

Doktor Jon's CCTV & IP Video Surveillance

Newsletter
- July 2009 -

As summer appears to have been put on hold this year, taking a holiday away from the ever changing world of CCTV isn't currently an option for The Dok. So here we go, my latest Video Surveillance Newsletter, chock full with all the best newsy bits, of what's been happening over the last few weeks. Just as a quick reminder, if you've missed seeing any recent Special Reports, or would like to look back over the previous editions, there's now [an archive page with all the Newsletter download links, available here](#). Happy reading! D.J.

Not a lot of people know that

As months go, July has been absolutely crammed with CCTV related news stories, which you'll find stretched across the following pages; one theme that has emerged time and again relates to the statistics of surveillance. For some time now the [BBC have been looking at the scope of video surveillance in the UK](#), and trying to gauge the extent and range of our current CCTV usage.

Apparently, despite the size of San Francisco's population, the UK's remote Shetland Islands actually have physically more cameras than the home of the Golden Gate Bridge. Would it also surprise you to know that according to [the Daily Mail newspaper](#), based on information provided by 26 constabularies across Britain, it would appear that ANPR cameras may now be capturing the equivalent of perhaps 3 billion vehicle number plates a year.



DJ's pick of this months CCTV related news stories

No way to leave a child - A 23 year old woman has appeared in court, after having been recorded by a video surveillance camera abandoning her new born baby girl, in the Steel Lake Presbyterian Church, Federal Way Washington State. The accused is expected to receive a community service sentence next month, for the incident which occurred last september; the child was thought to be less than a day old when left by her mother on the church premises. - source - [Federalway Monitor.com](#)

What the eye doesn't see ... - An audacious thief managed to steal over £ 1m (US\$ 1.5m, € 1.15m) worth of antique porcelain items, despite the presence of a sophisticated CCTV system. The items were stolen from the only two cabinets not covered by the security cameras, during a late night raid on a stately home in Lewes, West Sussex, UK. - source - [Mail Online](#)

Floundering around for a solution - The scandal of £40m worth of fish being thrown back into the North Sea every year, simply because it does not comply with the fishing quota, is soon to be addressed by a new initiative. As part of a £ 100,000 trial project, seven Scottish trawlers will be equipped with CCTV in an attempt to monitor the type of fish being landed, and hopefully reduce the almost 50% of cod and haddock which the skippers are compelled to throw back, in order to stay within the rules - source - [The Shetland Times](#)

Gunning for revenge - A 23 year old man was arraigned to prison in Reading, Pennsylvania, U.S.A., after having been arrested on suspicion of shooting down one of the city's newest surveillance cameras. Having failed the first time, it's alleged that he later returned to the scene and fired a number of shots, causing the camera to crash to the ground. It has since been replaced at a cost of US\$ 6,175. - source - [readingeagle.com](#)

That's quite a haul - It's not often that a fisherman can cast his line in a shopping centre, and expect to land much of a catch, but for one 48 year old man in Wollongong Australia, he clearly got more than he bargained for. Having thrown a length of fishing line over a security camera in the local Mall, he eventually managed to steal it whilst being filmed by another unit close to the scene. In a court hearing, the offender was given a six month suspended jail term, and ordered to repay the Aus\$ 3,500 cost of the missing equipment. - source - [Illawarra Mercury](#)

It's time hasn't come - At a meeting of Ivybridge Town Council in Devon, UK, councillors voted against installing CCTV despite the local police urging acceptance. As part of the consultation process, whilst residents were asked for their views on fitting security cameras in the town, five e-mails were received in favour, two against, and the views of the other 13,000 townsfolk remains something of a mystery. - source - [Dartmouth Chronicle](#)



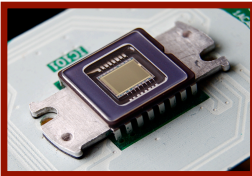
'VIPER' CCTV Performance Evaluation Reports



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DJ's CCTV / IP Video Forum



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DJ's pick of this months CCTV related news stories from around the globe - continued

And the lesson today is ... - CCTV in schools may be nothing new, but the Stockwell Park High School in South London has been making the news recently, for it's fulsome and enthusiastic embrace of wide ranging video surveillance technology. Civil libertarians and teacher unions have been quick to react to the announcement that the schools current coverage using 100 surveillance cameras, will soon be expanded to effectively double that number.. - source - [24dash.com](#)

Softly, softly, catchy monkey - Staff at a plant nursery in Richardson, Texas were intrigued to find out how their stock was disappearing from the store, without anyone noticing anything suspicious. Having reviewed the video surveillance recordings, bemused managers contacted the local Police Department to confirm that they had now positively identified the thief ... as a small monkey. It's not known whether there were any banana plants amongst the haul. - source - [dallasnews.com](#)

