**Facial recognition : the sacrifice of our privacy for better security ?**

As facial recognition technology is spreading worldwide, it is raising ethical and privacy issues. This is what this dossier tackles : composed of three press articles from 2018 and 2019 published in *San Antonio Express*, *The Washington Post* and *Fortune*, it weighs the pros and cons of this new technology and shows that though it could help for security, there are worries about potential abuses. Therefore, it leads us to wonder whether facial recognition is a boon or a bane for citizens’ well-being.

1. **Facial recognition is developing for safety reasons**

* it is used in airports, but also on a bridge at the Mexican border to make sure people respect their visas (doc 1)
* the Californian police started using facial recognition body cameras which help to identify criminals (doc 2)
* all sectors, from shops to banks, have started using this technology, which is useful for businesses and to recognize criminals. (doc 3)

1. **But there are risks for privacy**

* there is a lack of transparency of facial recognition companies about what they do with people’s data, which leads to fears of a biometric database (doc 1)
* that our data could be sold or used in a wrong way, facilitating identity theft for instance (doc 3)
* the technology is not always reliable, and has sometimes mistakenly recognized people as criminals (doc 2)

1. **A need for more regulation**

* There is need of a real public discussion on the subject (all docs)
* tech companies themselves have asked for laws to restrict facial recognition technology (doc 3)
* California has suspended its use by the police, for fear of breaking the trust between people and the government. (doc 2)

Eventually, as this new technlogy is booming, it will require more consideration by governments in order to be used only for the better.

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