

DOKTOR JON'S ROUND UP OF RECENT CCTV & IP VIDEO NEWS - Q4/2011



Welcome to the final quarterly CCTV and IP Video Newsletter for 2011, which hardly surprisingly is just as packed with news and information as ... well, the first!. Apart from all the masses of Global and Industry news stories, there's also a brief look back at 2011, and a slightly hesitant look forward to an uncertain year ahead; but let's not start it on anything other than a positive note - it's been an interesting year just gone, and the new one certainly won't be lacking in drama, and that's putting it politely! Anyway, if you've missed out on any previous editions, you can easily catch up in the Newsletter Archive at www.doktorjon.co.uk; and as always, if you have any comments or suggestions, please don't hesitate to drop me a line - [newsdesk\[at\]doktorjon.co.uk](mailto:newsdesk[at]doktorjon.co.uk).

Happy reading! and a very Happy New Year to you!! D.J.

Doktor Jon's CCTV & IP Video Newsletter



Another year ends, and what have we learned

Well, one way or another it's undoubtedly been an interesting year in the much watched world of CCTV, but given the events in recent months, it's possibly going to be cited in years to come as one of the more significant in terms of the technology coming of age.

Certainly throughout the year, austerity and the effects thereof continued to dominate the headlines, and given the current economic climate there's almost certainly still worse to come, in the next twelve months. Just the briefest of trawls through local authority news reports, continues to throw up cutbacks and often highly creative cost cutting exercises.

A few of the more recent examples include ... a report from the [Leamington Spa Courier](#) highlighting reductions in CCTV monitoring by Stratford District Council in Warwickshire UK, which are causing problems for the local police. The sergeant in charge of the local Safer Neighbourhoods Team has confirmed that since 'round the clock' monitoring was stopped about six months ago, investigations into a number of cases have had to be dropped due to the lack of any evidential recordings.

According to [Cambridge-news.co.uk](#), Cambridge is the latest local authority to vote through a significant reduction in CCTV monitoring, in an attempt to shave around £ 150k (\$ 225k, € 165k) from their annual operating budget. Meanwhile, the [Echo News](#) reveals that there are plans afoot to close the current CCTV Control Room in Southend, Essex, and re-locate the facility to the town's Civic Center. The move is just part of their latest cost cutting exercise, which will in future hopefully see the council's network of 280 Public Space Surveillance cameras being monitored by two dedicated CCTV Operators at all times - so no pressure there then!

Given the global nature of the financial crisis, similar reports are coming in from all over the world, and with various operational reviews already in hand, we can expect to see many more operators making significant reductions in their service levels; although increasingly, as is shown in some of the following news reports, these are often only made public in the light of a serious investigation having been let down through a lack of anticipated recorded material.

Apart from June's violent disorder in Vancouver; the widespread rioting right across the major conurbations in the UK in August, have really raised the public's perception that CCTV is a vitally important Forensic Surveillance tool, particularly given that 3,260 resulting arrests were reported by London's Met Police, and 200k hours of recordings are still under review. An interesting piece of [research highlights how the riots have indeed shifted attitudes to CCTV](#), and yet it may well take some considerable time and indeed more detailed evaluation, to establish whether the huge numbers of arrests and convictions resulting from the post riot CCTV analysis, does actually support the concept of reducing crime based on Deterrence through Detection (DtD).



Towards the end of 2011, as the Protection of Freedoms Bill continued its progress through the House of Lords, the Home Office published a very interesting document as their [formal response to the CCTV Code of Practice consultation](#) carried out some months earlier it's well worth a read! As indeed is the latest report from Big Brother Watch, which through Freedom of Information requests looks at [the use of CCTV by Transport for London](#). Another end of year report by [IMS Research predicting surveillance trends for 2012](#), actually listed "Refocussing on Image Quality ..." as their number one prediction for the next twelve months. Given that my [TRUSTED CCTV Improvement Project](#) continues to generate interest in raising operational standards, who am I to disagree! There's no doubt about more difficult times ahead particularly for some hard pressed manufacturers, but through partnerships and possibly a more holistic approach to future product development, security needs and markets will I'm sure continue to evolve.



CCTV Image Quality Improvement Project
www.doktorjon.co.uk/trusted%20campaign/trusted1.html



The New TRUSTED CCTV MicroSite
www.trustedcctv.com



VIPER CCTV Image Performance Reports
www.doktorjon.co.uk/cctvimage.html



DJ's pick of recent CCTV related news stories from around the globe - Part 1

Flames fuel suspicion ... - The Police Service of Northern Ireland are having to take the heat, after an officer described a fire at a clubhouse in the Creggan, as "accidental". Members of the GAA Club were shocked when having reviewed the CCTV recordings returned by investigating officers, what appeared to be two shadowy figures were seen to strike a light just moments before the whole building went up in flames. Following complaints at the highest level, the PSNI are now apparently treating the blaze as suspected arson. - Source - [Belfast Telegraph](#)

There are many rivers to watch - Under a \$ 2m project paid for by the US Department of Homeland Security, the Port of Wilmington and a 22 mile stretch of the Cape Fear River in North Carolina, is set to receive up to 50 Closed Circuit Television cameras, tasked with monitoring maritime traffic, to help guard against possible biological and chemical attacks. - Source - [BioPrep Watch](#)



Cameras p.p..pick up a penguin - Over the last six years, scientists working at three Australian research stations dotted along the East Antarctic coast, have been using video surveillance cameras to record the private lives of Adelle penguins. The work has proven so successful that this year a further camera is set to be deployed at Cape Denison in Commonwealth Bay. - Source - [The Sydney Morning Herald](#)

Park and be damned - Having parked his vehicle in a council operated 'pay and display' car park in St. Neot's, Cambridgeshire, motorist Anthony Nicholls was shocked to receive a £ 90 (\$ 135, € 100) penalty charge notice by post, for allegedly having parked in a neighbouring privately owned and operated facility. The enforcement company insisted that the vehicle had overstayed the free 90 minute parking provided for shoppers using the Lidl supermarket, even though the owner insists his car was not on their property at the time. - Source - [Cambridge News](#)

