

CNET News

[Technically Incorrect](#)

August 26, 2009 12:14 PM PDT

Man with 25 IDs nabbed by face-recognition tech

by [Chris Matyszczyk](#)

Edited 1.20pmPST to include quotes from Indiana BMV's Deputy Communications Director

Sometimes he was Eric Nicholson. Sometimes he was Vernon Eugene Lyons.

However, according to authorities in Indiana, his real name was George Helms and he assumed at least 10 different names in that state alone.

[According to CBS2 Chicago](#), Helms walked into the Hobart, Ind., license branch to obtain an 11th ID. No one seems really sure why he would want an 11th license.



Software makes it harder to hide your true identity.

(Credit: [CC DerrickT/Flickr](#))

What Helms appears not to have known is that Indiana has invested in new facial recognition software.

Helms allegedly had all the correct paperwork and then posed for his photograph. However, in the evening after his application was approved, the photograph passed through the new facial recognition system, which spotted an allegedly remarkable similarity with 10 other licenses, according to the report.

In an email, the bureau's Graig Lubsen told CNET that normal procedure is that: "The next morning, our investigators will examine all of the potential facial recognition conflicts and determine if an investigation should proceed."

He added: "In Mr. Helms case, we had already distributed BMV 'Wanted' posters of Helms and a variety of other people to all 140 license branches and the employee recognized Helms from the poster."

The Bureau of Motor Vehicles claims that Helms got four licenses between July 2000 and

October 2001. And eight more October 2008 to February 2009, according to the report.

As the investigation has continued, it has spread to Illinois, where authorities believe Helms secured at least 15 other IDs.

He has been charged with seven counts of forgery and is currently in jail.



Chris Matyszczyk is an award-winning creative director who advises major corporations on content creation and marketing. He brings an irreverent, sarcastic, and sometimes ironic voice to the tech world. He is a member of the CNET Blog Network and is not an employee of CNET.