

Eagle Forum Report

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Invasion of the Privacy Snatchers

WHO OWNS MY CHILD'S FACE?

by Jessica Zeigler is a former Executive Director of Eagle Forum in Washington, D.C. She lives in Charleston, South Carolina where she stays at home caring for her husband and daughters.

Any mother of busy children knows the reams of paperwork one completes when signing them up for gymnastics, swim team, robotics club, Vacation Bible School or any other activity. One line or box to check might be overlooked but poses a major threat to the future of privacy, especially our children's privacy.

Printed below is the "media release" policy for a gymnastics class my daughter took. [Business name has been changed.]

I, do hereby consent and agree that Gymnastics Inc., its employees, or agents have the right to take photographs, videotape, or digital recordings of my child and/or me for the duration of their involvement with Gymnastics Inc., its activities, classes and competitive teams. I further consent that my child's name and/or my name and identity may be revealed therein or by descriptive text or commentary and their name may also be used to associate them with their specific program. I understand this will be limited to their first name and may include the first letter of their last name to distinguish the dif-

ference between those that have the same first name. I do hereby release to Gymnastics Inc., its agents, and employees all rights to exhibit this work in print and electronic form publicly or privately and to market copies. ***I waive any rights, claims, or interest I may have to***

control the use of my identity or likeness in whatever media used.

I DO grant permission to use my child's image for promotional and social media purposes on Gymnastics Inc's website, facebook, instagram, etc.

The gym only took online registration and there was no opt-out option. I could not click anything except "I agree." After several phone calls and emails to the business owner, I was able to verbally opt-out my child, but was told their software did not allow for online opt-out. Thankfully the owner seemed willing to abide by my wish not to have my child's image

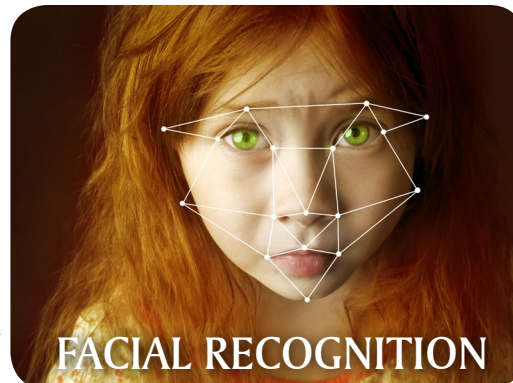
used to make money, but I am ever vigilant. After all, I signed up my child for gymnastics, not a marketing campaign.

What's the big deal about marketing? The big deal is Big Tech and facial recognition.

Facial Recognition is Everywhere

In January, *the New York Times*

published a detailed article ("The Secretive Company That Might End Privacy As We Know It") on Clearview AI, the maker of a facial recognition



application. This app allows you to upload a picture and it searches its database of over 3 billion images for matches. It also "scrapes" images from Facebook, YouTube, Venmo, and millions of other websites, despite loose privacy policy prohibitions by those companies. Clearview then gives you all publicly available photos for that person along with the links to where on the internet they were found. Instead of "googling" a search term, it's like googling a person's face.

So if your photo is online, it is

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likely in their database. In the case of my daughter's gymnastics class, if I had allowed them to post her image, she would likely be searchable by anyone purchasing the Clearview app, along with a link to her gym webpage listing the physical location of the gym. Her anonymity would be gone and safety at risk.

Facial recognition technology poses a grave threat to privacy in the age of surveillance and data tracking. According to Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH) during a 2019 congressional hearing on this topic, nearly 50 million sur-

if they attended a political protest. There would be no anonymity. In fact Al Gidari, privacy professor at Stanford Law School stated, "Absent a very strong federal privacy law, we're all screwed."

While police may laud the ability to search massive databases for criminals caught on security cameras around town, they also admit the app can misidentify individuals and call into question the use of this technology in the courtroom. According to the *Times* article, defendants do not have to be informed that facial recog-

nition technology was used unless it is the only means used. Further, Clearview has never been tested by an independent agency to evaluate the rate of false matches.

Perhaps my biggest concern is the marriage of the Clearview facial recognition technology

friends; they hear my rant constantly.) Keep your kids photos offline. It is not enough to just mark your account private. Do not post them at all.

Artificial intelligence, like that used by Clearview, is constantly growing. It is using your online photos to glean voluminous data on you. In popular hashtag "#10YearChallenge," social media users post pictures of themselves ten years ago and currently side by side. No doubt facial recognition software is out there scraping these photos which may be used to predict facial aging or scan old photos creating a timeline of your life without you even being aware.

Stop Data Collection

Watch the Tom Hanks movie *The Circle* if you need any more details on where Big Tech plans on going. What is to be done? Congress and state legislatures must reign in Big Tech in every way. The House Oversight and Reform Committee held a series of three hearings on facial recognition this past year. At each hearing, a bipartisan spectrum of witnesses and Congressmen expressed a desire for a moratorium on facial recognition technology.

