

sci.math: Re: [XPOST] A unique number for every "person" – can it be done?

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In message <slrnd24d3o.2712.willem@toad.stack.nl>, Willem
<willem@stack.nl> writes

> *Ioannis wrote:*

>) *The simplest idea I can come up with would be to find a way to*

>) *mathematically encode one's fingerprints, since they are unique*

>

> *Not absolutely unique, it's just that collisions are so unlikely that we
> can treat them as unique for present day purposes.*

...

The presumption that fingerprints are unique came about long before
computer databases were invented. I wonder how many distinct people have
had their fingerprints compared to test this assumption?

Surely identical twins would have identical fingerprints because they
would share the same DNA signature?

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Jeremy Boden