

Legitimacy, desirability, fallibility

A state of the art of the contestation facing public algorithms

A report supervised by the University Laboratory NETIC
Université de Bourgogne Franche-Comté

Preface to the administrative anticipation report presented to the Prime Minister on September 24, 2029

This report reviews the state of the art of the forms and practices of contestation towards public algorithmic systems.

This evaluation follows the acceleration of algorithms deployment within the central administration and local authorities, as part of the digitalisation of public action supported by the Government.

The review takes a closer look to the tools operating within a grey area, between legality and illegality, as well as to emerging uses and transpartisan initiatives.

Our study endeavours to avoid passing judgement about the reviewed cases. Nevertheless, it ambitions to help administrations in acknowledging the contestation from citizens-users, and in adapting the processes to these forms of conflict.

According to our conclusions, this is a decisive factor for the forthcoming redesign of public algorithms governance.

This documentation is based on the following classification in order to build archetypes of contestation:

Opposition

Tools and practices for administrative and legal contestation of the decisions taken or informed by an algorithm.

Obstruction

Techniques and strategies for corruption, alteration or incapacitation of public algorithms operations.

Falsification

Techniques for low-level and organised fraud aiming at an opportune exploitation of algorithmic weaknesses for a personal benefit.

Delegitimation

Mobilisations and rhetoric developing a critic of an algorithm legitimacy or its deployment opportunity.

Bypassing

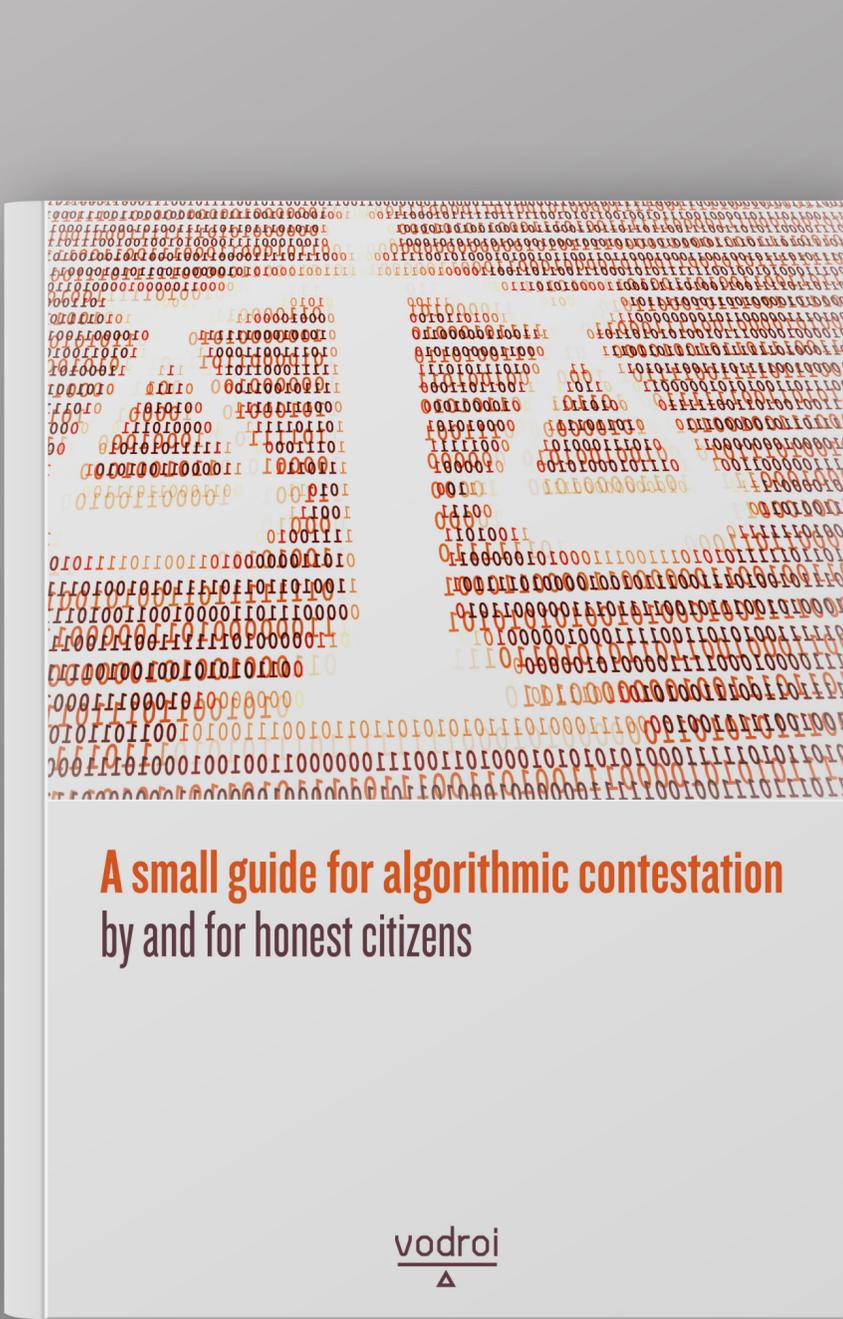
Function creeps, unexpected uses and obfuscation techniques allowing to escape an algorithmic processing.