In order to protect our privacy, including that of our minor children, Congress should pass a ban on the use of facial recognition for minor children immediately. Further, Congress should pass a ban at best or a moratorium at minimum on the use of facial recognition software by government or commercial entities. State legislatures should get involved too, passing legislation prohibiting data collection on minor children (even anonymous collection), as well as other biometric privacy rights similar to those enacted by the state of Illinois.

Technology marches on. But as a society, we have the responsibility to protect ourselves and our children from our very images being hijacked. 



veillance cameras exist within the United States. With Clearview technology, law-abiding citizens could be tracked on their day-to-day business (Big Tech with smartphones already does this in spades, but that's another article).

Currently, Clearview markets itself mainly to law enforcement offices and private security firms, having agreements with over 600 agencies nationwide. Those individuals would be able to do a facial search for anyone (old girlfriend, political rival, neighbor, etc.) to find out if they were in a certain part of town last week or

ogy with Facebook and other social media companies. Despite being the oldest of millennials, I have never had a Facebook account. However, Facebook likely has a *shadow* profile for me because they know I exist. They know I exist through data mining my friends' phones who use Facebook. What is to stop Facebook from using facial recognition technology from creating a shadow profile on my children when their faces show up in a birthday party or gymnastics class photo posted to Facebook? I do my absolute best to never have my kids in photos online. (Ask any of my mom

BIG TECH DOES SOCIAL ENGINEERING

by Patrick Wood, Editor, *Technocracy News & Trends*, www.Technocracy.News

Back in the 1930s in America, there was an organization actually called Technocracy Incorporated. It was preceded by a movement, still called Technocracy, but a movement that was for a short period of time embedded at Columbia University. The two founders of the movement at that time were Howard Scott and M. King Hubbert. They were both the co-founders, as well, of Technocracy Incorporated in 1934.

At that time, the world was in deep depression, especially in America. There were soup lines and food lines, unemployment was very high, there was very little hope. People thought that capitalism had died and wondered what was going to become of the world. Was it just going to fall apart?

Some scientists and engineers, especially the ones at Columbia University, decided that the only way to save society was to create a **new economic model that would replace capitalism**. That's what Technocracy is all about; it's an economic system. It defines a completely new paradigm for the control of economic affairs in society.

They proposed that it would be **based on energy rather than on money, supply and demand, capitalism and free enterprise** — things we know and understand today. The idea would be that everybody in society would be issued a certain amount of energy credits or energy currency for a period of time, and that they would buy goods and services at prices that were set according to the energy that it took to make those goods and services. There was no provision for property rights, because why would you need to own anything if

everything was basically provided for you? It would end up being a completely managed and controlled society by the scientists and engineers that hated politicians. They saw no need for politicians whatsoever.

Ever since Technocracy was first dreamed up in 1932, personal privacy has been under attack.

Why? Because original Technocrats saw Technocracy as a system of "Social Engineering" and that meant knowing everything knowable about all citizens across society. They wanted to know everything about your energy consumption, all of your purchases, all of your health details and all of travels. It was lucky for us that they only had pencils and paper to create their self-styled utopia.

Not today, though. Advanced technology is ubiquitous, ever-present and rapidly developing into a panopticon of surveillance where the "system" knows much more about you than you know about yourself. Literally.

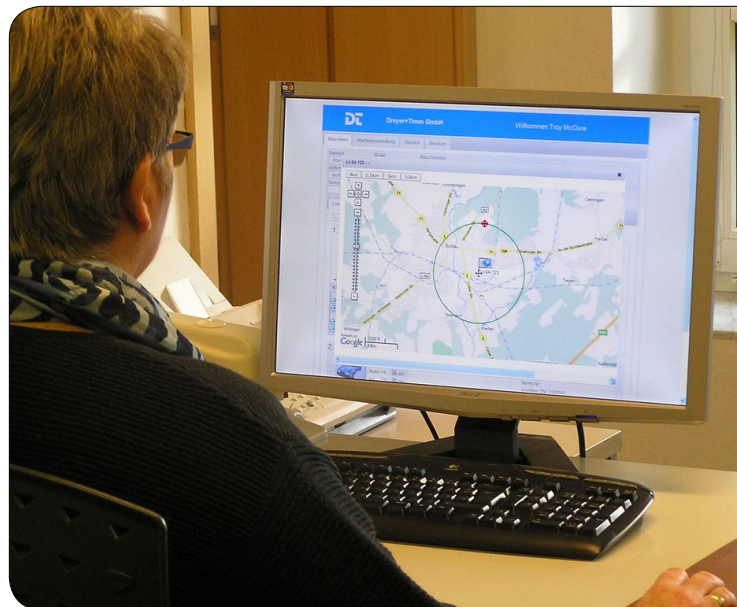
The U.S. Constitution is supposed to protect us from these Technocrat pariahs. In particular, the Fourth Amendment states:

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched,

and the persons or things to be seized.

