



The times they are a changing, as indeed is The Dok's tiny little website. As the project is now rapidly approaching 2,200 pages, and the major site upgrade is also well under way, I thought now would be as good a time as any to reflect the changes to the 'new look', with a quick tidy up starting on this month's Newsletter. As always, lots to tell in the following pages, and of course if you've missed any previous editions and you'd like to catch up, they're all available to download from [the Newsletter archive page](#), I hope you like the changes DJ.

So what's been making the CCTV News this month?

For anyone that's been living on a desert island for the last twelve months, it would be understandable if the problems and challenges of a global recession are not really that high up on their list of concerns. Having said that, it isn't just the manufacturers, distributors and installers that are having to cope with the challenges of working in an uncertain world. Whilst some companies have reported record results, others have been hit hard by a savage downturn in both short term orders and longer term projects.

Whilst many countries are actively pursuing a policy of deploying sophisticated Public Space Surveillance systems, here in the U.K. there are now tangible signs that many local authorities are having a serious rethink, about whether their existing CCTV operations and future proposed expansions, are in practice offering an effective, affordable and ultimately sustainable route to achievable crime reduction.

In one [recent news report](#), Preston in Lancashire, U.K. was highlighted as an area where the ongoing funding for CCTV operations may be in doubt.

Whilst the arguments over future provision of monitoring services will undoubtedly lead to some heated debates, the need to look afresh at how best to apply existing technology in order to achieve the most effective and efficient return on investment, may undoubtedly be a product of necessity, but from an independent observers point of view, it could perhaps be more realistically viewed as a golden opportunity.



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It's interesting to contrast the UK's experience, with what's currently going on in other countries, either through ambition, or in many cases necessity. Cities and states across the U.S. continue to benefit from huge 'Homeland Security' grants, which as well as providing regional 'Fusion Centres', are also being used to deploy vast numbers of video surveillance cameras, as typified by the New York Midtown project scheduled for completion in 2011, and the Cook County 'Project Shield' deployment in Chicago, which has apparently been dogged with problems. Further afield, in the wake of ongoing terrorist outrages, India is racing ahead with plans to employ video surveillance wherever practical, albeit that the degree of home grown expertise available, has already exposed some vulnerabilities in certain key aspects of their systems operation. Closer to home, President Sarkozy of France has indicated an ambitious expansion of security cameras throughout the country including the tourist dependent areas of the French Riviera, although I'll be looking into developments in this region, in a bit more detail later on.

I spotted a somewhat controversial article in the [Times Online](#), where Mike Press, the professor of design policy at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, in Dundee, has described the current deployment of CCTV throughout Scotland, as politically motivated and ineffectual. Having spent ten years studying the complexities of design as a contributor to effective crime reduction, he's concluded that the existing use of CCTV technology is mostly a waste of money, merely producing a feel good factor rather than any significant practical results. He goes on to lay the blame squarely at the feet of security companies that promote the technology, suggesting that for the man in the street, "We think these cameras help but actually the evidence suggests they don't help at all".

With this in mind, future developments in Video Surveillance will perhaps concentrate less on the technology for producing the images, and more on the systems that will automatically process and interpret the video streams. The recently launched [Centre for Secure Information Technologies](#) based at the Queen's University, Belfast, are already actively involved in developing new algorithms to allow security surveillance systems to function more independently, from the current camera 'operator' dependent schemes. With a [range of research projects](#) already underway, it was recently [reported by BBC News](#), that a team are looking at ways of developing a functional Predictive Behavioural Analysis package that could be deployed on coaches and buses, to help identify the first signs of someone intent on committing a physical assault. According to the Centre's website, they are also actively involved in researching and engineering the latest developments in technological imaging solutions, for tracking objects, image stabilisation, optimising systems for object recognition, and developing techniques for establishing a subjects gender, possibly for future use as part of a real-time threat profiling solution.



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

We could all learn a lesson - The Rice Lake schools district in the U.S., have invested \$120k in acquiring 56 cameras for use in their buildings. Having worked closely on helping to develop the project, the local Police Department are now able to access any of the camera feeds from within their vehicles, giving First Responder officers a huge operational advantage by being able to see inside the schools, when attending to any incident or emergency in progress. - Source - WEAU.com

A holiday with a difference - A 53 year old welsh farmer has been charged with 12 counts of voyeurism and three of taking indecent images of children, after police discovered four CCTV cameras hidden in smoke detectors, in the bedrooms and bathroom of his holiday cottage. The case was brought after his former girlfriend tipped off the police about the existence of the sophisticated surveillance set up. - Source - WalesOnline.co.uk

They will remember - The Royal British Legion branch in Heston, west London, has been outraged by the councils decision to install a re-deployable CCTV camera on a lamppost next to the villages' war memorial. In a location dedicated to the memory of the fallen from two world wars, the surveillance unit has been condemned by some as an "eyesore". - Source - [The Hounslow Chronicle](http://TheHounslowChronicle)

Promise you won't look - Given an ongoing threat of terrorist attacks, for the last two years Charbagh railway station in India, has benefitted from a comprehensive CCTV system installed by the Government Railway Police. Unfortunately, whilst the cameras are apparently being recorded, it's been revealed that the lack of a functional control room means that none of the images can be monitored or replayed by the security personnel - Source - [The Times of India](http://TheTimesofIndia)

Sounds as bizarre as it looks - A suspect accused of using a wireless security camera in his hotel room to spy on the teenage girls staying next door, has managed to avoid jail through a legal conundrum. The Assistant District Attorney in Arapahoe County, Colorado, tried to bring a case against the peeper, using 'eavesdropping' laws, but as the sound was indistinct on the recording, the charges had to be dropped and he was eventually dealt with instead, on a minor misdemeanour - Source - [Denver Post.com](http://DenverPost.com)

When there's no safety in security - A man that suffered an horrific attack in a west country train station, has discovered that the police are unable to investigate due to a lack of evidence. The 60 year old grandfather was beaten senseless by a gang of youths at the Worle Parkway station, but the identities of the attackers remain a mystery, after it emerged that the entire CCTV system was not functioning at the time of the attack. - Source - [Weston & Somerset Mercury](http://Weston&SomersetMercury)

If the symptoms persist ... - In seeking to tackle violence against NHS staff, four hospitals in Wales are to have their Accident and Emergency departments equipped with comprehensive CCTV systems. The trial which is expected to start in December, will also see five ambulances fitted with security cameras, at an overall cost of around £ 300k for the twelve month evaluation period. - Source - [Nursing Times](http://NursingTimes)

Camera ... action ... it's a wrap - Police officers in Salt Lake City, Utah, managed to arrest 108 people on suspicion of drug related activity, during a three day targeted operation. The clampdown on dealers resulted from the displacement of activity from a local park, following the installation of security cameras earlier this year. In the areas directly monitored by video surveillance, drug dealing had declined dramatically, as the problem effectively moved one block further down the road - Source - [The Salt Lake Tribune](http://TheSaltLakeTribune)

Looking down on those looking up - Police officers in Palo Alto, California are searching for a male suspect believed to have been repeatedly using a hidden camera, to look up the skirts of female customers browsing in an electronics store. Staff spotted the man behaving suspiciously using their security cameras, but despite their best efforts, were unable to locate the individual once he'd left the premises - Source - [Palo Alto Daily News](http://PaloAltoDailyNews) - Peninsula

Anything familiar about the suspect? - Quite understandably, a Louisiana homeowner had a bit of a shock when on returning home, it was discovered that a burglar had broken in while they were away. But that was nothing compared to the surprise of seeing a stark naked burglar caught on the home CCTV system. The individual apparently showered on the drive using the garden hose, before breaking in, cooking himself a meal, and then ransacking the property, all of which was caught on camera. He was last seen escaping wrapped in a clean sheet. - Source - Fox4kc.com

Over the sea and far away - A group of scientists have been studying the behaviour of black browed albatrosses, as they soar effortlessly over the southern oceans. Four birds were suitably equipped with custom built cameras and data logging equipment, which have somewhat surprisingly revealed that these huge sea birds will happily follow whales on the surface, in what is thought to be a deliberate technique for locating food scraps.- Source - PlosOne

