

From: [REDACTED] (HOME)
Sent: mercredi 6 mars 2019 13:54
To: [REDACTED] MUSCHEL Laurent (HOME);
HOME DG ASSISTANTS; HOME DIR D; ONIDI Olivier (HOME); [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] HOME NOTIFICATIONS D4
Subject: FW: Meeting with Prof Farid (PhotoDNA)

Dear colleagues,

[Professor Farid](#), the creator of PhotoDNA in collaboration with Microsoft, answered questions from colleagues from CNECT ([REDACTED], e-Privacy unit), LS ([REDACTED]), JUST ([REDACTED], Fundamental Rights Unit) and HOME ([REDACTED], cybercrime and child sexual abuse unit).

Main insights:

- Error rates:
 - Rates of false positives are estimated at no more than 1 in 50 billion.
 - The tool has been in use for 10 years (currently by more than 150 organisations), during which the tool has analysed hundreds of billions of images without concerns about error rates.
 - NCMEC receives millions of reports from US providers (18.3 million in 2018, growing exponentially). 90% of these reports are detected through PhotoDNA in a reliable way.
- Privacy:
 - Emails and non-encrypted messages are already scanned for viruses and spam, as well as for CSAM.
 - The scanning through PhotoDNA does not read the body of the message, extracts any personal data for further processing nor any other information affecting fundamental rights. It simply converts the images into a hashes and compares the hashes. If there is no match no information is retained.
- Uses:
 - NCMEC's licensing agreement to other organisations legally forbids them from using it for other purposes other than the detection of CSAM.
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - The PhotoDNA algorithm has not made public on purpose, to prevent that criminals develop countermeasures to avoid detection by PhotoDNA.
- Microsoft involvement:
 - Microsoft gave the tool royalty-free to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), to which US providers are mandated by law to report child sexual abuse material (CSAM) that they may find in their networks. NCMEC provides the tool to the other organisations through a licensing agreement.

- o Microsoft does not receive any money through PhotoDNA, not does Prof Farid. [REDACTED]

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Policy Officer – Fight Against Cybercrime and Child Sexual Abuse



European Commission

Directorate General for Migration and Home Affairs

Unit D4: Cybercrime

[REDACTED]

What we do: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/organized-crime-and-human-trafficking/cybercrime/index_en.htm

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 12:24 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Meeting with Prof Farid (PhotoDNA)

Thanks for the invite, unfortunately not possible for me today, but please send us a readout

-----Original Appointment-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 12:14 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Meeting with Prof Farid (PhotoDNA)
When: mardi 5 mars 2019 14:10-15:00 (UTC+01:00) Brussels, Copenhagen, Madrid, Paris.
Where: EC ROOM BERL -1/ME28 VIDEOCONF (15P)