprises, there should be a legal definition of personhood that applies to them and their actions
- When a physical robot or, group of robots acting together interacts with humans and/or other robots and/or each other in ways that requires applying to laws, there should be a legal definition of personhood that applies to them and their actions
- When a physical robot is acting on behalf of a person, there should be a legal definition of personhood that applies to them and their actions and is tied, legally speaking, to a physical person
- When a virtual self or, group of virtual selves, interacts with government or financial enterprises, there should be a legal definition of personhood that applies to them and their actions and is tied, legally speaking, to a physical person
- When virtual robots exist, that are not tied to a physical person, interacts with government or financial enterprises, there should be a legal definition of personhood that applies to them and their actions
- When a virtual robot or, group of virtual robots acting together interacts with humans and/or other robots and/or each other in ways that requires applying to laws, there should be a legal definition of personhood that applies to them and their actions

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## Summary

The suggestions above need to be debated and agreed upon between all countries in the world. It does no good if one country creates their own. Why? Because in today's world, people and robots, both real and virtual can easily move around across borders.

I'm not a legal expert. However, what I am is an identity guy (pun intended) who acts as a catalyst to assemble people, across disparate enterprises, to create identity systems that work and maintain themselves. Before creating new systems, WE, AS A PLANET, NEED TO TALK ABOUT THIS.

It is the underpinnings of our ethics as we move forward. Once we can come to terms with a list of privacy principles, then we can assemble the legal and technical experts to determine how we're going to implement this.

We need to create a legal framework that is flexible. Why? The pace of scientific and technical change can quickly render today's legal solution as tomorrow's obsolete one. Thus, countries need to work together to determine a framework where changes can be relatively quickly made and then implemented.

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**About the Author**

Guy Huntington is a veteran identity architect, program and project manager who's lead as well as rescued many large identity projects with many of them involving identity federation. His past clients include Boeing, Capital One, Kaiser Permanente, WestJet, Government of Alberta's Digital Citizen Identity and Authentication Program and Alberta Blue Cross. As one of his past clients said "He is a great find, because he is able to do high quality strategic work, but is also well-versed in project management and technical details, so he can traverse easily from wide to deep. With Guy, you get skills that would typically be encompassed in a small team of people."

