

# Don't expect a \$550 million settlement to stop Facebook from scanning your face | Vox

By Sara Morrison

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Facebook has agreed to pay a [\\$550 million](#) settlement over its use of facial recognition technology nearly a decade ago. This comes just days after a relatively unknown startup selling facial recognition systems to police departments [caught the attention of Congress](#). It seems, after years of civil liberties advocates worrying, facial recognition technology is more powerful and more prevalent than ever. Neither a mammoth new settlement nor the piecemeal legislation nationwide seem suited to stop the takeover.

Facebook claimed for years that it did nothing wrong. But after an attempt to throw the suit out was [rejected](#) by a federal appeals court in August 2019, Facebook [discontinued](#) the photo tag suggestions tool. Facebook's appeal to the US Supreme Court was [denied](#) last week. Rather than risk a civil trial and a potential billion-dollar judgment, Facebook decided a \$550 million settlement (which still has to be approved by a judge) was its best bet.

[...]

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