

Disney Is Getting Into the Deepfake Game

This might not end well.

// BY [COURTNEY LINDER](#) JUL 1, 2020



- Scientists affiliated with Disney Research Studios have come up with a way to use [deepfakes](#) to swap out faces in high resolution for the first time.
- That could mean endless possibilities for future live-action films.
- The scientists are presenting their [paper](#) at this week's Eurographics Symposium on Rendering 2020.

There's a whole trove of blogs and YouTube videos devoted to face swaps of some of the most beloved Disney characters, from [Ariel with Ursula's face](#) to [Lilo and her doll Scrump](#).

But these are just cartoons. What if the Disney could seamlessly—and convincingly—switch out the faces of real actors in live-action films like the *Pirates of the Caribbean*

franchise?

New technology from Disney Research Studios could make it happen on the big screen for the first time. Four scientists have come up with the world's highest-resolution deepfakes, or synthetic media in which a computer program can use existing images to manipulate someone's likeness.

READ THIS



What Is a Deepfake?

"To the best of our knowledge, this is the first method capable of rendering photo-realistic and temporally coherent results at megapixel resolution," the researchers say in a paper they'll present at this week's *Eurographics Symposium on Rendering 2020*.

Sure, megapixel-level resolution doesn't sound groundbreaking, considering the resolution of some smartphones, like the Galaxy S20 Ultra, snaps photos at the megapixel scale in the three-digit range. Still, it's a humble step up from current state-of-the-art deepfake tech.

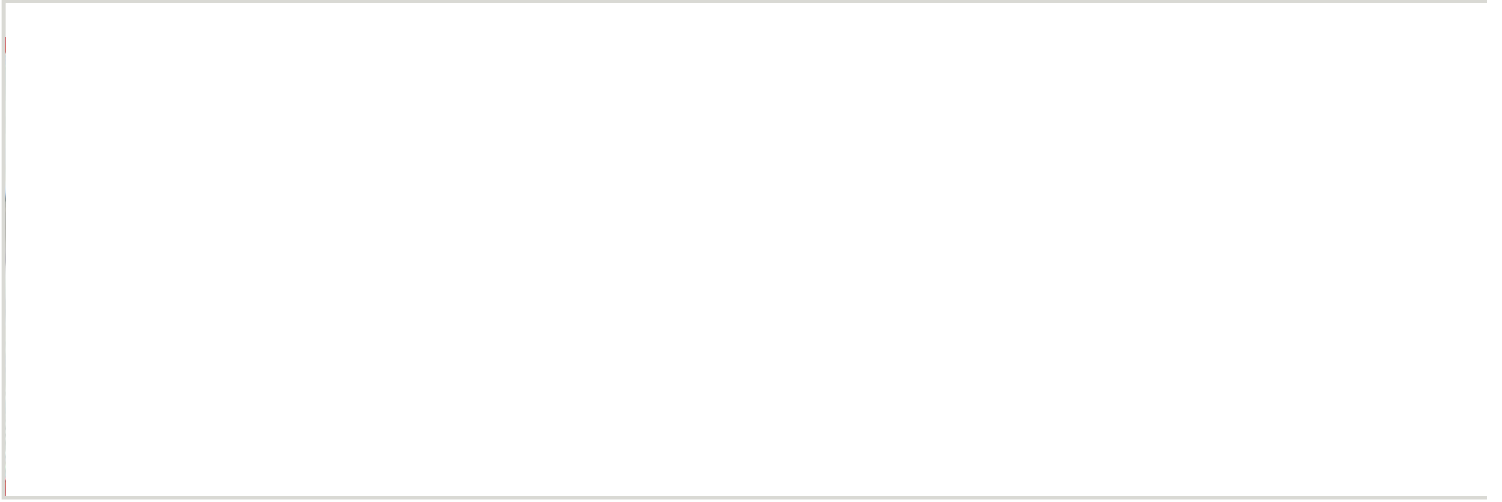
The researchers note that DeepFaceLab, a popular open-source deepfake system, could only create face swaps at 256 x 256 pixels, while their model could produce 1,024 x 1,024 pixel resolution.

High Resolution Neural Face Swapping for Visual Eff...





ADVERTISEMENT - CONTINUE READING BELOW



DISNEY RESEARCH STUDIOS

The ability to switch out the appearance of one face for another could be endlessly useful for a massive media company like Disney. Usually, it takes elaborate and labor-intensive visual effects (VFX) methods to make an actor appear younger, or to use footage of a deceased actor in a film that hasn't yet wrapped filming. Consider Paul Walker in *Furious 7*, Carrie Fisher in *Rogue One*, or the forthcoming movie starring the long-dead James Dean.

RELATED STORY



James Dean 2.0 Will Be Born with CGI

Traditional VFX methods "require great care on set as well as extensive frame-by-frame animation and post-processing by digital-effects professionals," the authors say.

