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Current Event

Current Events Article:

<http://www.livescience.com/53328-what-makes-a-smart-gun-smart.html>

This article is about the new technology, “smart gun”. What can prevent accidentally shooting? The answer that people come up probability would be “smart gun”. Obama had specific recommendations on federal actions designed to promote the development and commercialization of electronic gun-safety system. The “smart gun” should be an electronic personalized safety technology which a gun can be fired only by its authorized user, and in different scenarios, a gun could have different safety systems. Moreover, all “smart gun” must accomplish all three functions before starting fire which are identify authorized shooters, authenticate their credentials and then release the bock to the firing mechanism. Security is the big concern of an electronic product specially for a weapon like “smart gun”. Therefore, a wireless Radio Frequency Identification is built into the gun and serves the role of authenticator. If it generates a signal that activates the RFID tag which respond with an embedded code is a match, then the weapon can function normally If you think this is not secure enough, the “smart gun” would also have biometric authentication systems which can eliminate the physical token. Counterfeit or otherwise transferred can’t be taken without permission. Today, the primary attribute used in biometric system is fingerprints. One fingerprint sensors rely on capacitance imaging of the fingerprint. Other fingerprint sensors rely on thermal imaging. Now, we have other types of biometric security being explored which vascular biometrics that detect the blood vessel structure below the skin surface. In biometric systems, people may consider failure of the identification algorithm. By experiment, the recognition rates for fingerprint detectors have been claimed to be as high as I in 10,000 failure rate. The existing platforms show that smart guns could be a commercial reality much sooner than later.

The most interesting ethics issue I concern is should people accelerate development and promote the investment of “smart gun”. And Obama’s initiative may accelerate development of “smart gun”, and promote these technologies to be reliability and affordability to spur consumer adoption.

My personal ethical framework highlights the benefit we can get from using “smart gun”. If the “smart gun” would bring people much more benefit than harm, we should accelerate development and promote the investment. We should not stop the progress in science and technology come because of the little harm that come with it. However, we should assesse the product in all domains with details. For the “smart gun”, I do believe Obama makes good decision about accelerate development and promote the investment. I do believe the security that we have now is highly secure, and I believe we can invent more security system while we are accelerating development. I trust that by using new technology gun, the accidental or unauthorized weapon use that cause death or injure can be decreased.

Utilitarianism judge the action is right or wrong by looking it increase or decrease the total happiness of the affected parties. If this ethical issue of “smart gun”, all people are the affected parties not only the private sector who put the money on the investment, the future buyers and the future sellers because we consider “smart gun” as weapon which can kill people. For the question of which are most affected by this ethics issue, I think everyone would have a big effect because everyone could be a target of gun shooting. However, as this article mention “smart gun”, personalized weapons technology can reduce death and injury from accidental or unauthorized weapons use. Even it can’t prevent the lawfully purchaser to use weapons to make damage, it can ensure their weapons don’t fall into the wrong hands. The security of “smart gun” is a big concern, but we had wireless Radio Frequency Identification and biometric authentication systems. And while we accelerate development, the new technology keeps coming too. May be in the future, when we have “smart gun”, it will come with more security new system. Therefore, my ethical framework would suggest to accelerate development and promote the investment of “smart gun”.