

AI and facial recognition

Computers can work through routine tasks really quickly. Much quicker than a human could do

One use of this is to check **facial recognition images**

Law enforcement agencies use this in many parts of the world to spot criminals or terrorists

AI and facial recognition

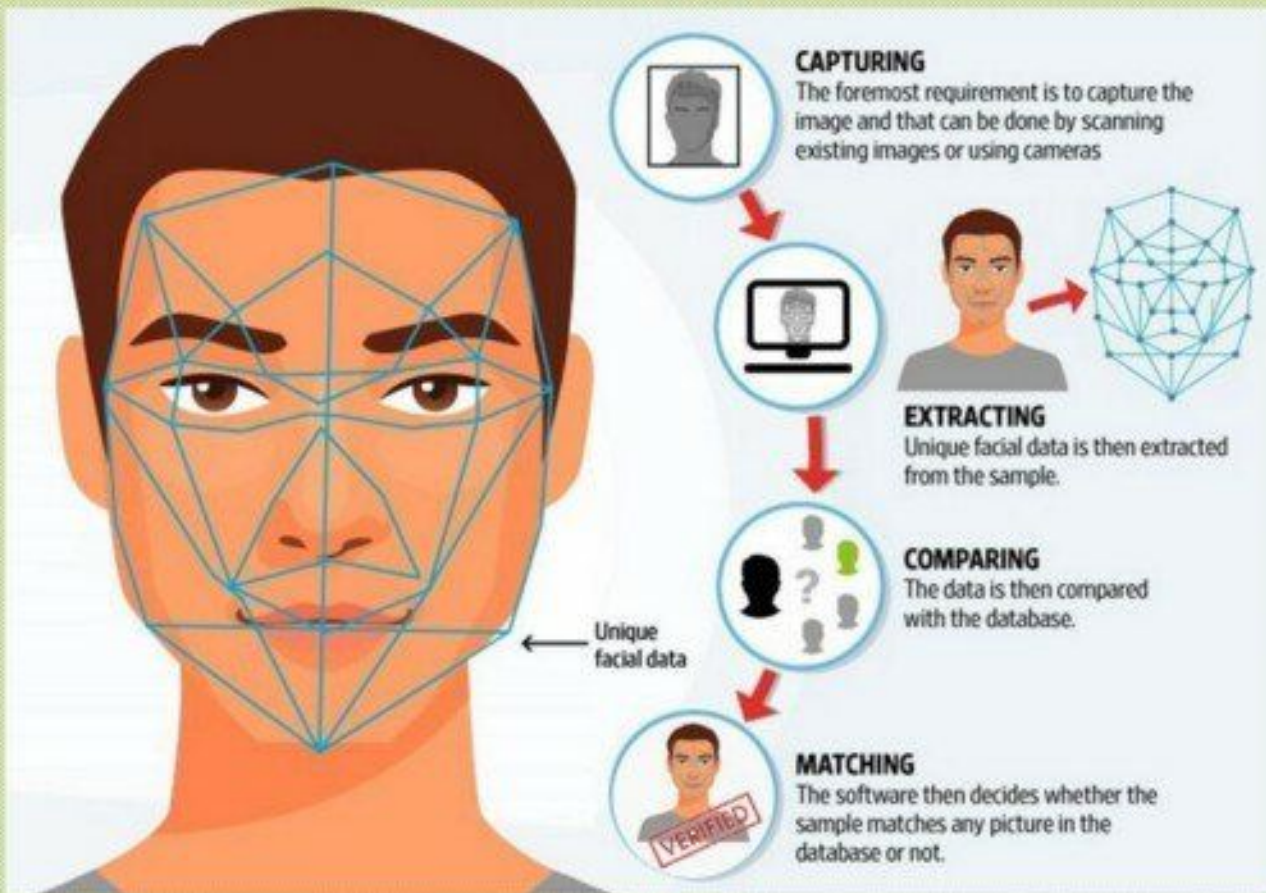
Facial recognition works by identifying features on a person's face and matching these against a **database** of images

If the same features occur, the software suggests this is the same person

It relies upon having a **database** of photos of identified people. To be useful, it needs as many people as possible in the database

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How Face Recognition Software Works

