

# Airline Security: Some Civil Liberties Considerations

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# Identity-based security is a flawed approach to airline safety

1. The logic of ID-based security is flawed
2. ID based security is not effective
3. Machine learning is no solution
4. ID-based security has bad side effects for privacy and other civil liberties

# 1. The logic of ID-based security

- Knowing someone's name  $\neq$  knowing their risk.
- Therefore you have to *learn* things about them.
- There is no limit to how much you'll want to learn.
- Even knowing an arbitrary amount about someone, there is no clear way to translate that into a risk assessment.
  - Criminal record?
- ID-based systems are not subject to feedback or testing.

## 2. Ineffective

- How to translate data into assessments?
- Attacks on aviation are black swan events.
- The sources of terrorism are not stable or unpredictable.
- There is no understood, predictable path toward individual “radicalization”

# 3. Machine learning is no solution

- This is not credit card fraud. There's not enough training data.
- There is no reliable relationship between internal mental states and measurable body signs
- Human life is far too complex — inside and out
  - Example: Emotion recognition study

# 4. Bad side effects for privacy & other civil liberties

- Ever-expanding government data collection
- Face recognition
- Government judging its own citizens
  - Piggypacking in other contexts
- A focus on identity documents & systems
- Unfair treatment
  - Where algorithms are flawed
  - Where they aren't
- Bias
  - Built into the algorithm
  - Filling vacuum of useless technology



# Thank you!

# Questions?

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