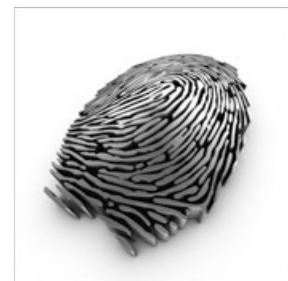


## Fingerprints, Decisions, and Fingerprint Decisions

Like fingerprints, there are some decisions that are one-of-a-kind, which makes them extremely rare. This article defines and describes a new term, *fingerprint decision*.



Each person has a set of fingerprints that are one-of-a-kind. Even identical twins are not *exactly* identical. Identical twins are formed when one fertilized egg splits in two. At that moment, each twin begins his or her own set of *experiences*. These are not experiences like studying for a test, playing a computer game, or going to Disney World. Still, they are experiences that result in different fingerprints by the time the twins are born. Everyone, including identical twins, has a never-to-be-repeated set of fingerprints. At right is a photo of a digital fingerprint.



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A unique fingerprint is just the beginning. Each of us has a brain that – while it has similarities to other brains – is also one of a kind. This gives us a set of talents, abilities, and challenges that is exclusively our own. And we each have our own set of experiences. We use our brain to make each choice or *decision*, which is a firm and usually final choice.



We make many decisions every day, from big ones to little ones. Some decisions we remember for a long time, others “...not so much.” Many are routine decisions, like brushing our teeth or eating lunch. Others are preference decisions, like choosing ice cream. Sometimes we use several decisions to make a plan. There are also decisions that turn out to be mistakes. Our brain makes millions and millions of decisions, one right after the other. A few of them help to form our life story. There are others that *contain* a lot of our story. Those are the *fingerprint decisions*.

A fingerprint decision is a firm choice that is as one of a kind as the pattern on the end of a finger. What makes it so unique is that:

- It is rare and uncommon,
- It is made by one person;
- It is without an identical counterpart anywhere in history;
- It contains a lot of a person's story or life experience; and
- It often has a very valuable result, or on extremely infrequent occasions, a tragic one.



Even though as a group fingerprint decisions are very rare, the valuable fingerprint decisions far outnumber those that are tragic. One example is Dr. Temple Grandin. She is known for her many wonderful fingerprint contributions. One of them was to write a book titled, *Emergence: Labeled Autistic*, an autobiography, to share her life story and experience with autism with others. Dr. Grandin has inspired people around the world, and continues to do so to this day. Another example is Thomas Edison. He is most famous for his discovery of the light bulb, which is why light bulbs are frequently used to mean a *good idea* or a *great invention* today. Edison may hold the record for most fingerprint decisions, as he has 1,093 successful patents. That's more than anyone in history.

A tragic fingerprint decision, if acted upon, is sadly catastrophic. It often has an irreversible result; not only just for others, but often for the person who made the decision as well. It is so infrequent, we will refer to it as *singularly scarce*.

It is possible that anyone could make a valuable fingerprint decision. One theory is that people who make valuable fingerprint decisions know *who they are*. That is, they know their talents and work hard to develop them. That seems to lay important groundwork. Another theory is that people who make valuable fingerprint decisions understand that there's a lot we can do to help our Planet Earth and it's people. They want to be part of that.



Each of us is born one of a kind with fingerprints to prove it. None of us look like the person in this photo, unless of course we happen to *be* the person in this photo. We have brains that are similar to one another, and at the same time, the one between our ears is also different from all others. A brain makes it possible for us to make decisions, one right after the other. It is possible that each of us may someday make a valuable *fingerprint decision*. How exciting would that be?