# ACCANect 2018

**Session 9: 12:00 – 12:10pm**

**Midas Touch: Consumer Implications of the Use of Smartphone Biometric Data**

**Presenter: Jelena Ardalic, Assistant Policy Officer, ACCAN**

**This session will take a look at the work completed by Jelena Ardalic as part of her Google Internship with ACCAN. Smartphone technology allows us to carry a computer in our pocket, but what happens to all of the data that is collected while we go about our normal daily lives? The consumer implications raised in this research report will be presented, along with some practical tips on how to get ‘off-grid’.**

JULIE McCROSSIN: I'd like to invite up now Teresa Corbin the CEO

from ACCAN who is going to give us a brief indication of some work done by Google intern called Jelena Ardalic on reporting consumer implications on the use of

smartphone biometric data. Please welcome Teresa back?

TERESA CORBIN: I'm doing this on behalf of Jelena, this is also a

plug for our Google internship which I think - she's our fourth intern.

So every year and hopefully just about to start discussion about

doing this again, but every year we put out to students, people

finishing off a degree, to come and work with us for three to six

months and Google pays their salary which is fantastic, usually it's a

part-time arrangement and we put out a list of topics and they do

an expression of interest. Her topic was on biometrics and looking at

Australia's attitudes to that so you can get her report from today on

our website and it's called the Midas touch, another Greek reference

here, so as some of you will remember the Midas touch was good

and bad and I think that summed up her report very well, finding

that people find biometrics very convenient but of course perhaps

we're jumping into something too quickly without thinking about all

the consequences. And the particular area that she looks at was our

use of fingerprints with smartphones to access our smartphones

because we all feel very comfortable doing it but she of course

there's lots of other examples, there's Tax Office using voice

recognition, we have our borders being controlled with facial

recognition now, if we have an e passport and of course there's lots

of policing applications of it too but she was particularly interested in

the mass use of it on our smartphones and she also highlights some

other survey results which showed that Australians in fact nearly

70% of Australians would be happy to use some form of biometrics

in relation to their banking records and their health records and

even welfare payments. Which was quite interesting that we

obviously trust this form of security quite strongly. But of course

one of the important things to point out about this is that your

biometrics can't be changed your password can. If you lose access,

if there's an access breach and your biometrics is shared in some

way and it had happened not on a smartphone at this point but

there has been some breaches in relation to facial recognition and

smartphones but not fingerprints then it's very difficult to change

that to move forward from that. Most of her recommendations

related to empowering consumers more about how they can make

the choices they make when they're using smartphones and

biometric data and how consumers can actually opt into that better

and also opt out of it readily if they need to and also just a warning

to us all to think about way weighing accessible of use, I'm not

talking about accessibility for people with disabilities but our

convenience, weighing that up with the potential of dangers and just

being made more fully aware of the days and she also was

concerned that potentially and this is something that Angelene from

the privacy commission might want to have a look at too is that she

was concerned that the current privacy legislation and protection

doesn't necessarily extend as far as smartphone biometrics, if you're

interested in that area, go and have a look at her report. Thank you.

JULIE McCROSSIN: Thank you very much. A round of applause for

fearless leader. (APPLAUSE)