Disappeared with a puff of smoke - Staff at a convenience store in Thetford, Norfolk have been found wanting, after their CCTV system failed to provide any useful evidential recordings of a recent burglary. Having discovered a large quantity of cigarettes had been stolen, they were further shocked when they realised that the thieves had at the same time helped themselves to the security video recorder. - Source - [Bury Free Press](#)

Who knows what they saw - An employee of Penarth Leisure Centre in Glamorgan, Wales, has apparently been dismissed from their job, following allegations surrounding the inappropriate use of the facility's CCTV system. South Wales Police will apparently not be investigating what has simply been described as an internal matter for the council to deal with. - Source - [BBC News](#)



Cameras stream images of floods - Following a recent pilot project where half a dozen CCTV cameras were installed along Bukit Timah in central Singapore, the national water agency PUB are now extending their experimental surveillance network with a further 55 cameras in the highest risk flood prone areas, to help monitor rising water levels in times of crisis. - Source - [channelnewsasia.com](#)

Dumb, dumber and no doubt the dumbest - Dorset Police are urgently trying to locate the burglars who broke in to a warehouse in Poole, and then got away with tools and CCTV equipment. Having forced a door to gain entry, the hapless thieves then smashed their way through a panel of untreated asbestos. A police spokesman has somewhat charitably requested that the culprits make contact " ..so that we can progress our investigation and deal with any after-care issues that may have arisen". - Source - [Bournemouth Daily Echo](#)

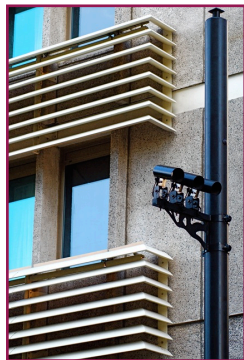
Schooled in the ways of surveillance - In a recent survey into the use of CCTV in schools across Wales, civil liberty groups have been left less than impressed by some of the results published. Apparently following 'Freedom of Information requests, 519 schools responded, with 46% confirming the use of security cameras on their sites, and of those 54% admitted that parents were not fully informed about the extent of CCTV coverage of children, whilst on their premises. - Source - [Wales Online](#)

Things ain't so grand in LaLa Land - In a highly embarrassing revelation, officials have confirmed that over the last two years, the majority of surveillance cameras deployed in the downtown area of Los Angeles, have failed to operate. Officials from the LAPD have stated that at least six units were never plugged in to the department's monitoring centre, and following a spate of recent stabbings, it's come to light that one male victim was actually murdered within sight of a security camera, that was not working properly at the time of the vicious attack. - Source - [Los Angeles Times](#)



DJ's pick of recent CCTV related news stories from around the globe - Part 1 continued

Hail the benefits of surveillance - Despite increasing concerns from civil liberty groups, Oxford City Council are pressing on with their policy of compelling all taxis in the city to be equipped with both video and voice recording, by no later than 2015. CCTV recordings of passengers are stored for 28 days, and if needed as part of an investigation may only be accessed by either the police or taxi licensing officers. - Source - [BBC Radio 1 Newsbeat](#)



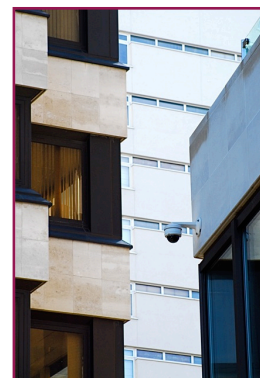
A modern solution to an ancient problem - It's now a year since the Israeli Prime Minister's office sanctioned the installation of around 80 conventional CCTV cameras and one thermal imaging unit in Jerusalem's historic Mount of Olives cemetery. In use for over 3,000 years and with around 150,000 graves, incidences of vandalism and criminal damage are now apparently being tackled more effectively, with rapid interventions by police and many more prosecutions effected since the cameras first went live. Additional units are scheduled for deployment during 2012. - Source - [The Jerusalem Post](#)

What works, and what doesn't? - Following the recent revelation by MP's that over 10% of the city's CCTV cameras were actually dummy units, the Governor of Bangkok Sukhumbhand Paribatra has now confirmed that all 1,325 non functioning cameras have been swiftly removed. As public surveillance continues to be rolled out, a further 10,000 cameras are scheduled for installation in the coming year ahead. - Source - [Bangkok Post](#)

Now who really cares ...? - A 24 year old care assistant narrowly escaped a jail term, after being caught red handed stealing money from the elderly residents of a home in Westbury-on-Trym. After suspicions were raised, a covert CCTV camera was installed in the room of one pensioner and marked notes placed in their wallet. Despite numerous thefts having been established, the accused was convicted in court and given a suspended prison sentence, along with 150 hours of community service. - Source - [This is Bristol](#)

Small islands with big plans - Public space CCTV cameras operating in the Cayman Islands, will now be subject to a detailed Code of Conduct, covering all aspects of their operation. Private cameras will also be required to comply, where their operation may also be incorporated into the existing public network. - Source - [cayCompass.com](#)

Shopping, but not as we know it - Irate customers have been complaining after receiving Penalty Charge Notices for overstaying their free parking allocation, at the Weston Favell shopping centre in Northamptonshire. Vehicles entering the car parks are automatically recorded by ANPR cameras, and if they fail to leave before the four hour deadline, a £ 50 fine (\$ 78, € 55) is posted on to the registered keeper of the vehicle. The mall's operators have generously offered to cancel the penalties, if drivers can prove that they actually shopped during their time on site. - Source - [Northampton Chronicle](#)



