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Ethics Analysis

One new piece of technology that has me questioning if it will be used for good is Facebook and Ray-Ban's new smart glasses called "Ray-Ban Stories". These sunglasses have a built-in camera allowing for videography. This brings up a lot of privacy concerns, with Facebook already known for its questionable use of user data. It will have built in voice control that listens for commands, and that already can be a privacy concern to some people who do not trust Facebook. I personally believe that because this has the potential to be used in privacy invasive activities, it will be used in privacy invasive activities. The quote by Alex Heath in his article describing his experience with the glasses paint a disturbing picture for the experience of the people around the wearer. He wrote that "the tech in the glasses is so hidden that it's hard to tell there are cameras on them at all. The white recording light is also fairly dim, which could pose privacy concerns if people don't realize the glasses are capturing photos or video."¹ From a stalker being able to photograph their victim to someone cheating on a test by taking photos with their glasses, these are just some of the negative ways that Ray-Ban Stories can impact society. Going forward, having a hands free, covert way to record videos will result in an extreme lack of privacy.

I am fortunate enough to never have been in a situation where I was concerned someone, I knew was conducting research that may have had questionable implications. The only times I have encountered this would be obviously fake online questionnaires that clearly just wanted to sell collected data. But I have never known anyone who have conducted or built anything that would have any questionable implications.

Overall, my main takeaway with this article is the moral dilemma it puts forward. I have never really thought about the positive usage of privacy invasive data collection, so the addition of how the blind person benefited from the technology was a surprise for sure.

Sources:

1. <https://www.theverge.com/2021/9/9/22662809/facebook-ray-ban-stories-camera-smart-glasses-hands-on>