Beat: Technology

FACEBOOK MESSENGER CAN NOW SCAN YOUR PHONE S PHOTO LIBRARY AND DETECT THE FACES

LAUNCHING A NEW FEATURE FOR MESSENGER

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USPA NEWS - Facebook has confirmed it is launching a new feature for Messenger that uses facial recognition technology to automatically detect friends' faces in a photo and notifies the user to share the photo with those friends...

Facebook has confirmed it is launching a new feature for Messenger that uses facial recognition technology to automatically detect friends' faces in a photo and notifies the user to share the photo with those friends. Facebook is testing the feature in Australia before opening it up to the iPhone version of its app and other countries. But, it may not be coming to Europe any time soon, given the social network´s long-running squabble with European data protection regulators over whether or not facial recognition infringes on the right to privacy.

The feature, called Photo Magic, goes through users' camera roll and tries to recognize the faces of friends in photos. For instance, if a user takes a quick snap with friends at a party, Photo Magic will instantly check out the most recent photo and determine which Facebook friends are included in that photo before sending a notification to share that photo...On Android, it will prompt the user within seconds of taking that photo to share it with friends via Messenger. If the user agrees, Photo Magic will immediately open a new conversation with that friend or a group message if they are sending the photo to several friends. On iOS, Photo Magic will go through users' photos 'periodically,' (Techtimes)

The goal of Photo Magic, as with other improvements for Messenger Facebook has been experimenting with, is to get more people to use Facebook's standalone messaging app. The decision to spin off Messenger was first met with criticism, but more people are quickly warming up to the idea of Messenger as an app separate from the main Facebook News Feed because of Facebook's additions to the service, including its human-powered virtual assistant M, the ability to hire home service contractors, and most recently, smarter photo sharing. (Techtimes)

Facebook lets you decide whether it can recognize your face through Messenger, the Moments app, or its auto-tagging feature for sharing photos. You can turn off the option under the 'timeline and tagging' section of your Facebook account's settings. (Techinsider)

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