The figures speak for themselves - In the last three years, the ten CCTV Operators working for Scarborough Council, have managed to assist police in achieving 2,000 arrests for a wide range of offences. Whilst more than £ 2.5 million (\$ 3.8m, € 2.75m) has been spent on providing coverage with 66 CCTV cameras, the future costs of maintaining the operation are set to rise, even though other council department's budgets are scheduled to be cut. - Source - [Scarborough Evening News](#)

Who set the chariot's on fire - Four arsonists have been captured on camera setting light to a sacred Hindu chariot, in Tooting, South London. Unfortunately the picture quality was far too poor to identify the individuals that caused around £ 100k (\$ 155k, € 110k.) worth of damage, in what police have underwhelmingly described as a "suspicious" fire. - Source - [Surrey Comet](#)

Police to see you - Officers from the Houston Police Department were shocked to discover that their every movement on a tactical raid, was being tracked by the drug dealing property owner observing the target premises using his remote CCTV. Having answered a ringing cell phone in the crack house, a specialist narcotics police officer was then subjected to a running commentary on the raid along with numerous death threats, by his chief suspect, one Alfredo "Frito" Bailli Jr. Despite his being hidden well away from the scene of the raid, he was later arrested and is now awaiting trial on two federal drugs charges. - Source - [Examiner.com](#)

Definitely not on the right track - Despite the severe and ever present risk of terrorist attacks on India's extensive railway network, it's been revealed that the main station in Indore presently has a total of sixteen CCTV cameras installed, none of which are currently being recorded. Whilst the Railway Protection Force has suggested that 76 cameras be deployed at this particular station, the inspector in charge appeared to be completely unaware of existing arrangements, when questioned by journalists. - Source - [The Times of India](#)



DJ's pick of recent CCTV related news stories from around the globe - Part 1 continued



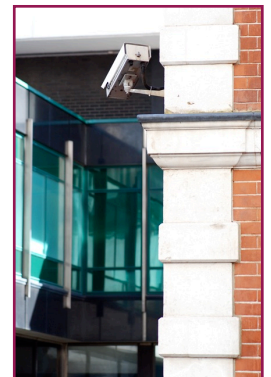
Concerns raised for the elf and it's safety - It's not often that police find themselves looking for an elderly thief in a wheelchair, but when the stolen item turns out to be a 2 feet high mechanical elf, it's definitely not an average day at the office. The sophisticated robotic character called "Chippy" was part of a garden centre's christmas display, set up to raise funds for various local charities. When the theft was first discovered, the manager reviewed the CCTV recording to find that the suspects were three women, one of whom was described as in her 70's and wheelchair bound. - Source - [This is Croydon Today](#)

No longer free, to watch Mr Mandela - At least two media organisations in South Africa are facing prosecution, for allegedly setting up surveillance cameras to monitor the home of the 93 year old former president Nelson Mandela. His private residence in Qunu is classed as a "Key Point", which in terms of national security, is afforded the highest level of protection, and prevention of any untoward intrusive surveillance. - Source - [The Telegraph](#)

This may take a while - In the wake of the London riots, Scotland Yard have recently published a further 213 images of suspects sought in connection with the unrest. To date, almost 4,000 crimes have been reported to the police, with 3,260 people having been arrested and 2,046 of those being either charged or summonsed. Teams of officers are continuing to trawl through an estimated 200,000 hours of CCTV recordings, in an effort to further identify persons of interest. - Source - [BBC News London](#)

Harbourside cameras harbour no images - A 49 year old woman has written to her MP asking for assistance, after being attacked in the center of Torquay, whilst on a quiet night out with her partner. A group of up to eight males were believed to have been behind the attack, but police are apparently unable to pursue an investigation into the identities of the three main suspects as according to a spokesperson, the Town Centre CCTV was "... turned off at the time as it was being changed". - Source - [This is South Devon](#)

Russian to reform the system - Having just launched his presidential campaign, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has announced that all polling stations in Russia will be equipped with CCTV cameras, in a move intended to make future elections more transparent and accountable. Critics have been quick to respond, with claims that voting under surveillance may not in itself address previous complaints from independent observers, that ballot boxes were arriving at some voting stations pre loaded with completed ballot papers. - Source - [Russia Beyond the Headlines](#)



Rockin' all over the world - Scientists from the University of Western Ontario are over the moon with the latest images captured by their astronomical camera system. An array of six strategically placed surveillance cameras accurately tracked the fiery descent to earth of a meteor estimated to be around 4.5 billion years old, which is thought to have landed around 160 kilometres north east of Toronto. - Source - [TheStar.com](#)

Less crime to see, as the lights go out - Following announcements that Northampton Borough Council's austerity cutbacks will see half of it's 66,000 street lights turned off, a £ 39k (\$ 60k, € 43k) cut in funding for their public space CCTV operations, and the distinct possibility of security cameras being de-commissioned in 2013, questions are now being asked about the possible future effects on crime in the locality. - Source - [Northampton Chronicle & Echo](#)

Lucky for him, he didn't go down - A 47 year old postman working in the sorting office at Chelmsford in Essex, has been caught on camera stealing property from the Royal Mail. Following two days of covert surveillance during which the wayward postie thieved items including sunglasses, jewellery and viagra based 'enlargement' pills, he was recently convicted at the local Magistrates Court, given a six month suspended sentence and ordered to carry out 200 hours of community service. - Source - [MailOnline](#)

Starkers speeder spotted on surveillance - "Eagle-eyed" CCTV Operators were credited with a bizarre capture, after a former York police officer was picked up on camera speeding through Scarborough in the wee small hours, apparently completely stark naked. Following an extended police chase which included firearms officers pursuing the suspect the wrong way down one way streets, he was eventually detained wearing nothing more than his shoes and socks. Appearing more appropriately attired at York Crown Court, the 30 year old was sentenced to six months in prison and banned from driving for three years. - Source - [Yorkshire Post](#)

