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Putin Suggests Using Smart Cameras to Keep Track of Migrants

By The Moscow Times

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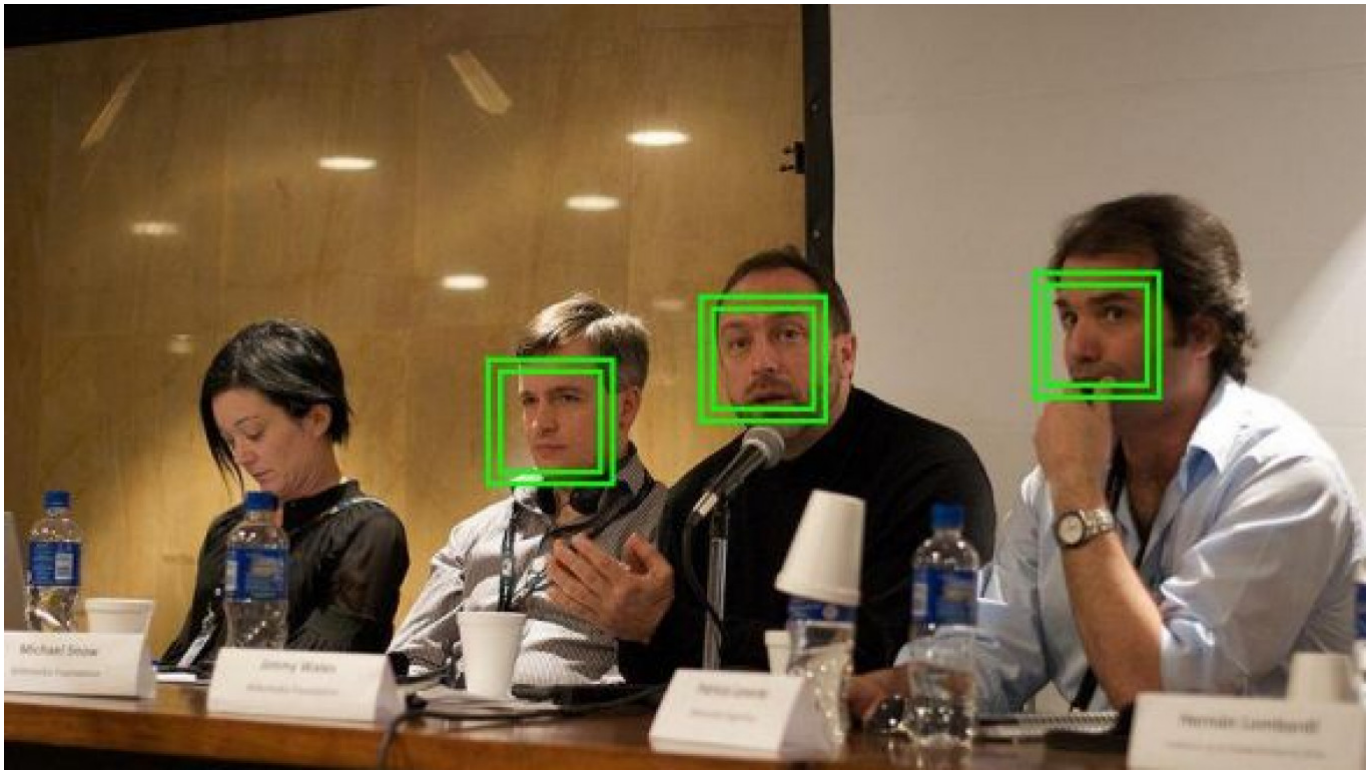

A simple illustration of a facial recognition system using smart cameras.

NOVO-OGARYOVO — President Vladimir Putin has proposed that the government use smart cameras to identify immigrants.

He said such technology would be able to help the Federal Migration Service keep track of the many migrant workers from former Soviet republics who can enter the country without a visa.

The president made the proposal Tuesday after meeting with the head of a startup company that is using smart cameras to identify people's faces and vehicles for secure access to bank machines and parking areas.

Public discontent over rising numbers of foreign workers has heated up in recent months, and in Moscow thousands of migrants have been detained in police raids.

Moscow's entire police force was temporarily put on alert during massive anti-migrant

protests last month after a 25-year-old Russian was killed, with an Azeri emerging as the main suspect.

Hours after the protests, police arrested more than 1,200 migrants in a raid on a local vegetable warehouse.

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