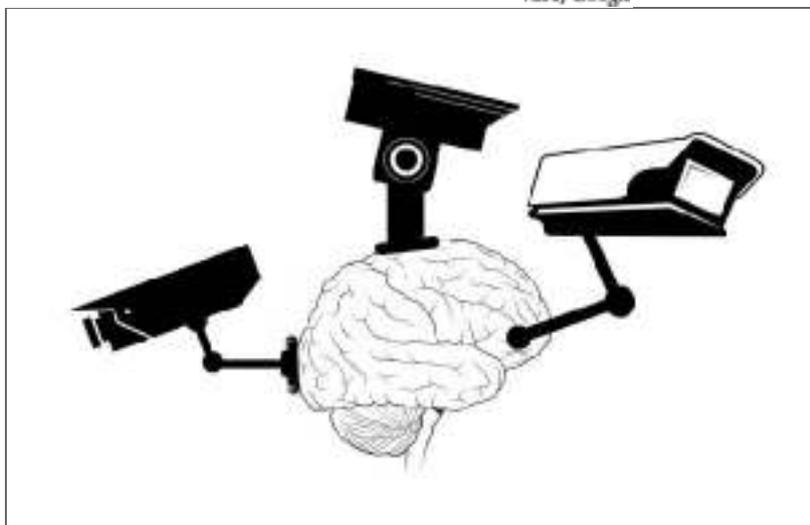


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Recognizing somebody's face in a dark environment is sometimes difficult even for the magnificent apparatus of the human eye, so it's no wonder CCTV cameras struggle. Of course, the fancy HD ones do better than their cheaper counterparts, but it is safe to say that recognizing a person is no mean feat, no matter how good the face recognition algorithm is. Lighting conditions, angles, people's clothes and facial expressions—all those things change, making it more of a guessing game, really. So what can be done about this?

Well, quite a lot actually, as it turns out. The researchers at [the University at Buffalo](http://www.buffalo.edu/news/12335) (<http://www.buffalo.edu/news/12335>) and Amrita University in India came to the conclusion that it's the brain of the system that needs a boost, not the eye. They came up with a CCTV system capable of making reasonable assumptions about who you are based on where you are (and where you are not).

After all, the possibility that you'll be strolling down the corridor in a hospital is far greater if you'd actually entered the building in the first place. And it can't be you smoking a cigarette in the toilet on the second floor, because you're talking to that lovely nurse on the ground floor this very moment.

This system is good news for low-end CCTV cameras (and for institutions that can't afford the high-end stuff). It's also another small step for humanity towards constant surveillance by all-knowing and omnipresent machines.

Oh, and it's bad news for people who smoke cigarettes in hospital toilets.

Source: [popsci.com](http://www.popsci.com/technology/article/2011-03/tracking-software-uses-reasoning-figure-out-who-and-where-you-are) (<http://www.popsci.com/technology/article/2011-03/tracking-software-uses-reasoning-figure-out-who-and-where-you-are>)

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