

## Total citizen facial video tracking for total citizen control

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Facial recognition video cameras in China, NYC and Disneyworld track your every move and can record years of movements and interactions for total control - now in 2012, not in the future 2050. This article on [The new totalitarianism of surveillance technology](#) in the UK Guardian newspaper

If you think that 24/7 tracking of citizens by biometric recognition systems is paranoid fantasy, just read the industry newsletters. After the Occupy crackdowns, I noted that odd-looking CCTVs had started to appear, attached to lampposts, in public venues in Manhattan where the small but unbowed remnants of Occupy congregated: there was one in Union Square, right in front of their encampment. [I reported here](#) on my experience of witnessing a white van marked "Indiana Energy" that was lifting workers up to the lampposts all around Union Square, and installing a type of camera. When I asked the workers what was happening – and why an Indiana company was dealing with [New York](#) City civic infrastructure, which would certainly raise questions – I was told: "I'm a contractor. Talk to ConEd."

I then noticed, some months later, that these bizarre camera/lights had been installed not only all around Union Square but also around Washington Square Park. I posted a photo I took of them, and asked: "What is this?" Commentators who had lived in China said that they were the same camera/streetlight combinations that are mounted around public places in China. These are **enabled for facial recognition technology**, which allows police to watch video that is tagged to individuals, in real time. When too many people congregate, they can be dispersed and intimidated simply by the risk of being identified – before dissent can coalesce...

Finally, last week, [New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg](#) joined [NYPD Commissioner Ray Kelly](#) to unveil a major new police [surveillance](#) infrastructure, developed by Microsoft. The **Domain Awareness System** links existing police databases with live video feeds, including cameras using **vehicle license plate recognition** software. No mention was made of whether the system plans to use – or already uses – facial recognition software. But, at present, [there is no law to prevent US government and law enforcement agencies from building facial recognition databases](#).

And we know from industry newsletters that the [US military](#), law enforcement, and the department of homeland security are betting heavily on facial recognition technology. [As PC World notes](#), Facebook itself is a market leader in the technology – but military and security agencies are close behind.

According to [Homeland Security Newswire](#), billions of dollars are being invested in the development and manufacture of various biometric technologies capable of detecting and identifying anyone, anywhere in the world – via iris-scanning systems, already in use; foot-scanning technology (really); voice pattern ID software, and so on.

What is very obvious is that this technology will not be applied merely to people under arrest, or to people under surveillance in accordance with the fourth amendment (suspects in possible terrorist plots or other potential crimes, *after* law enforcement agents have already obtained a warrant from a magistrate). No, **the "targets" here are me and you: everyone, all of the time. In the name of "national security", the capacity is being built to identify, track and document any citizen constantly and continuously.**