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FROM JAPAN, PRIVACY GLASSES THWART FACIAL RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGIES

● WORK & LIFESTYLE

Two Japanese professors have invented privacy-protecting glasses designed specifically to thwart facial recognition attempts by cameras.

It's no secret that facial recognition technologies are becoming increasingly common, with applications ranging from security to [targeted marketing](#). For those uncomfortable with the idea of a world without anonymity, however, two Japanese professors have invented [privacy-protecting glasses](#) designed specifically to thwart such facial recognition attempts. Developed by Isao Echizen of Japan's National Institute of Informatics and Seiichi Gohshi of Kogakuin University, the new glasses incorporate a near-infrared light source that affects only the camera and not people's vision. So, the glasses look like a simple pair of goggles to people nearby; for cameras, however, the near-infrared LEDs built in emit rays appear as visual "noise" in the camera's imaging device. "Because this noise appended to the facial image causes a considerable change in the amount of features that is referenced at facial detection, facial detection is misjudged and recognition of people's faces is prevented," [explain](#) the inventors, who also anticipate applications for their technology in preventing similar invasions of privacy via augmented reality apps. Style improvements are currently in the works for these privacy-protecting goggles, which are currently in prototype form. Ultimately, pricing is expected to be about USD 1 per pair, according to a [Slate report](#). Tech-minded entrepreneurs: one to help commercialize? Spotted by: Lily Dixon

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