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August, 2023

Thrilling Encounters of the First Kind

## Cheek2Cheek



We were at a messy tech camp—more carnival than conference—huddled around a stubborn campfire of ideas, fuelled by caffeine and overconfidence. Between crashed laptops and bursts of laughter, we planned a provocation against biometric surveillance.

We called it the Cheek2Cheek Protocol: Part prank, part manifesto. An ID system that absurdly insists you drop your trousers and show your cheeks. Ridiculous and exposing, it stripped the shiny promise of facial scans and fingerprints to reveal the true cost of “convenience”: Intimate data traded casually.

Our talk mixed comedy and discomfort, using absurdity to map real risks — centralised databases, hidden reuse, mission creep that turns ID into profiling. It wasn't about nudity for its own sake; it was shock as teaching.

*Billie*