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ARTICLE

AI Deepfakes Are Driving the Internet Toward Biometric Control





BY PNW STAFF DECEMBER 22, 2025

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You've probably seen them in your social media feed by now. Someone smiling beside a movie star, an athlete, or a long-dead celebrity--arms around shoulders, lighting perfect, expressions natural. At first glance, it looks like a once-in-a-lifetime photo.

Only later do you realize it's entirely fake. Generated. Synthetic. A year ago, you might have noticed the telltale signs: strange hands, warped faces, off timing. Today, those tells are gone. If you didn't know the celebrity had aged--or died--you would swear the photo was taken in that very moment.

That's the quiet danger of where we are now. Deepfakes didn't arrive with a bang. They slipped in smiling, convincing, and eerily ordinary. And the question is no longer whether people can be fooled. It's how long before one of these fabrications is so real, and spreads so fast through the darker instincts of outrage and fear, that it collapses a stock market--or worse, ignites a war.

We are entering a phase of the internet where reality itself is contestable.



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Deepfakes have moved from novelty to norm, quietly dismantling the most basic assumption of the digital age: that the person on your screen is real. Generative AI has made synthetic faces, voices, and entire identities cheap, scalable, and disposable.

Fraud has been induced by fake applicants who pass every test. They never said, at precisely the moment such statements would do maximum damage.

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they never said, at

The problem is no longer visual trickery. It is identity collapse.

Most online systems still rely on static signals: passwords, IDs, selfies, knowledge-based questions. But those signals can now be convincingly faked. And once a fake identity is successfully enrolled--once it passes the gate--it doesn't just bypass security. It becomes the protected entity. Every downstream control ends up shielding the attacker.

Security firms have been warning about this for years, but the tone has shifted. This is no longer framed as a gradual risk to be managed. It's a countdown. Many now openly say it will take just one major incident--one deepfake that crashes markets, triggers mass panic, or escalates a geopolitical crisis--before governments and platforms move decisively.

And when they do, the solution will not be subtle.



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The word you will hear over and over again is authentication.

Not usernames. Not passwords. Not "are you a robot" checkboxes. Proof that you are a real human being, tied to a persistent identity, verified continuously. Biometrics--face scans, voice prints, behavioral signatures, and possibly even biological markers--are rapidly becoming the only signals AI cannot easily fake at scale. And even those will likely be paired with liveness checks, hardware attestation, and ongoing monitoring to ensure the person who logged in is still the same person moments later.

In other words: the anonymous internet cannot survive deepfakes.

Industry leaders are already preparing for a world where posting, transacting, or even speaking online requires proof of personhood. Platforms that once prized frictionless access are quietly building identity layers. Financial institutions are tightening verification to the point where participation without biometric enrollment will be impossible. Governments are watching closely, not because they love regulation, but because unverified digital reality is becoming a national security threat.

This is where the conversation turns uncomfortable.

Because while biometric enforcement promises security, it also accelerates the normalization of constant surveillance. Continuous identity validation means continuous observation. Deepfakes "break human judgment," and when human judgment fails, institutions respond by replacing trust with control. Recognition gives way to verification. Freedom gives way to permission.

This convergence--deception at scale paired with demands for stricter identity systems--should sound familiar.

Scripture warns of an age defined by powerful delusion. "For this reason God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false" (2 Thessalonians 2:9-11). In a world where seeing is no longer believing, the danger is not only that lies will spread, but that the systems built to counter those lies will reshape how humanity functions.

To be clear: something must be done. A digital environment where no image, voice, or message can be trusted is not sustainable. Commerce, diplomacy, and civil order all depend on shared reality. Biometric identity may be the only practical response left on the table.

But the speed at which this transition happens matters. Who controls these systems matters. Whether they remain narrowly focused on security--or expand into social scoring, content control, and behavioral enforcement--matters immensely.

We are standing at a hinge moment.

Deepfakes didn't just break photography or video. They broke the social contract of the internet. And once that contract is gone, it will not be restored by goodwill or better media literacy. It will be replaced by infrastructure--hard, permanent systems that decide who is real, who is allowed to speak, and under what conditions.

The age of "trust me, it's real" is ending.

The age of "prove you are human" is about to begin.

The only remaining question is whether we enter that age with wisdom--or after catastrophe forces our hand.

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