Progress Toward a Forensic Voice Data Format Standard

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The de facto international standard for the forensic exchange of data for biometric recognition is ANSI/NIST ITL-1/2, "Data Format for the Interchange of Fingerprint, Facial & Other Biometric Information". This format is used by law enforcement, intelligence, military, and homeland security organizations throughout the world to exchange fingerprint, face, scar/mark/tattoo, iris, and palmprint data. To date, however, there is no provision within the standard for the exchange of audio data for the purpose of forensic speaker recognition. During the recent 5-year update process for ANSI/NIST ITL-1/2, a consensus decision was made to advance a voice data format type under the name “Type 11 record”. Creating such an exchange format type, however, is far from straightforward -- the problem being not the encoding of the audio data, for which many accepted standards exist, but rather reaching a consensus on the metadata needed to support the varied mission requirements across the stakeholder communities. In this talk, we’ll discuss the progress that has been made to date, the questions that remain, and the requirements for additional input from the broader stakeholder communities.

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