But they believe that, with continual improvement, their deepfake technology could cut down on the time and cost to create these convincing doubles.

Now all we have to do is hope this powerful technology doesn't get into the wrong hands.

BEFORE YOU GO...



This Is How Algorithms Will Evolve Themselves

Need to know the biggest scientific breakthroughs in our galaxy?

Get our newsletter for most fascinating space insights.

Enter your email address.

I'M IN.

WATCH NEXT

MORE FROM
SECURITY

USPS May Be Working On Blockchain-Based Voting

How to Spot Deepfakes

ADVERTISEMENT - CONTINUE READING BELOW

Face Masks Are Thwarting Facial Recognition Tech

Russian Hackers Are Targeting COVID-19 Researchers

Don't Close Your MacBook With a Webcam Cover On

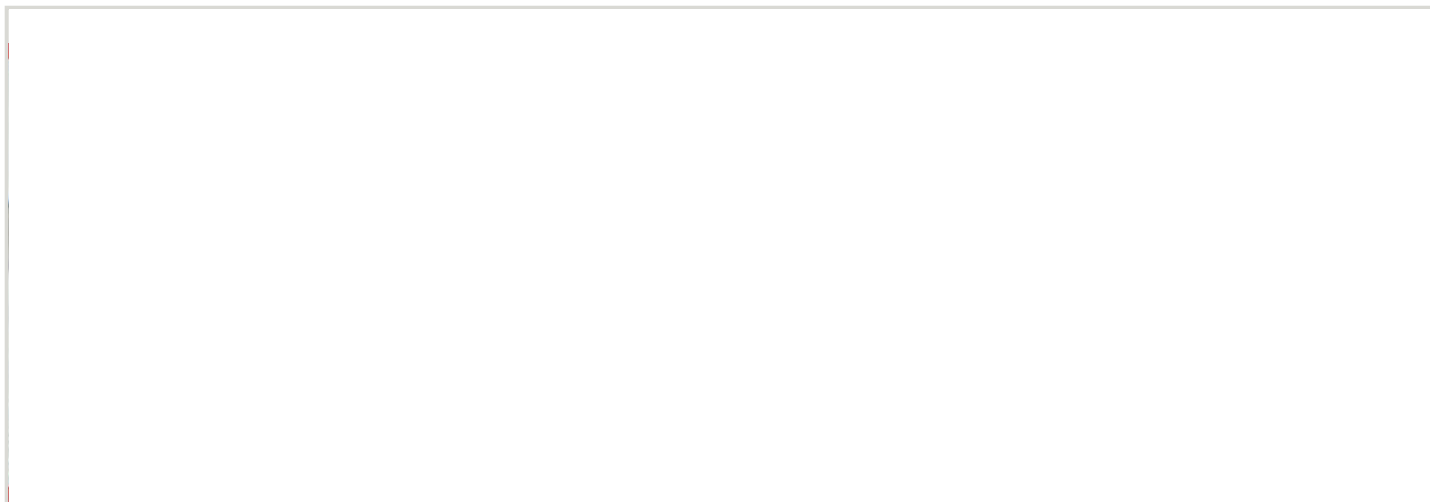
Your Security Cameras Could Be Snitching On You

Why the Trump Administration May Ban TikTok

Michigan Wants to Prevent Mandatory Microchipping

Are You Under Surveillance on Vacation?

How To Eavesdrop With a Light Bulb



[SECURITY](#)

[NEW TECHNOLOGY](#)

[THE AMPHICAR IS ONE OF THE BEST RIDES AT DISNEY](#)

[A NEUROSCIENTIST EXPLAINS GAME OF THRONES' WIGHTS](#)

[DRONES ARE NOW ALLOWED AT DISNEY PARKS](#)

[MOLTEN SALT REACTORS ARE NUCLEAR'S FUTURE](#)

[THIS IS THE MOST BADASS WAY TO PROVE MASKS WORK](#)

[SHOULD YOU SIGN-UP FOR DISNEY+?](#)

**POPULAR
MECHANICS**



[Newsletter](#)

[About Us](#)

[Press Room](#)

[Community Guidelines](#)

[Customer Service](#)

[Other Hearst Subscriptions](#)

[Events & Promotions](#)

[Being Green](#)

[Digital Editions](#)

[Media Kit](#)

[Contact Us](#)


[Advertise Online](#)

[Subscribe](#)

[Give a Gift](#)

[Giveaways](#)

[BestProducts](#)

 **Hearst Men's and
Enthusiast Media
Group - A Part of
Hearst Digital Media**

A Part of Hearst Digital Media

Popular Mechanics participates in various affiliate marketing programs, which means we may get paid commissions on editorially chosen products purchased through our links to retailer sites.

©2020 Hearst Magazine Media, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

[Privacy Notice](#)

[Your California Privacy Rights](#)

[Interest-Based Ads](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

[Site Map](#)

[Do Not Sell My Info](#)