Traffic jams just disappear - The 23 camera traffic control system installed in Jaipur, India, has come to a dead end, after the company providing the leased lines threw the switch to turn off the video feeds. It's alleged that the local authority stopped paying for the cable links earlier in the year, saying it was the responsibility of the traffic department to cover the costs, particularly as they were raising all the revenues through the issuing of penalty charge tickets. - source - [The Times of India](#)

The last port to call - Some four years ago, George Tarburton, a Maryland Transportation Authority Police Officer was working as part of the thinnest of blue lines, to protect the Port of Baltimore in the US. Deeply concerned about the site's lack of physical security, which included wooden dummy CCTV cameras set up to 'protect' the ports perimeter, he eventually blew the whistle through the local news media, and subsequently lost his job. Whilst the port security is now regarded as "near perfect" by the US Coast Guard, George has since been unable to secure any job with a police or law enforcement department, and has now had to settle for working at a much lower level in the private security industry. - source - [The Baltimore Sun](#)

Where did it all go wrong - In a recent interview for the BBC's Newsnight current affairs TV programme, DCI Mick Neville of London's Metropolitan Police Service, has suggested that mistakes were made in rushing to install CCTV across the UK, without the correct processes and procedures in place to manage the recordings effectively. It's also been revealed that recent research has cast doubt on the much reported historical guesstimate of 4.2 million cameras in use, with analysts now suggesting perhaps a million less across the country. - source - [BBC News](#) - ([Doktor Jon's recent interview with DCI Mick Neville](#))

You can count on statistics - As part of the BBC's investigation into the use of CCTV across Britain today, the corporation made hundreds of Freedom of Information access requests to local authorities, to find out how many cameras are being used. Apparently the London Borough of Wandsworth actually has more security cameras deployed (1,113), than Dublin, San Francisco, Johannesburg and Boston all combined. - source - [BBC News](#)

One drink too many - Early one morning, a self employed businessman was caught on camera in Tamworth Town Centre having a quick drink, moments before getting behind the wheel of an S type Jaguar car. The CCTV Operator notified the police, and the driver was quickly stopped and breathalysed. Having recorded a reading of well over twice the legal limit for blood alcohol levels, he was later fined £ 1,700 (US\$ 2,550 € 1,950) and banned from driving for 20 months.. - source - [thisistamworth.co.uk](#)

Killings caught on camera - A Florida couple well known for fostering kids with special needs, were brutally murdered in a military style robbery, which took place whilst nine of their seventeen children were sheltering in other rooms at their Beulah home. A number of suspects have since been arrested by police, after the tragedy was captured on the extensive CCTV system, previously installed to help care for the many children that needed constant supervision. - source - [Herald Tribune.com](#)

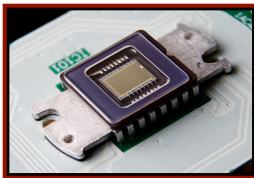
Request for a disc thrown out - An indian court has refused a request from the sole surviving terrorist responsible for the Mumbai terror attacks, to have CCTV footage of his killing spree supplied to him on a CD disc. When asked by the judge why he wanted a copy of the recordings, the accused refused to answer, even though apparently he has no access to a suitable player. - source - [IndianExpress.com](#)

A visionary remembered - Samuel Genensky may not be particularly well known in the world of CCTV, but as a mathematician and inventor, he is widely regarded as the pioneer in developing closed circuit television viewers in the late '50s, to help the visually impaired become more able to read everyday printed material. At the age of 81, Samuel has sadly passed away at his home in Santa Monica, California, after having revolutionised the lives of millions around the world, with his visionary genius. - source - [Los Angeles Times](#)

Flushed with success - Notre Dame High School in Norwich, UK is the latest seat of learning to place CCTV cameras in the toilet block. Faced with bills for vandalism that had already topped £ 3,500 (US\$ 5k, €4k), since installing the equipment to monitor the washbasins, there have been no further incidents. - source - [iEDP24](#)

The time has come ... - Councillors in Derby UK, are faced with difficult decisions after parts of their 185 camera system were identified as coming to the end of their useful life. Now proposals to decommission 26 cameras which are either failing to detect crime, or are not measurably reducing the fear of crime, will be put out to public consultation before a decision is made. - source - [ThisisDerbyshire.co.uk](#)

Get it off your chest - A 28 year old woman was captured by a pet shop surveillance camera, stuffing an 8 week old Shih Tzu puppy under her shirt. The theft from the Sweet Puppy Love store in Panama City was resolved when the mother was later arrested, and the \$ 800 pup returned to the shop. - source - [NewsHerald.com](#)



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DJ's pick of this months CCTV related news stories from around the globe - continued