A guide book to contest algorithmic decisions

Offered by **Vodroi**, a legal tech cooperative.

Vodroi provides for free a practical guide book of contestation, to dispute a decision ruled by an algorithm or to obtain compensation.

Although this ready for use guide is quite generic, it seems to be designed as a loss leader for a premium legal assistance, suggested in an option by *Vodroi*.



A small guide for algorithmic contestation
by and for honest citizens

Contestation made easy for everyone

-  Public algorithms and AIs, 10 administrative plea cases explained
-  Didactic diagrams to understand the administrative procedures to follow
-  The flaws in algorithmic laws you need to exploit in your contestation
-  Victim of an automated injustice: when to appeal to restorative justice.

[Download for free](#)

[Discover our helpline](#)

vodroi

A 'small guide for algorithmic contestation' offered in free download by Vodroi (Screenshot, May 2029)

Advices pack 'Public algo, personal profit!'

Offered by **Julien Daro**, *fin-lifestyle influentpreneur* and *self-digital optimisation coach*.

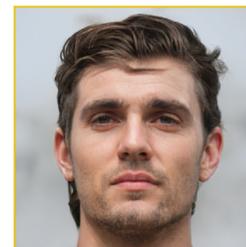
Julien Daro, an active social media influencer and self-appointed financial advisor, sells a service offer for identity falsification when facing public algorithms.

Those different '*advice packs*' bring deception techniques together allowing users to modify their digital profile. These methods aim at deceiving public algorithms and promise clients both to be granted with services and aids they would not access otherwise, and to escape a personalised taxation.

Some of the function creeps presented by the tutorials opportunely exploit known-but-not mitigated biases from automated systems.

Starter pack: Public algo, personal profit!

The screenshot shows a product card for a 'starter pack'. The card has a dark blue background with white text. At the top, it says 'starter pack' in a white box, followed by the title 'Public algo, personal profit!' and the author's name 'JulienDaro' with a profile icon. Below the title, there are two lessons listed side-by-side, separated by a plus sign in a circle. Lesson #1 is 'Good impression, good computation' with an icon of a face inside a square frame. Lesson #2 is 'How to play the victim' with an icon of a face with an 'X' over it. At the bottom of the card is a yellow button with a shopping cart icon and the text 'ADD TO THE BASKET'.



Discover Julien Daro's expertise

With this pack, you will learn to:

Lesson #1: Fake your profile to get a favourable algorithmic computation and increase your chance in **being granted with social benefits** or in **avoiding taxes**.

Lesson #2: Adapt your profile to **plead algorithmic discrimination** and to **obtain a generous indemnification**.

Webstore page displaying an advice pack from Julien Daro (Screenshot, April 2029)

The unofficial cartography of desalgorithmised procedures

Offered by the **Public Smugglers**.

The *Public Smugglers* collective have mapped out user journeys excluding algorithms to avoid contact with an algorithm or an artificial intelligence during an administrative procedure.

The various maps are available in an interactive format, working as a personal assistant to ‘navigate the administration maze and avoid the machine’. These maps are available on smartphones, personal assistants and as printed guides as well.

Behind this anonymous collective are several public servants. If their name is a bit provocative, they claim to be ‘positive saboteurs’. Their public motivation is to ‘make sure humans and machines are used for what they are really good at, and not only for financial or ideological reasons.’

PASSE-MACHINE
by the **Public Smugglers**

Our maps help you in navigating the French administration labyrinth and in avoiding dealing with the Machine (algorithms, artificial intelligences, cobot systems).

