

Ethical Considerations of Facial Recognition Technology

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Uses of Facial Recognition Technology

Personal Uses:

- Convenience
- Security
- Digital Wallet

Public Spaces:

- Airports
- Businesses
- Schools

Law Enforcement:

- Community Policing

Ethical Considerations - Personal Use

Positives:

- Allows you to open your devices easily.
- Prevents other people from unlocking your personal devices.
- Reduced need to carry identification or money.

Ethical Considerations - Personal Use

Negatives: Unauthorized collection and use of your personal data.

Apple

May 2020 - Class action lawsuit against Apple claiming that they use facial recognition technology to collect biometric information from user pictures stored in their Photo app on all Apple devices running the iOS 10 operating system. [Source](#)

Facebook

February 2021 - Court approved \$650 million settlement against Facebook for improperly collecting and storing photos through their Tag Suggestions app. [Source](#)

Google

June 2022 - Google agrees to a \$100 million settlement over improper use of its face grouping tool, which automatically identifies your face in photos and videos uploaded to Photos. [Source](#)

Ethical Considerations - Public Spaces and Venues

Positive:

- Faster queues wherever personal ID needs to be presented.
- Increased safety by identification of known criminals/offenders.
- More hygienic, less physical touch points.

Statistics:

67% of Federal Agencies use facial recognition technology.

The US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will utilize facial recognition on 97% of international passengers by 2023.

72% of hotels are likely to invest in face-scanning technology by 2025.

Ethical Considerations - Public Spaces and Venues

Negatives:

- Loss of privacy and safety.

In March 2021, Verkada Inc.'s (security company with over 13,000 customers) computer system was hacked providing the hackers access to live feeds of 150,000 surveillance cameras. [Source](#)

Considerations for NY Educators:

[NYS Assembly Bill A6787D](#) - banned the use of biometric surveillance technology in schools until the New York State Education Department (NYSED) issues a report on the risks and benefits of this technology in schools and the Commissioner of Education authorizes its use.

Locust Valley (Long Island) and Thousand Island (Upstate NY) school districts will be using Verkada technology this year. [Source](#)

Ethical Considerations - Law Enforcement

Positives:

- Increased public safety

Negatives:

- False Positives
- Implicit Bias

Ethical Considerations - Law Enforcement

Increased public safety

Success Stories

NYPD found a man who left a pair of rice cookers in the Fulton Street subway station.

Thorn, an international anti-human trafficking organization, helped rescue 15,000 children and identify 17,000 traffickers.

As of June 2020, nearly 300 individuals have been intercepted attempting to enter the U.S. under a fraudulent identity.

Ethical Considerations - Law Enforcement

False Positive Results

Range of false positive error rates in a study was between 3 errors out of 100,000 queries (0.003 percent) in optimal conditions to 3 errors out of every 1,000 queries (0.3 percent).

Factors to Consider:

- Quality of photo
- Performance of the algorithm
- Size of database
- Type of comparison; one-to-one or one-to many

Source

Ethical Considerations - Law Enforcement

Wrongful Arrests



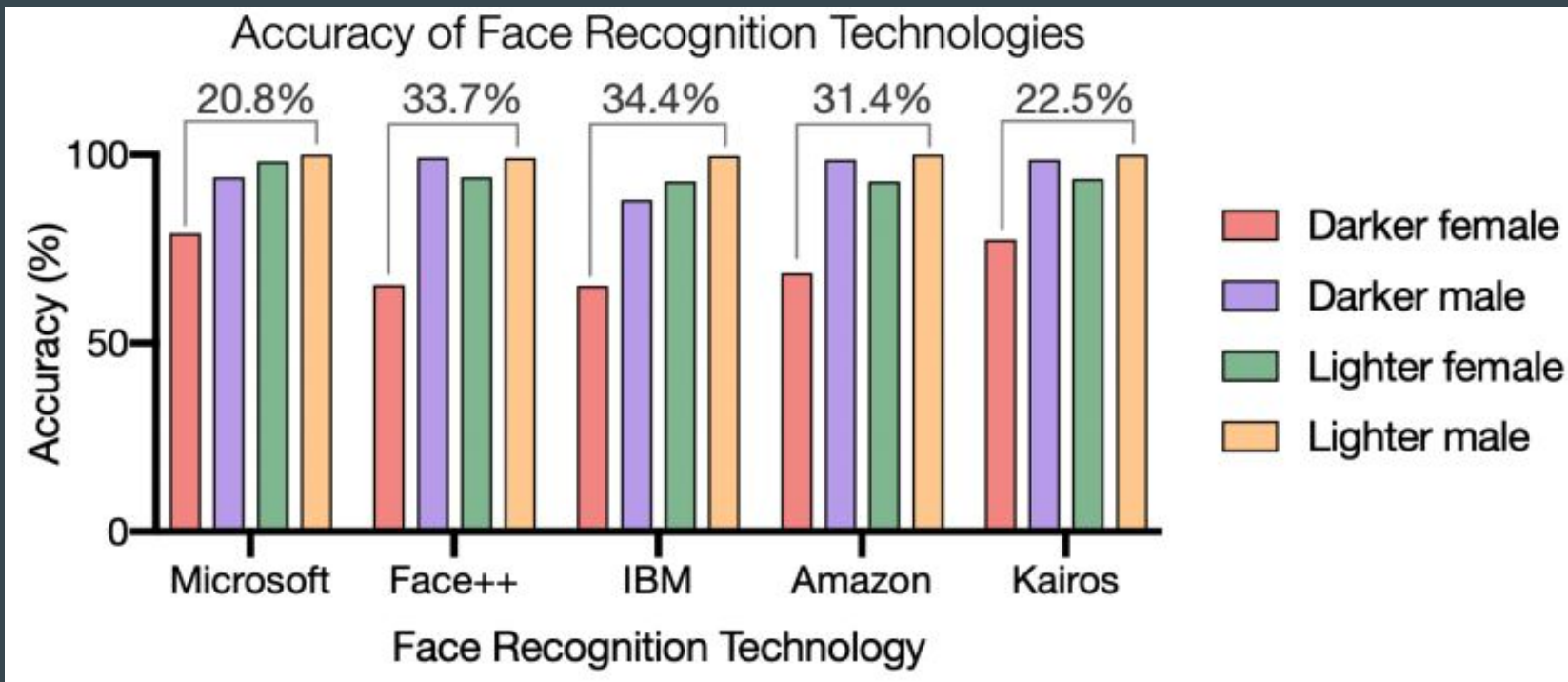
Nijeer Parks



Robert Williams

Ethical Considerations - Law Enforcement

Implicit Bias



[SOURCE](#)

Ethical Considerations - Law Enforcement

Causes of Implicit Bias:

- Lack of datasets in AI algorithms
- Underexposed/poor quality photos

How to Combat Implicit Bias:

- Set national standards for algorithms

In the meantime, many municipalities are abandoning the use of this technology for law enforcement. [Click Here](#) for a list of cities banning its use.