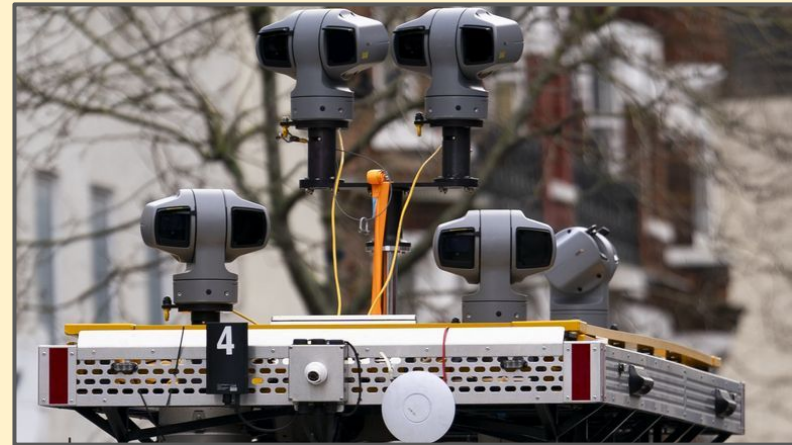


SOME OF THE PLACES SUCH SYSTEMS ARE EITHER BEING USED OR COULD BE USED

-  Airports
-  Railway stations
-  Banks & financial institutions
-  Stadiums
-  Public transport
-  Government offices
-  Business establishments

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UK police forces regularly use facial recognition, especially at large events such as demonstrations or sports events



AI and facial recognition

You may have had your face scanned at an airport when travelling. The scan is compared to your passport photo



If the scan does not produce a match and human will check your passport to make sure it is yours

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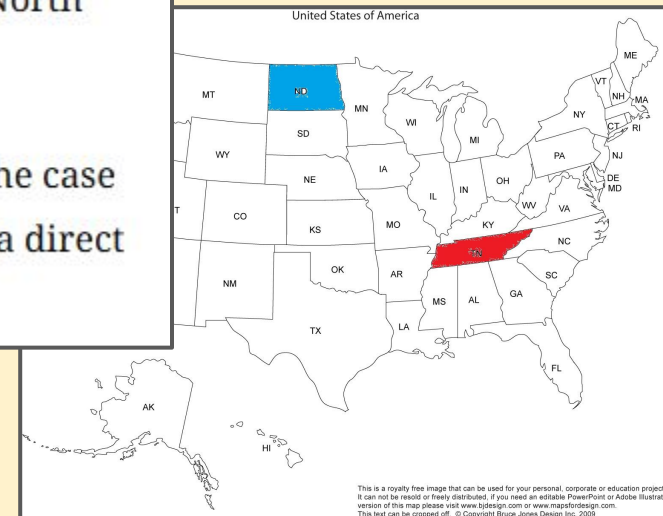
Police used AI facial recognition to arrest a Tennessee woman for crimes committed in a state she says she's never visited

MAR 29, 2026 ▾

A Tennessee grandmother spent more than five months in jail after police used an AI facial recognition tool to link her to crimes committed in North Dakota – a state she says she'd never been to before.

Police in Fargo, North Dakota, have acknowledged “a few errors” in the case and pledged changes in their operations but stopped short of issuing a direct apology.

How effective is facial recognition?



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How does facial recognition software get the identified images of people to compare to?

The West Fargo Police Department told CNN that they use **Clearview AI**, a startup with a database of billions of photos scraped from the internet, including social media. Clearview “identified a potential suspect with similar features to Angela Lipps” and West Fargo police shared that report with Fargo police, reads a statement from the police department. The statement notes that West Fargo police didn’t forward any charges and didn’t have enough evidence to charge anyone for the fraud case in West Fargo.

CNN has reached out to Clearview AI for comment. It’s unclear what other evidence was used in the investigation to tie Lipps to the crimes.

Social media images are often tagged to identify people

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Clearview AI has billions of our photos. Its entire client list was just stolen

By [Jordan Valinsky](#), CNN Business

🕒 2 min read · Updated 1:24 PM EST, Wed February 26, 2020

The company claims to have scraped more than 3 billion photos from the internet, including photos from popular social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube.

The firm garnered controversy in January after a New York Times investigation revealed that Clearview AI's technology allowed law enforcement agencies to use its technology to match photos of unknown faces to people's online images. The company also retains those photos in its database even after internet users delete them from the platforms or make their accounts private.

Do the images involved include ones you've uploaded or ones of you that other people have uploaded?