Surveillance and the use of facial recognition technology is on the rise.

NUMBER OF CCTV CAMERAS IN SELECTED CITIES

- HOUSTON: 17,000
- LONDON: 470,000
- BEIJING: 420,000
- CHICAGO: 30,000
- WASHINGTON DC: 17,000

CCTV CAMERAS PER 1,000 RESIDENTS

- LONDON: 48.4
- WASHINGTON DC: 44.6
- BELING: 21.9
- HOUSTON: 7.7
- CHICAGO: 6.3

Source: All data from Center for Technology Innovation at Brookings 2017.

... while some are concerned about privacy, others see investment opportunity.

- Airport check in scans
- More targeted advertising
- Improved personal security
While there have been reports of potential abuses of facial recognition in some more authoritarian emerging-market regimes, there are also some far more benign applications for this technology.

Many airports are now widely using facial recognition to speed up passport checks and some smartphone apps employ similar technology which allow users to unlock their phones via their facial image.

In the future, electronic advertising boards and pillars could include facial and mood-recognition technology or gauge the age, broad socio-economic profile or even mood of people viewing them. As the technology behind facial recognition improves we are likely to find more and more everyday uses for it.

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