FIND THE MAP MATCHING YOUR NEEDS

Search for an administrative procedure

MOST POPULAR MAPS

- Access to a universal Internet connection
- Requesting socio-environmental relief funds for housing
- BioPass renewal
- ID card renewal
- Follow-up on return to employment

Psychological support for eco-anxiety

Step 2/5:
You just have manually provided your personal information.
Now, to avoid being assessed by a psy-robot and to access to a follow-up by a qualified civil servant, invoke the reason being the most relevant to your situation:

- I had a negative experience with a medical artificial intelligence justifying an in-person follow-up.
- Mon eco-anxiety hasn't been detected by a previous automated follow-up, but has been diagnosed by a physician.

PROCESS OVERVIEW

Step 1: [Search] [Search] [Search]

Step 2: [Selected] [] []

Step 3: [Search] [Search] [Search]

Interactive maps from the 'Passe-Machine' helping to bypass algorithms, available on smartphones and assistantials (Screenshots, February 15, 2028)

The #Occupalgo movement

An initiative from the **Occupy Algorithms** collective.

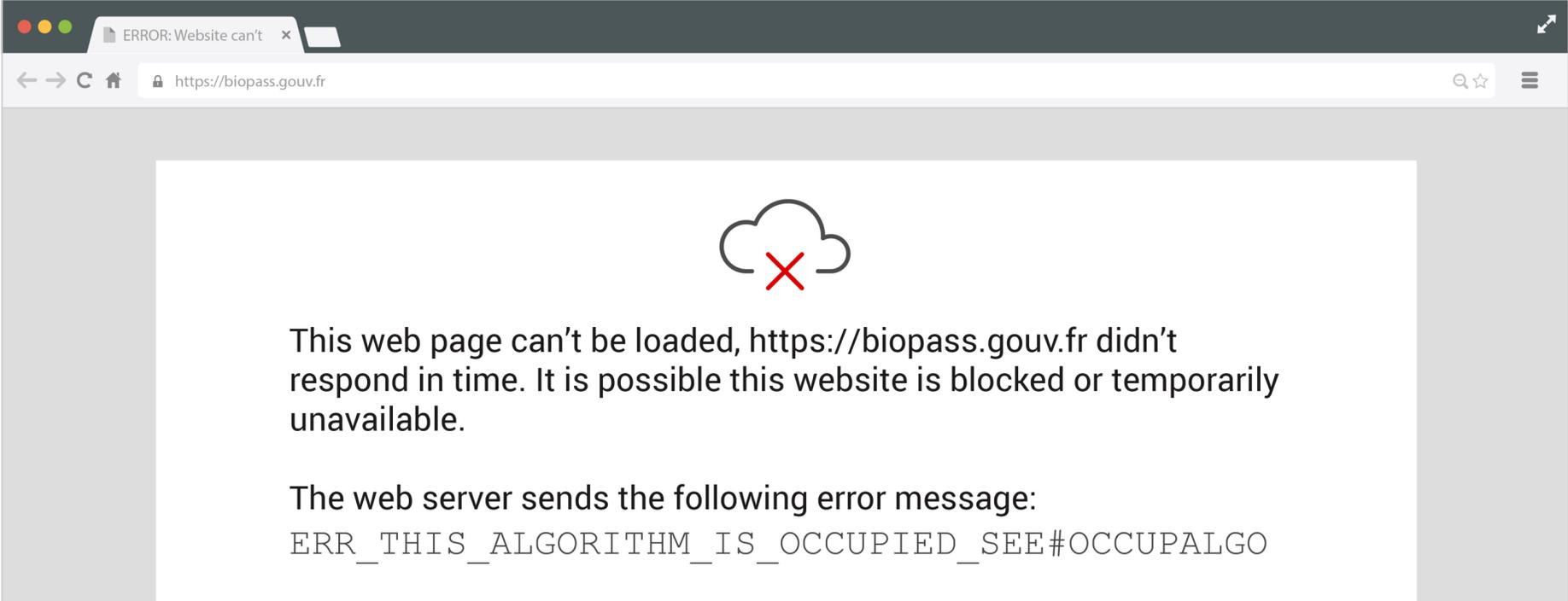
Inspired by the legacy from the early 2010s *Occupy* movements, the activist group *Occupy Algorithms* has developed collective strategies intending to ‘occupy’ contested algorithms.

This notion of occupation has a double meaning, having as a common denominator the concept of saturation: the invasion of the digital space and the (over)solicitation of technical capacities of the hosted algorithm.

Midway between the traditional demonstration and the denial of service attack (*DDOS*), this occupation technique reinvents the right to demonstrate within digital spaces deemed as public, such as an administration Web site.