Caledonian camera costs carry on climbing - Latest figures released under a Freedom of Information request by The Scotsman newspaper, give a clearer picture of the current extent of CCTV usage across the country. In the last calender year, public space camera numbers rose to 3,115 across scotland, with an annual running cost increasing to £ 8.2m (\$ 12.5m, € 9m). - Source - [The Scotsman](#)



DJ's pick of recent CCTV related news stories from around the globe - Part 1 continued

Some things are worth waiting for - A 22 year old driver was less than impressed to find that her car which was parked overnight outside a friends house in Dorking, Surrey, had been vandalised causing around £ 200 (\$ 300, €220) worth of damage to the drivers door. Fortunately there was CCTV footage available from a nearby street surveillance camera, but police were unwilling to review the recording, saying that with 12 hours of material to watch, her case wasn't serious enough to warrant all the effort. A complaint is currently being investigated by Surrey Police's Professional Standards Department. - Source - [This is Surrey Today](#)

Law enforcement, but not as we know it - Not content with having deployed thousands of dummy CCTV cameras across Bangkok, the city authorities are now rolling out their very latest high tech weapon in the fight against crime. The somewhat enigmatic six feet tall fibreglass model police officers, nicknamed "Sergeant Lazy Pants" are suitably equipped with a surveillance camera hidden in the head, and are destined for undertaking perilous traffic duties, spotting errant motorists at key locations right across the city. - Source - [The Wall Street Journal](#)

Cameras calm worries over storms - News from Korea, where despite the recent sharp rise in diplomatic temperatures, the Seoul Metropolitan Government is taking an innovative approach to protecting the city from severe winter snowfall. A number of CCTV cameras have been deployed at key weather monitoring stations located along the western coast, in the hope that these will give a detailed visual indicator of the extent of severe winter snow storms, that would be expected to arrive in the capital some 60 - 90 minutes later. - Source - [The Korea Herald](#)

Is nothing sacred? - A 71 year old woman who was caught on camera stealing the flowers from a child's grave in Rippleside Cemetery, Barking, Essex, has been fined £ 300 (\$ 450, € 330) at Redbridge Magistrates Court, after being identified by her daughter. Over more than 30 years of tending the grave of an 11 year old tragically killed in a car accident, relatives recently noticed that flower pots were going missing, so with the permission of the cemetery authorities they installed a covert camera simply to identify the culprit. - Source - [BBC London News](#)

Surveillance under the spotlight - An Honourable Member of the Nigerian House of Representatives, has tabled a motion which resulted in a formal government investigation being set up into the placement of a \$ 470 million contract, for the supply of CCTV cameras around the capital of Abuja. Despite almost total secrecy surrounding the detail of the project, the order which was placed through a chinese supply company, has since raised concerns about the possibility of sub standard equipment being used. - Source - [Nigerian Tribune](#)



What rights for the trees? - Government plans to deploy publicly operated CCTV cameras have been ruled as illegal, by Portugal's Data Protection Commission (CNPD). The cameras are intended to help combat terrorism and prevent forest fires, but the privacy watchdog has stated that under the current proposals, " ...people's rights had not been properly protected." - Source - [The Portugal News](#)

You can just picture it! - Controversy still surrounds the discovery of two covert surveillance cameras installed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, that contained flash drives with sensitive data images captured in previous criminal investigations. The surveillance units had been secreted in a wooded area near the trailer home of Dion Nordick, the man who eventually discovered them hidden in the trees. Despite having been the subject of a police investigation, no further action is being taken against him, and the cameras and their precious data have since been returned to their rightful owner. - Source - [bclocalnews.com](#)

For whom the bells toll - Relieved staff at the Blackburn Elementary School in Ellenton, Florida, narrowly avoided having to pay a heavy fine for a false activation of their fire alarm system. Suspicion initially fell to the possibility of a pupil prank, but after reviewing the schools extensive CCTV network, the culprit was eventually identified as a squirrel that managed to activate an emergency call point located in the kitchen. - Source - [The Huffington Post](#)

Cameras trained with little effect - The US Capitol's transit operator Metro teamed up with the Urban Institute to see how effective CCTV cameras have been in tackling crime across 50 of their sites. Having looked in detail at the data collated over a twelve month period, the conclusion reached was that the current use of surveillance has had no significant impact on crime in Metro's parking facilities. - Source - [The Washington Examiner](#)

What a civil liberty! - It's been reported that the use of CCTV in private residential apartment buildings in Sweden, can not be permitted. The Supreme Administrative Court ruled that even if all the residents agree to the use of video surveillance, it is still not acceptable under existing swedish privacy laws. - Source - [Stockholm News](#)



DJ's pick of recent CCTV related news stories from around the globe - Part 1 continued

Not such a g'day for some - A group of serving and former police officers in Australia have set up a CCTV posting website, to help tackle the problems of shoplifting. Since "whotube.com" was established three months ago, 127 recorded incidents have been uploaded for public consumption, with two arrests resulting. Civil Liberty groups have expressed concern that innocent individuals may be named and shamed by what is in effect, an unregulated private website. - Source - [Sydney Morning Herald](#)

Taxi cams rank low for legality - With councils across the UK looking carefully at the potential benefits of installing CCTV cameras in taxis, Southampton City Council have apparently lost their case against a named individual. On the basis of taxi borne video recorded evidence being submitted into proceedings, it was ruled in Southampton Crown Court that the use of the technology was, according to a news report "...disproportionate and a violation of privacy". - Source - [Bicester Advertiser](#)

Suspects nose brings him up before the beak - An armed robber from Preston in Lancashire, is starting a three year jail term for his crime, after his identity was confirmed by his nose. He thought that by wearing a scarf over his face this would prevent the CCTV cameras in DIP's newsagent from recording his image during the raid, but it didn't quite go according to plan. Investigating officers initially arrested the 24 year old suspect based on a tip off, but then relied on a number of comparative forensic surveillance techniques in order to confirm that he was indeed the robber captured on camera. - Source - [Mail Online](#)

