The Impact of Facial Recognition Technology on Civil Liberties

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Facial recognition Technology

It refers to a method which helps to verify or identify an individual by using several features like facial features like a biometric identifier. The technology works by capturing an individual's video or image and uses algorithms for comparing that video with the known faces of a stored database for identifying the identity of the individual (patricia Flanagan, 2010). It is used for mainly security purposes, user authentication and access control.

The use of FRT in law enforcement

Law enforcement agencies are increasingly using technology across the world for identifying suspects and tracking down criminals. Law enforcement agencies use this technology in several ways, such as surveillance; where with the help of FRT, law enforcement agencies can scan CCTV footage for verifying the suspect in real time, mug shot matching; the agencies can use this technology to match a person's face against mug-shots database for identifying if the suspect has been arrested before or not (Lee & Chin, 2022). FRT can also be used for matching a missing individual's facial features against a known individual's database for locating them.

Impact of facial recognition strategy on civil liberties

The FRT plays a very important role in civil liberties. It helps to identify criminals and overall improve security. However, there are also significant concerns about the potential for FRT to be used to violate civil liberties. The biggest concern is that surveil individuals who do not have any knowledge can use the FRT, which allows private business organizations along with the governments for monitoring and tracking people's activities (Feiner & Palmer, 2021). It could cause privacy loss and a chilling effect on other civil liberties. The other concern is that the technology can be implemented for discriminating against specific groups of individuals. As an example, if there is non-calibrated FRT then it can lead to misidentifying persons with darker skin and specific facial features. It could cause racial profiling and other types of discrimination. Additionally, the best way to use FRT is by creating a "surveillance state" where the government can monitor citizens' activities and suppress dissent. Private sectors can also use FRT for gathering data on customers which will help target advertising and other purposes. It is very

important aspects for every private business organization and government to consider the consequences first before implementing this technology into their system and put them in places of strong oversight and regulations for protecting civil liberties. The legal and regulatory framework for facial recognition technology is continuously evolving and the framework depends on the law of different countries and regions. As an example in the United States, there is no federal law which regulates the usage of FRT (Lopez, 2020). However, there are some cities where there is a ban on FRT using. Law enforcement has banned the usage of FRT in cities like Oakland, California and San Francisco, while other cities like Oregon, Portland and Boston have implemented moratoriums on their use. Whereas, other states like Texas, Illinois, and Washington have implemented laws in which there is a requirement for companies for obtaining consent before collecting facial recognition data.

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