Wheel of misfortune - A 27 year old security camera installer from Riverside California, faces up to eighteen years in jail for masterminding the theft of \$ 1.5 million, from the casino where he worked. He was found guilty of 12 felonies including robbery and false imprisonment, after the casino in San Jacinto was raided by his gang, who tied up three surveillance guards and held seven others hostage in the vault. - source - MercuryNews.com

When questions need answers - After having recently been cited as the most surveilled city in the United States, some less than impressed residents of Lancaster have decided to form an action group, known as 'The Lancaster Coalition for Sensible Security'. Highlighting their concerns about both effectiveness and the constitutional implications of surveillance, the group are holding public meetings to question the operation of the 120 camera public space system, that is presently monitored by volunteer operators. - source - LancasterOnline.com

Rocks that hit hard places - The one thing that most CCTV operators dread most is the risk of rocks whizzing towards their expensive cameras, but for professional meteorite chasers in the US, news that the Mason-Dixon meteor had accidentally been captured on a surveillance camera owned by the York Water Company in Pennsylvania, must have seemed like a gift from the gods. So now the race is on to locate the remnants, with sale prices being quoted for meteorite fragments, at many times that for gold. - source - [The Baltimore Sun](http://TheBaltimoreSun)

Employed in preventing theft by employees - Retailers in the US are resorting to some clever video analytics to try and cut down on employee theft. Using a system called StopLift, check outs are monitored for unusual behaviour, such as under ringing goods at the till, or bagging up items that have not been scanned. Figures suggest that last year, almost half of all retail theft in american stores was committed by employees, at a cost of almost \$ 16 billion, although the new system has also helped to identify losses simply attributable to poor employee performance. - source - Reuters

When desecrated replaces consecrated ... - A proposal has been forwarded by the Religious Services Ministry to the Knesset (Israel's Parliament), to install video surveillance at the historic Mount of Olives cemetery east of Jerusalem, where many of the 70,000 graves have been desecrated by vandals in recent years. - source - [The Jerusalem Post](http://TheJerusalemPost)

Cameras ... what cameras? - News from Queensland Australia, where the Mayor of Roma is convinced that crime has been reduced, simply because the local vandals believe they have CCTV operating on the main street. The town was intending to install security cameras, but when it's council amalgamated with four others, the plan was put on hold; whilst nobody mentioned it to the residents, crime incidents have in fact decreased significantly. - source - CoomaExpress

A taste of things to come - Restaurants and bars in Be'er Sheva in Israel, facing additional costs caused by extended summer opening hours, have been offered an unusual solution by the city's Chief Rabbi. Under Jewish dietary laws, all food preparation has to be closely monitored to make sure it is 'kosher'. Now the rabbi has proposed fitting the kitchens with CCTV cameras, so one observer can oversee a number of eateries, at a greatly reduced cost to the proprietors - source - Haaretz.com

Fire in the hole - Following a deliberate arson attack which knocked out four Town Centre CCTV cameras in Airdrie, Scotland it's been alleged that a notorious local drug dealer was behind the incident. Since the street cameras were installed they've supposedly had a marked effect on local crime, so much so that the disgruntled individual was reported as having paid to have petrol poured under the manhole cover that protects the local CCTV, telephone and cable television cables. - source - [Airdrie & Coatbridge Advertiser](http://Airdrie&CoatbridgeAdvertiser)

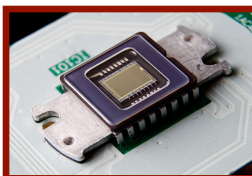
Giving the children safe passage - The National Police Agency in Japan have put forward a proposal to install security camera networks in 15 residential areas, to be completed by the beginning of 2010. Each network will comprise of 25 cameras that are intended to cover streets used mostly by children on their way to school. Whilst the recording and monitoring equipment will be located in community buildings, the police will have to rely entirely on volunteers to operate the equipment. - source - [The Japan Times Online](http://TheJapanTimesOnline)

More bangs from a buck - Hot on the hooves of the bullock that ran amok in an Irish supermarket recently, a wild buck decided this week to go for a spin around a hardware store in Penn Yan, New York State. Having crashed around the displays for some minutes, it was probably the sight of five trophy deer heads mounted on the wall, that convinced the young animal to turn tail and escape out the back entrance. Needless to say, all the excitement was captured on the stores CCTV system. - source - WHEC.com

A technological approach to tackling terrorism - The Philippine National Police (PNP) are urging traders to install CCTV, in a concerted attempt to address the risks of future terrorist attacks. Whilst the country is on the highest level of alert following the Mindanao bombings, the authorities believe that the addition of video surveillance will complement their strategy of high visibility policing and checkpoints. - source - [GMA News](http://GMANews)