Tribunal rules on harassment by camera - A 26 year old female cleaner who took her employers to a tribunal, has won her case for sexual discrimination. After complaining that a security guard employed at Our Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh, was stalking her at work using the site's CCTV camera system, the tribunal has ruled that her complaints were not dealt with properly, and as such have awarded her £ 27,750 (\$ 42k, € 31k) in compensation. The security guard who had previously been convicted at court, and listed on a sex offenders register for three years, has also been ordered to pay £ 1,000 to his victim. - Source - [Scotsman / Edinburgh Evening News](#)

It's check out time for resident security - Following a complaint by the workers unions, the Holiday Inn hotel in Nicosia, Cyprus has been fined € 3,000 by the Commissioner for Personal Data Protection, for infringements caused by it's CCTV. Despite claims that the camera system is used exclusively for safety and security, the Commissioner has directed that 25 of their 60 cameras will have to be removed, and many other units re-aligned to uphold best practice in public privacy. - Source - [Cyprus Mail](#)



Now you see them, now you won't - Meeran Borwankar, the city police commissioner in Pune, India has somewhat controversially introduced a ban on any CCTV footage that identifies criminal suspects, from being released to the news and media. The ruling is based on the premise that by seeing images of suspects before their apprehension, this is likely to influence the results of a formal identity parade, and could indeed compromise the outcome of any subsequent trial. - Source - [Pune Mirror](#)

Hand and electronic eye co-ordination - In an interesting experiment to help combat hospital borne infections, the North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, New York, deployed CCTV cameras at the entrances to medical wards and intensive care units. Staff were instructed to properly hand wash for at least 10 seconds at a sanitising station, whilst being recorded by the infection control camera system. As part of a research project, it has proven so successful that compliance has now risen to almost 90%, with obvious benefits to all patients and staff alike. - Source - [NBC New York](#)

Almost a cloak of invisibility - With meticulous planning and the application of cutting edge technology, two hapless thieves broke in to the Wienerschnitzel diner in Anaheim, California intent on stealing the stores ATM machine. By carefully applying a paper napkin over the CCTV camera's lens the suspects were able to work unhindered, that is until the flimsy drape floated off onto the floor. Fortunately they were able to replace it, but not without first providing a close up full on face view which police are now in the process of circulating throughout the states news and media. - Source - [CBS Los Angeles](#)

Parking fee's to help fund the park - A pilot project using ANPR cameras to manage a public car park in the Lake District, has been so successful that it's set to be rolled out at other locations. For the last year, the Waterhead car park in Ambleside, Cumbria, has been using cameras to capture vehicle number plates as they enter and leave the facility. Failure to purchase a parking ticket will result in a fine being forwarded by post to the vehicles registered keeper. All monies raised are used to help maintain the Lake District National Park. - Source - [North West Evening Mail](#)



Look who's been on the move this time around!

I did mention at the outset that there was an awful lot of CCTV news to get through, so perhaps now would be a very good point to have a brief rest from Part 1 of the Global CCTV stories, and just quickly take a peruse through some glamorous mugshots and employment notices for a few peeps that have been on the move recently within the CCTV Industry. As always, in absolutely no particular order

Canadian HD Surveillance specialist Avigilon have hired Ryno Van der Vyver, as their new Regional Sales Manager for Southern Africa. Also new to the company, industry veteran Douglas Florence CPP has taken up the role of Business Development Director of Global Gaming; with 36 years experience in the biz much of it spent in casino security, it's a fair bet he'll be making his mark in absolutely no time at all.

Taking over the reins at IndigoVision, Marcus Kneen who was until very recently the Chief Financial Officer has been appointed as their new CEO taking over from the company's founder Oliver Vellacott, whilst Holly McComb steps up to take on the vacant role of CFO.

OnSSI have announced that David Throckmorton will be taking up the reins as South East Regional Sales Manager, based out of their office in the Greater Miami area, Florida.

Recently lauded as Guarding Company of the Year in the Security Excellence Awards, Axis Security have taken on 30 year industry veteran Peter Honnan (photo right), who will fill the role of Regional Manager covering Scotland and Northern Ireland.



Ex military specialist Ian Foxley has joined low bandwidth video transmission innovator Vemotion Interactive, to help spearhead their future business development.

Panasonic System Networks Europe have recently taken on Martin Morris (photo left) in the role of an Area Sales Manager, with particular emphasis on developing projects using the i-Pro and i-Pro SmartHD product lines.

Synectics have announced five new appointments at their Sheffield headquarters, with Stephen Deighton heading up Customer Services, Sarah Smith joins as a Project Administrator, Mark Horton takes on the role of International Sales Manager, and new Business Development Managers Martin Woodhouse and Akash Kumar also join the team.

Specialist equipment manufacturer Elmdene International have also recently announced a trio of new appointments. Whilst Justin Roberts (photo left) brings 20 years experience in the security sector to his new role as Sales and Marketing Director, Jessica Barbaro (photo centre) will be making great use of her business and linguistic skills, as the company's new Regional Sales Manager with responsibility for Europe South.

Sam Ward (photo right) has also taken up a position as a new Regional Sales Manager to cover the Southern UK region and no doubt his 11 years of engineering experience will prove extremely valuable in a technical sales role.



