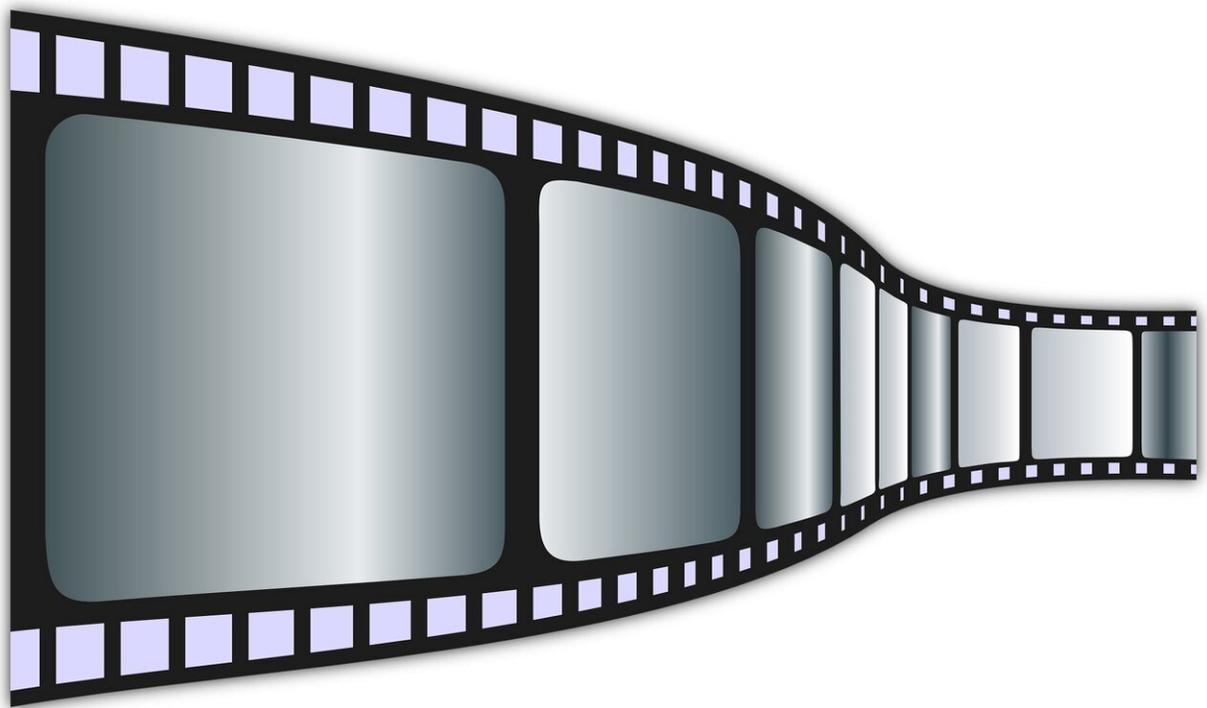


Porn, politics are key targets in 'deepfakes': study

October 7 2019



Credit: CC0 Public Domain

So-called "deepfake" videos are proliferating online, with most of them pornographic but with some politically motivated ones as well, security researchers said Monday.

A report by the security firm Deeptrace identified 96 percent of deepfakes as "nonconsensual pornography," which use the images of female celebrities or others in videos manipulated using [artificial intelligence](#).

The researchers found the number of deepfake videos almost doubling over the last seven months to 14,678.

The report said four websites dedicated to deepfake pornography received more than 134 million views, which "demonstrates a market for websites creating and hosting [deepfake](#) pornography, a trend that will continue to grow unless decisive action is taken," said Deeptrace chief executive Georgio Patrini in a blog post.

Patrini said deepfakes are also "making a significant impact on the political sphere," noting cases in Gabon and Malaysia targeting [political leaders](#).

"These examples are possibly the most powerful indications of how deepfakes are already destabilizing political processes," he said.

Patrini said some new cases are emerging "where synthetic voice audio and images of non-existent, synthetic people were used to enhance social engineering against businesses and governments."

The report comes amid growing concerns that deepfakes could be used to manipulate voters ahead of elections in the United States and elsewhere.

Big social networks have been stepping up efforts to detect and thwart the distribution of manipulated videos but analysts say it is increasingly difficult to stop the spread of deepfakes.

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Citation: Porn, politics are key targets in 'deepfakes': study (2019, October 7) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://techxplore.com/news/2019-10-porn-politics-key-deepfakes.html>

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