

Facial Recognition Fantasy

Nobody asked but ...

There is a television writers' trick often employed to move a plot along, the fictional use of alleged facial recognition software.

I have no idea how sophisticated FR really is, but I do know that those who propound its magic have no incentive to tell us its limitations. Just as a car salesman will romance us with purported positives all day long, while neglecting potential flaws, script writers and law enforcement officials have vested interests in our belief in the wonders of science.

The worst part is that if the insiders say some technology works, human nature is such that they are lying. The technology is likely to be "not ready for prime time." If we can't check their veracity, they can demand our faith.

— Kilgore Forelle