As we rush headlong into 2012 with eager anticipation (amongst other things) our thoughts begin to drift towards the oncoming round of security events and gatherings. They certainly don't come any bigger than "... the world's largest annual security and fire event", IFSEC International being held this year at the NEC Birmingham on 14th - 17th May - so now there's at least one concrete date for your diary!. If you're wondering why I'm mentioning an event on a people's page, it's simply because UBM the organisers of IFSEC events, have literally just announced three new appointments. Peter Poole (photo left) has manfully stepped into the role of Event Manager for IFSEC 2012, and Kristan Johnstone (photo right) has done likewise for the four other global IFSEC

events being held in India, Arabia, West Africa and South Africa - so now you know! Another appointment is Andy Meyer who will be heading up sales of UBM's latest event, the Global Security Summit to be held later this year in London; but more on that later! Well after that brief and personable respite from any talk of cameras and the like, it's time to brace yourself as we venture back into Part 2 of the recent Global CCTV news stories



DJ's pick of recent CCTV related news stories from around the globe - Part Two

Smart cars consigned to the stupid scrapheap - In the wake of the parking penalty refund debacle where Richmond Council were compelled to pay back around £ 1 million (\$ 1.55m, € 1.1m) in unlawfully levied traffic fines, the local authority has now decreed that it's fleet of four parking enforcement vehicles will be removed from the borough's roads. The leader of the council Lord True, is quoted as saying that he was "glad to see the back of the cars". - Source - [BBC London News](#)

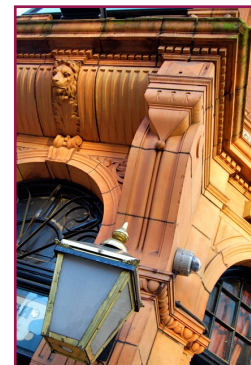
Considered cutbacks or a naive knee jerk? - Proposals by Darlington Council to cut back 15% on it's CCTV operation, is according to it's own website, likely to result in an increase in crime. The local authority currently operates 112 cameras, and the suggestion that those located in "outlying areas" may be removed, could see as many as 46 units being decommissioned away from the town centre. - Source - [BBC News Tees](#)

Droning on over the Olympics - Whilst many Londoners are already dreading the anticipated disruption due to be caused by the rapidly approaching 2012 Olympics, at least one aspect of the events planning is still very much up in the air. Given the scale and challenges presented by this unique world class event, the capitol's Metropolitan Police Service are reportedly in discussions with the Civil Aviation Authority to secure vital consent for the use of remote control airborne camera platforms, to be used in addition to conventional ground based security imaging systems. - Source - [The Independent](#)

Jeux sans frontieres - When the Boston Bruins beat the Vancouver Canucks in the Stanley Cup playoffs on June 15th, the riots that followed saw city detectives struggling to rapidly retrieve around 5,000 hours of CCTV recordings, which would eventually require detailed forensic review and analysis. In order to speed the process along, around 50 key Vancouver police department personnel were decamped to the specialist Digital Media Evidence Processing Lab, located at the University of Indianapolis, to make use of what has been described as "... the worlds largest and most advanced forensic video facility". - Source - [IndyStar](#)

A lesson other schools could learn - The Freehold Borough Board of Education in New Jersey, have entered in to a 'memorandum of understanding' with their local Police Department, to provide real time access to the schools video surveillance systems. In the event of a serious incident, the Police Chief or selected officers will using the correct password, be able to remotely access the security camera systems to help evaluate and co-ordinate any response that they deem appropriate. - Source - [Freehold Patch](#)

Pandering to their every need - Excitement mounts as the imminent appearance of Edinburgh zoo's latest guests, Giant Pandas Tian Tian and Yang Guang grows ever nearer. Having spent around £ 300k (\$ 450, € 330k), on building a special enclosure for the new arrivals, apart from the bare essentials a number of video surveillance cameras have also been installed, to provide an online eye into the world of these rarest of creatures. Whilst hopes are high for the patter of tiny paws, public access cameras are most definitely not being provided in the bedroom department. - Source - [The Scotsman](#)



On best behaviour for the cameras - Since around 140 cameras were installed in 14 schools within the Umm Al Quwain Educational Zone in the UAE, the organisations Director Shaikha Amena bint Ali Al Mualla has reported a 75 % drop in indiscipline amongst their pupils, across all grades. - Source - [Khaleej Times Online](#)

Camera schemes seek good counsel - Wiltshire Council's eleven different CCTV schemes covering fourteen areas, are coming under the spotlight, as officers are tasked with having to review the current set up, and look at ways of making cost savings. Selective upgrades to save on ongoing operating expenditure, and income generation are two key areas set for further investigation. - Source - [BBC News Wiltshire](#)

Should have gone to Specsavers - A dozy 19 year old thief thought all his christmasses had come early when he burgled a house in Newcastle, helping himself to a laptop, speakers and a bottle of vodka. Only slight problem was all the stolen items belong to Northumbria Police, and being quite hot on crime prevention, they'd thoughtfully wired up the entire premises with an array of covert CCTV cameras. Whilst sentencing has been deferred at Newcastle Crown Court, officers have confirmed that a range of other premises and property have been suitably equipped, as part of an ongoing sting operation at sites right across the city. - Source - [Mail Online](#)

Security, but at what cost? - An ambitious scheme which provided security coverage for 318 businesses located across eight industrial estates in Bolton, has been scrapped after six years of operation. In order to provide 24 hour monitored CCTV, security patrols, pager alarms and a security advice service, businesses were required to pay between £ 500 and £ 4,000 per year (\$ 750 > 6,000, € 550 ≥ 4,500). At a recent members ballot, it was decided by a vote of 3:1 to cancel the £ 3m scheme, which many considered to be unaffordable. - Source - [Bolton News](#)



DJ's pick of recent CCTV related news stories from around the globe - Part Two continued

Vehicle veracity verified by video - Looking to tighten up on cross border security, the Dutch government have authorised the deployment of ANPR camera systems at 15 major entry points shared with Belgium and Germany. The security cameras will be tasked with identifying stolen vehicles, or those suspected of involvement in trans national crime. Meanwhile, the European Commission is investigating whether the proposals are lawful, under EU legislation relating to freedom of movement in the 'Schengen' area. - Source - [EU Observer](#)

Thinking outside the CCTV box - Following an initial one month pilot scheme using a single network camera, which was set up to monitor a road plagued by anti social behaviour, Surrey Police have now decided to buy a further two similar cameras for use in other locations. Unlike conventional CCTV units, the IP Video "Jabbakam" models are internet accessible, so can be rapidly deployed and operated at relatively low cost. - Source - [The Guardian](#)