In concrete terms, an action from *Occupalgo* (usual abbreviation for *Occupy Algorithms*) sees the massive mobilisation of activists, coordinating to saturate the operational capacities of an algorithm. It can also take the form of a targeted *defacing* action to modify the Web page letting user access to the algorithm. These two modes of action, occasionally joint, seeking to make the contested algorithm unavailable and make visible the opposition this system fuels.

The occupation technique of algorithms has become a key asset for negotiation between activist movements and the public authority.



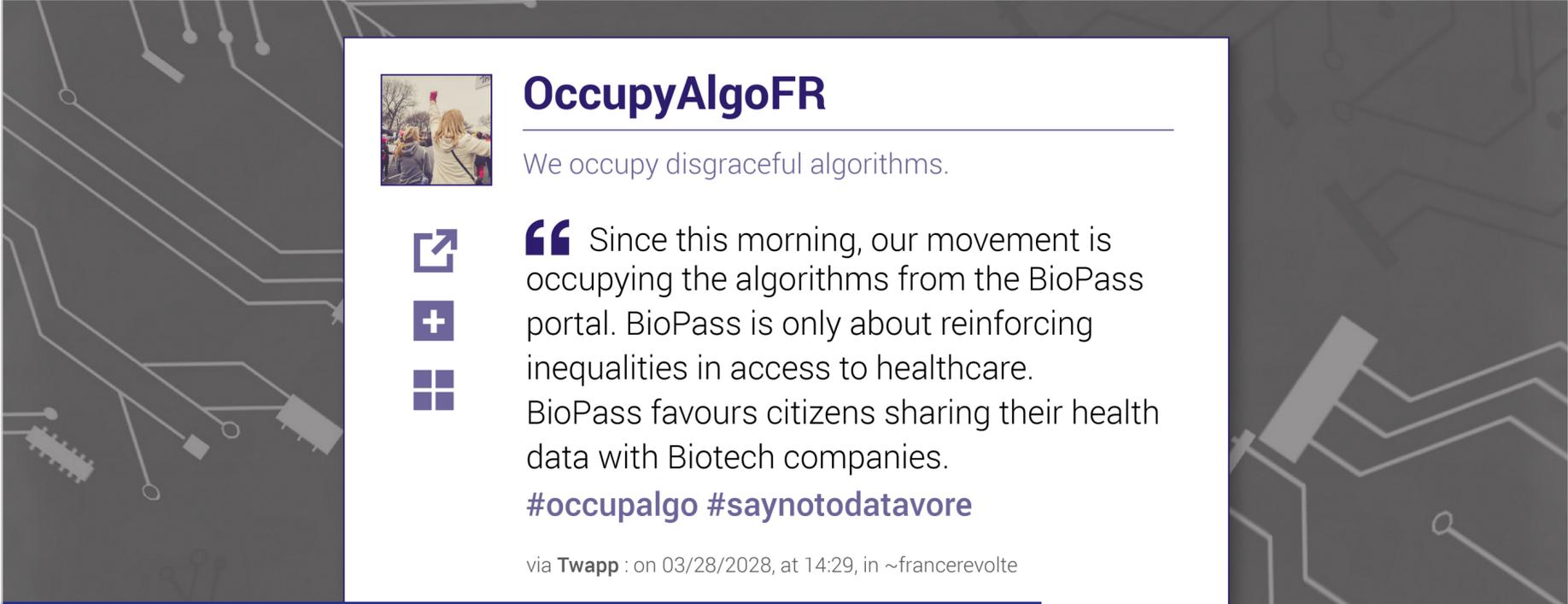
ERROR: Website can't be loaded

https://biopass.gouv.fr

This web page can't be loaded, https://biopass.gouv.fr didn't respond in time. It is possible this website is blocked or temporarily unavailable.

The web server sends the following error message:
ERR_THIS_ALGORITHM_IS_OCCUPIED_SEE#OCCUPALGO

BioPass portal occupied by Occupy Algorithms (Screenshot, March 28, 2028)



OccupyAlgoFR

We occupy disgraceful algorithms.

Since this morning, our movement is occupying the algorithms from the BioPass portal. BioPass is only about reinforcing inequalities in access to healthcare. BioPass favours citizens sharing their health data with Biotech companies.

#occupalgo #saynotodatavore

via Twapp : on 03/28/2028, at 14:29, in ~francerevolte

Occupy Algorithms claiming responsibility for the BioPass portal occupation (Screenshot, March 28, 2028)