Technocrats hated the Constitution in 1932 and nothing has changed.

WiFi-enabled smart meters now collect and transmit your energy usage to the energy-masters on a minute-by-minute basis, and they can calculate exactly where and how you are consuming all of your energy. All of your social media data is routinely hoovered up by a long line of corporate marketers and various government agencies, including the National



Security Agency, Central Intelligence Agency, and Department of Human Services. Your cellphone tracks 100 percent of your meanderings around town.

Then, there is the new field of "predictive policing" that is reminiscent of the 2002 Tom Cruise movie, *Minority Report*.

Zachary McCoy went out on a bike ride and happened to inadvertently pass by a house that had been burglarized. Then he got a letter from Google that his local police department had served a "geofence war-

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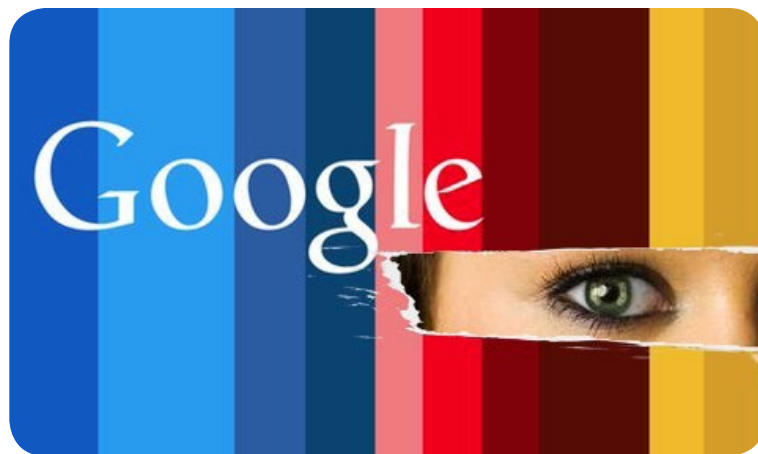
rant” that demanded Google release the private data on anyone who happened to be near the crime scene at the time of the crime, and McCoy’s name was on the list.

Google knows and collects such things, you must realize, because of its users’ GPS, Bluetooth, WiFi, phone apps, and cellular connections. Now McCoy is considered a prime suspect in a crime that he had no idea was ever committed in the first place. Who on earth ever allowed any court to issue a “geofence warrant” in the first place?

In Utah, state leaders recently had a lapse of sanity when they granted full access to a myriad of state data to a private company:

The state of Utah has given an artificial intelligence company real-time access to state traffic cameras, CCTV and “public safety” cameras, 911 emergency systems, location data for state-owned vehicles, and other sensitive data. The company, called Banjo, says that it’s combining this data with information collected from social media,

satellites, and other apps, and claims its algorithms “detect anomalies” in the real world. The



lofty goal of Banjo’s system is to alert law enforcement of crimes as they happen.

EDITOR’S NOTE:

This *Eagle Forum Report* teaches us that our individual privacy is in the crosshairs at every level — local, state, and national. This notion is not new, but was introduced during the Great Depression by those who thought that free markets and individual liberties had failed and needed to be replaced. Today’s modern technologies are being used to develop that Depression-era scheme that intends to control every individual, all the time, wherever they live on the planet.

Our leading article was written by a concerned and responsible mother, Jessica Ziegler, who was well trained by our founder, Phyllis Schlafly. Jessica explains the real threat to individual privacy facing young mothers and their children. Parents should resist the social pressure to give social media companies the access to their children’s image and data.

Patrick Wood’s writing clearly explains how technologies are developing a seamless web that would steal individual privacy with the aim

to manage every aspect of our lives by undermining local controls and handing them over to global schemers.

An economist by education, Patrick maintains a Biblical world view and has deep historical insights into the modern attacks on sovereignty, property rights, and personal freedom. He explains that such attacks are epitomized by the implementation of United Nations policies such as Agenda 21, sustainable development, smart growth, and, in education, the widespread adoption of Common Core. His current research builds on Trilateral Commission hegemony, focusing on transhumanism, Technocracy, and scientism and how these are co-opting economics, politics and religion around the world.

The great news is that just as Jessica is protecting her children from the privacy invaders, you can also be equipped to defend your liberties, which is the goal of our *Eagle Forum Report*. To be forewarned is to be forearmed.

— Cathie Adams

Banjo calls this “Live Time Intelligence” and in the lofty and noble name of solving crimes as they happen, they will suck up every piece of data on everyone in the entire state! No problem though, because “It claims it does this while somehow stripping all personal data from the system, allowing it to help cops without putting anyone’s privacy at risk.”

“Somehow”? Since when is state data not completely tied to individual citizens? Well, ‘Duh!’

To this writer’s humble logic, citizens in every community in America should storm their city halls to put an end to this nonsense, while there is any time left to do so.

Our author, Patrick Wood, has a new website to help you fight back: CitizensForFreeSpeech.org. 

EAGLE FORUM

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