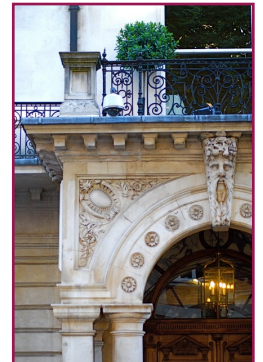
It isn't just time that's precious - After a 16 year old girl was sexually assaulted on a bus in Toronto at around 7.30am, the incident was subsequently reported to the transit company (TTC) by her mother less than four hours later. Having been advised to immediately contact the police, they were apparently notified of the incident later that afternoon. Despite apparently having done all the right things, the family were shocked to discover that the vital CCTV recordings from the vehicle, were automatically deleted just 15 hours after being captured. The recording retention period is apparently mandated by the Ontario Information and Privacy Commissioner, and without a specific request from the police, the TTC are not able to accept requests to retain material from any other party. - Source - [InsideToronto.com](#)

Untimely trick ruins patrons treat- A popular Bournemouth club had it's licence suspended, and two people arrested on suspicion of perverting the course of justice, and all because of a misunderstanding over the premises CCTV system. Police officers noted that 96 seconds of material were missing from the recording made during one night, and assumed something untoward had taken place. In practice, the recorder had automatically shut down and re-booted at a pre arranged time, but not before hundreds of guests were turned away from their pre booked Halloween party, on the orders of the licensing committee. - Source - [Bournemouth Daily Echo](#)

Privacy and the art of governance - The acting Privacy Commissioner in Queensland, Australia, is carrying out a survey of around 200 state government agencies, to find out why they use CCTV, and perhaps more importantly, whether they are fully complying with the information privacy act. - Source - [Brisbane Times](#)

Just when you need it most - It's been revealed that on the evening of August 8th when many parts of London were being subjected to extensive rioting, a number of cameras owned by Westminster City Council failed to operate, apparently due to a power cut in nearby Charing Cross Road. According to a police spokesman, lots of CCTV recordings have been made available from the neighbouring borough of Kensington and Chelsea, but very little from Westminster. - Source - [Westminster Chronicle](#)

The answer's out there - City of York Council intended to carry out a comprehensive review of their CCTV operations, but those plans have now been scrapped. Concerns over effectiveness and value for money have been overtaken by events, as another agency, the Local Government North Yorkshire and York Board have recently received a consultants report, which included recommendations concerning the amalgamation and possible sharing of CCTV operations, between a number of neighbouring local authorities. - Source - [York Press](#)



Is it yourself ? - As fuel prices continue to rise, so too does the incidence of car cloning in the Irish Republic. Gardai officers have recently noticed a significant increase in the number of cases where thieves place false or stolen registration plates on their vehicles, before they fill up with fuel and drive off. The same technique is also being employed to avoid paying tolls on the country's motorway, with bills being generated automatically through the use of ANPR cameras, and then posted on to innocent unsuspecting motorists whose vehicles have been cloned. - Source - [Independent.ie](#)

When CCTV upholds civil liberties - Almost two months after 47 year old David Dwyer was arrested and charged with assaulting a Special Constable, the prosecution has been dropped after reviewing CCTV evidence. Mr Dwyer had apparently been trying to escape from three men who had attacked him outside a supermarket in Peterborough. When he approached police officers for assistance, he was arrested for allegedly having attacked one of the men, placed in handcuffs and pepper sprayed. Facing charges of having head butted a police officer, prosecutors eventually dropped all charges on the eve of his trial, when having reviewed the footage from a town centre CCTV camera, it became obvious that no offence had been committed. Cambridgeshire Constabulary are currently investigating Mr Dwyer's official complaint. - Source - [Peterborough Today](#)



DJ's pick of recent CCTV related news stories from around the globe - Part Two continued

Sixteen is the magic number - Chichester District Council is the latest local authority to announce the downgrading of its CCTV services. Plans have been agreed to remove 16 of the 74 cameras currently operating throughout five towns, which have been described as units " ... that have never or rarely been used to detect crime". On the basis that those destined for removal are close to others which could provide " ... the same field of vision", the council's cabinet has made a pledge that the service will not be affected. - Source - [Midhurst and Petworth Observer](#)

Hands up for an eyes down - The local communities in Ely and Soham are reported to be absolutely delighted with their new local CCTV monitoring service. After years of complaints about the lack of effectiveness with community cameras being monitored in distant Cambridge, the move to setting up a control room staffed by volunteers in Ely police station, has seen performance and efficiency improve in leaps and bounds. - Source - [Ely Weekly News](#)

Sounds to be a legal nightmare - The US Department of Justice is currently carrying out an investigation, after it was discovered that sixteen of the internal CCTV cameras installed at the Baldwin County Courthouse in Alabama, were equipped with microphones. Attorneys have confirmed that audio recording is illegal and given that it violates state privacy laws, the authorities are trying to establish whether the proceedings in an untold number of court cases, may have been compromised. - Source - [WKRG News](#)

Laundry raid claim given a new spin - A 42 year old store clerk working in a laundromat in Bartow, Florida, was found lying in a back room, by police officers responding to her frantic report of a violent robbery. Whilst being transferred to a nearby medical centre for urgent treatment, detectives reviewed the video surveillance which was installed for staff safety, and concluded the claim was a complete hoax. The 'victim' has now been charged by police after admitting she made up the story to cover for the missing \$ 100, she had actually removed from the till herself the night before. - Source - [Tampa Bay Online](#)