Airport security's really taking off - News from the US, where the latest announcement by the TSA has confirmed that \$ 2.5 million will be spent on installing new security cameras at the Logan International Airport in Boston, and also upgrading the record and storage systems. - Source - Aero-News.net



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

Do the eyes have it? - A UK based company called "Internet Eyes" is looking to launch a controversial new CCTV monitoring service within weeks. Designed to allow members of the public access to security cameras that are streamed over the internet, each month the person spotting and reporting the most crimes will receive a substantial cash "reward". Privacy campaigners are understandably outraged at the project, which is intending to charge businesses £ 20 per month (US\$ 32, €21) for the privilege of adding their camera feeds onto the website. - Source - msnbc.com

Holes in the shield - Investigative journalists have discovered that the "Project Shield" deployment of security cameras throughout the 128 suburbs of Cook County, Illinois, have been beset with problems. Funded by a \$43m Department of Homeland Security grant, the hugely ambitious project designed to feed mobile and fixed Law Enforcement cameras back to a central command centre, has so far gone 36% over budget, and is estimated to be around three years behind schedule. - Source - Sun-Times News Group

Games without frontiers Authorities are making detailed plans for the use of advanced CCTV systems, as part of the security preparations for the Commonwealth Games, to be held in New Delhi in a years time. More than 2,000 cameras will be installed around the venues, and along with new border cameras being set up at 27 checkpoints, the images will all be linked back to a custom built Command and Control Centre in the police headquarters, which will also be tied in with a Control Room in the Games Village. - Source - Sindh Today

Big Apple gets picked for more funding - Following on from the deployment of a "Ring of Steel" security infrastructure in Lower Manhattan, the Department of Homeland Security have now awarded a \$24m grant to extend video surveillance technology across Midtown. In highlighting his administrations desire to push on with security upgrades, Mayor Bloomberg has confirmed that the policy is number one on his list of priorities, and should be completed by no later than 2011. - Source - NYDaily News.com

Cabbies rank cameras highly - A trial involving six taxis that were fitted with CCTV whilst operating in and around Dundee, Scotland, has been hailed a complete success after only one crime incident was recorded in the previous twelve months. - Source - STV

You know you want it ... - The debate over the U.K.'s surveillance society has almost come and gone without much being said, but now computer security expert Bruce Schneier has raised concerns about the privacy implications for the wider commercial use of video surveillance. The application of CCTV for monitoring shopper trends is nothing new, but now powerful computer programs are being married to surveillance technology, to take the retailers automatic evaluation of customer behaviour to a new level. Facial recognition and behavioural analysis are now increasingly being used to obtain ever increasing insights into what exactly makes shoppers tick. - Source - BBC News

Cameras count for nothing - A 49 year old mother of two was outraged to find that the man captured on CCTV vandalising her husbands car, was released by police due to an apparent lack of evidence. The attack was the latest incident to be carried out at the family's Bristol home, and despite having invested heavily in security cameras to catch the perpetrator in the act, the police released a suspect after his mother gave him an alibi. - Source - This is Bristol.co.uk

The truth is out there - An attorney carrying out an unofficial investigation into the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, has claimed that the 26 videotapes handed over by the FBI, have in some way been edited. The recordings show the aftermath of the attack, in which 168 people were killed, but do not carry any images of the period leading up to the attack. The FBI have denied any tampering with the recordings, or the existence of any other material. - Source - Associated Press

We can't quite see you - San Francisco Police Chief George Gascon has urged a move towards real time monitoring of the city's 71 security cameras. At present, officers are only allowed to request access to recordings in order to investigate an incident, and this approach is considered to have had little impact in tackling violent crime. - Source - KCBS

Keep on trucking - Worried truck drivers in Australia are turning to video surveillance cameras as a dependable independent witness to their driving skills. Increasingly motorists are claiming that 'truckies' tailgate their vehicles, and given the number of serious accidents on the country's highways, they've quickly recognised the benefits of using in cab CCTV to record the antics of other road users, whilst confirming their innocence. - Source - Couriermail.com.au

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



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

- 20th - 21st October - [Sectech Expo & Seminars](#) - Stockholm - Sweden
- 21st - 22nd October - [Security Canada Central](#) - Toronto Congress Centre - Canada
- 27th October - [CameraWatchForum](#) - Edinburgh
- 27th - 28th October - [BEST Exhibition](#) - Victory Services Club - London
- 27th - 30th October - [Security Russia](#) - Moscow - Russia
- 28th - 29th October - [ISC East 2009](#) - Jacob Javits Convention Centre - New York - USA
- 29th - 31st October - [IFSEC India 2009](#) - Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, India
- 3rd - 5th November - [Vision 2009](#) - Neue Messe - Stuttgart - Germany
- 5th November - [CONSEC 2009](#) - RAF Museum - Hendon - London
- 12th November - [Retail Traffic Analysis Webinar](#) - Verint Systems
- 17th - 18th November - [Sectech Expo & Seminars](#) - Scandic Hotel - Copenhagen - Denmark
- 18th - 20th November - [LEVA 20th Anniversary Training Conference](#) - Fort Worth, Texas, USA

The Doks. been off on his travels again, spotting CCTV in France

Perhaps the only thing worse than having to look at other peoples holiday photo's, is having to look at their holiday photo's of CCTV cameras! Still after a week of escaping the omnipresent surveillance of Old London Town, and instead having to suffer the delights of the French Riviera, a reluctantly returned Dok. is now embarrassed to report that professionally avoiding CCTV abroad, is indeed becoming increasingly difficult to do.

My quick trip to the local tourist office provided lot's of information on what's chic and what's not, but it was a copy of a local english speaking newspaper, the excellently produced 'The Riviera Times' that caught my attention. The front page lead story entitled "[New moves to fight crime on the Riviera](#)", reported not only the current situation with over 1,000 CCTV cameras covering the resorts along the Cote d'Azur, but also an ambitious plan to spend a further € 7.4m over the coming months, on deploying an additional 300 cameras throughout Nice.



Not content with simply using standard PSS dome camera configurations, some locations will also incorporate various levels of 'analytics' to watch out for unusual behaviour, and also identify specific sounds such as screaming. Once completed, this project will make Nice, which is apparently France's fifth largest city and their second most visited, top of the french league for town centre video surveillance.

In a further exclusive report, [the Riviera Times interviewed Nice's Deputy Mayor Benoit Kandel](#), the senior politician tasked with overseeing the roll out of extended CCTV coverage, and indeed a raft of other new but untested innovations. The move towards increasing security in the region followed a visit earlier this year, by President Sarkozy, who made it clear that a number of initiatives, some indeed being rather controversial for the often privacy conscious french, will be trialled in Nice, and no doubt rolled out across the country if proven successful. It was interesting to note that whilst conventional 'active' Public Space Surveillance



cameras are very much de rigeur along the 'Cote', the more effective use of fixed 'passive' cameras particularly in the narrow back streets of the larger towns like Nice, Cannes (photo left) and Antibes, are not yet on the agenda.

As would be expected, many of the larger residential properties and top hotels already use CCTV to varying degrees, but overall there does not appear to be any significantly deep "joined up thinking", on deploying CCTV in anything other than a basic level, Incident Monitoring or Site Management role.



Well the work goes on with upgrading my sites design, layout and content; and it's proving quite a task to go back over all the writing, some of which actually dates from 2003. It hardly seems possible that six years have now passed since the Doktor Jon project began to take shape, but with your ongoing support and encouragement, who knows what will be happening six years from now; possibly even more grey hairs!

Please keep those comments and suggestions coming in, and if you're interested in supporting the project and helping it develop, watch out for a very attractive promotion opportunity being announced very soon.

I hope you found this edition interesting, and if you have any 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, or if you decide you don't want to receive them, please let me know. Hopefully the next monthly Newsletter is due to be published sometime around the third week in November, so until the next time, here's wishing you a great month ahead DJ

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