Out of sight, out of bounds - The Public Service Commission in Malta, has decreed that CCTV evidence cannot be used in any disciplinary hearings, where the employees are unaware of the presence of video surveillance. The ruling is based on advice from the country's data commissioner, and ensures that either the accused or their union must have been previously notified about the use of cameras, otherwise the recordings are useless. - source - [Malta Today](http://MaltaToday)

• Doktor Jon's current CCTV News page - <http://www.doktorjon.co.uk/whatsnew2.html>



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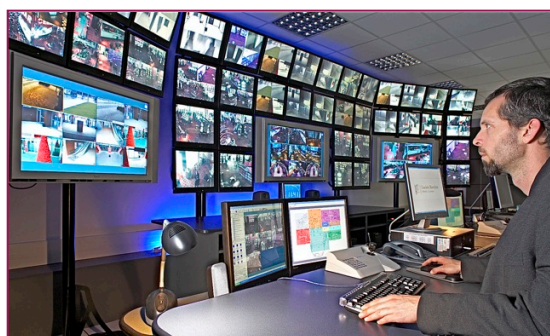
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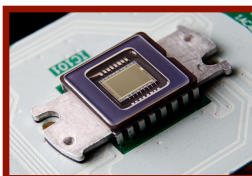
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The next batch of forthcoming Security Shows and CCTV / IP Video related Events

- 28th - 30th July - [NFPA Americas Fire and Security](#) - Miami Beach, Florida, USA
 - 11th August - [IP-in-Action Live Dallas](#) - Dallas, Texas, USA
 - 11th - 12th August - [Midwest Security & Police Expo and Conference](#) - Rosemont, Illinois, USA
 - 24th - 26th August - [Security 2009 Conference & Exhibition](#) - Sydney, Australia
 - 31st August - 3rd September - [SPIE Europe Security Defence 2009](#) - Berlin, Germany
 - 1st - 3rd September - [Las Americas Security Show](#) - Mexico City, Mexico
 - 15th September - [Security Canada Atlantic](#) - Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada
 - 15th September - [IP - in - Action LIVE Scotland](#) - Edinburgh, Scotland
 - 6th - 8th October - [FLIR Thermal Imaging training courses](#) - Frankfurt, Germany
 - 29th - 31st October - [IFSEC India 2009](#) - Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, India
- [DJ's complete listing of Forthcoming CCTV / IP Video Shows and Events](#) •

Some additional CCTV / IP Video Industry News in Brief

The Counter Terror Expo 2010 being held at Olympia on 14th - 15th April, are calling for Conference and Workshop papers to be submitted by 15th September 2009, so if you have an original idea suitable for presenting at this prestigious event, why not [drop them a line](#).

Getting bored? ... fancy a change of scene? ... Controlware Communications Systems are on the lookout for a suitably qualified 'CCTV Technical Support Manager' to join their happy team. If you or someone you know is interested, drop them a line to hr@controlware.co.uk, by no later than 14th August 2009.

If you'd like to see more job vacancies or positions wanted included on my main site, or perhaps detailed on future Newsletters, then please let me know. Then again, if you hear of anyone that has an absolutely desperate need for a seriously 'alternative' CCTV Advisor, with a penchant for a decidedly "holistic" approach to video surveillance deployment who yer gonna call?

Your CCTV Industry needs you

Over the years, I've actually lost count of the number of times, that I've been asked to develop online CCTV training material, but having only recently received a specific request for information about freely available web based training clips, perhaps you can help; if you know of any suitable video surveillance training resources online, just drop me a line and I'll add the details into my website's Research Section.

I never cease to be amazed at the range of weird and wonderful requests I receive through my CCTV 'Helpdesk' service - People looking for obscure bits and bobs, advice on gathering video evidence of Neighbours from Hell, journalists after an independent view on various aspects of video surveillance ... and the list goes on. If you're looking for any particular information or advice on CCTV, I can't guarantee I'll definitely know the answer, but the chances are I may well know someone who does.

There are often occasions when documentation or writing needs to be produced, supported by suitable graphics, but it's not always easy to lay your hands on an appropriate photograph to accompany the text.

You may not be aware, but apart from all the original copyright CCTV images on my site, there's also a couple of thousand general subject photos, that are available for use if requested. So if you're stuck for a picture of a well 'ard camera with attitude, or something perhaps a wee bit more abstract, let me know and I'll see what I have available in the archives.

Incidentally, work is now well underway on upgrading the look of my main website, so keep an eye out for some significant changes, coming very soon.

Well this slightly more chunky Newsletter is now done for a month, with hopefully loads more stuff to report at the end of august. As always, I hope you found it interesting, and if you have any comments, suggestions or ideas for future inclusion, please don't hesitate to drop me a line:- newsdesk@doktorjon.co.uk If you happen to know someone that would like to receive future copies, please ask them to get in touch. Of course, if you decide you don't want to receive them, just let me know.

Until the next one, have a great month DJ

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