Not quite the purrfect crime - A 38 year old post doctorate researcher at the world famous Smithsonian Institute, has been convicted of attempted animal cruelty. The specialist in bird research, ended up before the beak after having been spotted on a surveillance camera apparently tampering with a bowl of cat food, which prosecutors claimed she had laced with rat poison. Fortunately no cats were harmed in the making of this news story, and at the time of writing, she has resigned her position at the Migratory Bird Center and is now awaiting sentence at the District of Columbia Superior Court. - Source - [Los Angeles Times](#)

An academic exercise in CCTV monitoring - CCTV systems installed in public schools in the Sharjah Education Zone, are set to be linked directly to the police monitoring centre. The move is intended to address isolated problems of theft, and also tackle the ongoing use of corporal punishment, which although illegal, continues to be a problem in the United Arab Emirates. - Source - [The National](#)

White van man gets a ban - The contractor operating a Westminster City Council CCTV vehicle has been reprimanded, and the driver removed from duties, after it was photographed by a member of the public having been parked illegally across a cycle lane. The van is equipped with ANPR cameras, and is tasked with identifying untaxed vehicles and those with outstanding fines parked anywhere within the central London borough. - Source - [BBC London News](#)



Why oh why were they not fixed ...? - Embarrassed councillors and officials in Newcastle have been forced to apologise after it emerged that at least 18 street surveillance cameras have not been working for some time. Following a recent cashpoint robbery by armed bandits, it emerged that the CCTV camera which could have provided vital evidence, has in fact been out of action for almost four years. - Source - [Chronicle Live.co.uk](#)

Cutting edge surveillance in the fast lane - An experimental video analytics programme being developed by the US Department for Homeland Security, has unwittingly been tested on the general public, without the correct written authorisation. The Future Attribute Screening Technology (FAST) project relies on a combination of high resolution video surveillance cameras, used in conjunction with an array of external sensors to determine whether specific physical changes demonstrated by a subject, can be used to indicate possible criminal intent. - Source - [The Register](#)

Fusion centred down Mexico way - The Mayor of Mexico City Marcelo Ebrard has unveiled the "c4i4", a state of the art command and control centre, which will be used by 47 local government and law enforcement agencies, to provide a highly co-ordinated response to a wide range of issues, from earthquake and volcanic activity through to tackling drug war related violence on the streets. The centre accepts feeds from around 13,000 surveillance cameras located throughout the city, which can be accessed by operators on any of their 600 video screens. - Source - [Los Angeles Times](#)



DJ's pick of recent CCTV related news stories from around the globe - Part Two continued

Tale of the cat burglar with not quite the purrfect ending - The complicated love life of an English MP is hardly news these days, but when his wife breaks in to his mistress's home and steals her kitten, and it's all caught on CCTV, suddenly the nation wants to know more. Having released the kitty to fend for itself, the wife was convicted in court of theft based on video evidence, and received a nine-month suspended jail term, 150 hours of community service and was ordered to pay £1,000 costs (\$1,500, €1,100). Fortunately the famous feline was eventually recovered safe, well and somewhat pregnant, and has since given birth to a litter of cute little kittens. - Source - Telegraph.co.uk

End of the road for the interceptors - Cleveland Police have announced that their ANPR intercept team, which only last year was hailed by the Association of Chief Police Officers as one of the best in the UK, will be disbanded as part of the force's ongoing service cuts. In the last ten months, the team have been credited with seizing around £500k (\$750k, €550k) of drugs and cash, seizing 300 vehicles and making 200 arrests. - Source - Hartlepool Mail

When the face doesn't fit - Two elderly gentlemen have been in contact with the Police, after a local newspaper published a CCTV image of a suspect wanted on suspicion of retail fraud, who looked their exact double. The image was captured on a security camera in a B & Q store in North Allerton, and given the uncanny similarity with their doppelgänger, both pensioners have been left shocked and distressed by the possibility that other people may well assume it's them in the wanted photo. - Source - Mail Online

They got the CCTV blue's - The Auditor General's report 'Use of CCTV Equipment and Information', has provided a scathing analysis of the Western Australia police 'Blue Iris' CCTV database project. Describing it as "unusable", the project was intended to register CCTV cameras to provide a rapid method for identifying and locating possible sources of CCTV evidence. His report cited lack of useful data, poor access, and insufficient training as key issues, but according to police, improvements have been made since the evaluation was completed. - Source - The West Australian

Not exactly a legal wrangle - It sounds like a story from the wild, wild west, but the modern-day equivalent of the local sheriff is keeping an eye out for a wayward cowboy wrangler, who stole three security cameras from straight of a government Health Department building in Corpus Christi, Texas. Using a somewhat creative method for dislodging his spoils, the cameras were literally pulled off the wall after the man lassoed each one in turn. If he'd have been aware of the poor quality of the video recording his every move, chances are he probably wouldn't even have bothered. - Source - Huffington Post

Normal service will be resumed - Concerns have been raised over the integrity of the internal security camera system being used in the Parliament House, Canberra. Parliamentary Services officials confirmed that with part of the surveillance infrastructure being operated on the normal services intranet, as opposed to the dedicated security systems network, camera's would sometimes be offline for a matter of minutes, and could be vulnerable to attack by hackers. - Source - The Canberra Times

Parliamentary committee dwells on CCTV - The UK Parliament's Human Rights Joint Committee has been reporting on the Protection of Freedoms Bill, currently proceeding through the House of Commons. Whilst tentatively welcoming the development of a CCTV Code of Practice, the committee have suggested that the code should also include information on the use of CCTV in specific locations, such as schools, care homes and healthcare premises. They also recommend that the Information Commissioner be involved in the finalisation of the code. - Source - The Guardian



Covert kiwi cop cameras consented - The New Zealand Parliament has swiftly passed the 'Video Camera Surveillance (Temporary Measures) Bill', which is intended to allow police to resume deployment of video surveillance to help with investigating serious crimes. The Bill was rushed through after a recent Supreme Court decision ruled that all covert video surveillance by police was deemed illegal, and is intended to provide a six-month operational period, during which more comprehensive and enduring legislation can hopefully be drafted. - