Kirra Salinas & John Delos Santos



Can your look-alike get into your iPhone?



Face to Face

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Throughout the development of Apple's iPhone technology, accessibility has changed over time to improve efficiency, from the standard number passcode, to Touch ID and now Facial recognition, but has it compromised security and reliability? Apples Face ID is a facial recognition technology which was introduced on the iphone X in 2017. This technology replaced Apple's Touch ID fingerprint scanning system for the latest models of the iPhone.

The technology which enables Face ID is some of the most advanced hardware and software Apple has ever created. The TrueDepth camera captures accurate facial data by projecting and analysing thousands of invisible dots to create a depth map of your face. FaceID automatically adapts to the changes in your appearance, such as wearing makeup or facial hair growth. FaceID is designed to recognise you even when wearing hats, scarves, glasses and sunglasses. Although Face ID was designed to recognise your face even with these changes, a local survey we conducted



said 60 percent of people aged 18-20 had experienced their Face ID fail to work or not recognise their face.

Is Face ID accurate and reliable? Considering Face ID is one of the most advanced technologies Apple has ever designed, you would expect it to be reliable and accurate, but can people that share similar features get into the same iPhone using Face ID? Okay there's not a massive chance that someone that looks like you will steal your iPhone, but what about siblings? Can look-alikes fool Apple's Face ID technology? We took a local survey and found 1 in 5 people have had their iPhone unlocked through Face ID with someone else's face. Two brothers on youtube found a bug in the Face ID technology which shows Face Id can actually be trained to recognise another person's face, by entering the correct PIN code after a failed face recognition attempt which basically tells Face ID that the "failed" face is actually correct. After several such attempts, Face ID will eventually learn to recognize the

other face as you and will unlock the phone for both faces.

The topic of data security has become much more prevalent in the modern day. Where some people are unaware or indifferent to the idea that their data is being collected for various purposes, those that are more concerned with the security of this data. Particular issues such as cyberattacks and security breaches that target user data, facial identification being part of the data, are all valid reasons for people to be protective of the information saved on their phones. This concern for data has led some feeling paranoid, believing that using Face ID is essentially giving a picture of their face to Apple to use for some nefarious purpose of some sort. The reality is, while technology is not 100% perfect, Apple has designed its products not to store Face ID in a way that can be stolen as the data never leaves the phone with this data being protected by a 'security' enclave' This face ID always updates when it is used so it is never 100% the same. However, as technology advances, so do

the methods to 'crack it open'. There is always the risk of a phone getting hacked, but in the sea of a million phones the possibilities of this happening are slim. People should be aware that Apple does still have some form of control over their data, whether it's to protect it or collect it is up to people to find out.

To be able to unlock your phone by having it identify one's face is an astounding achievement that shows just how far technology has come. It's designed to be secure and convenient. But in reality the whole Face ID system is not perfect. Bypasses, hardware errors and possibilities of hacks or data collection are all potential that come with using Facial ID. At the end of the day it's up to the user to decide to brave the risks of Face ID for the sake of convenience, or to avoid the whole system entirely. It is an advanced system that has its flaws, but it is still an outstanding feature of the iPhone that is still improving to this day.

1 in 5 people have had their iPhone unlocked by someone else's face



60% of people said their Face ID has failed to work/ didn't recognise their face



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40% preferred Touch ID over Face ID

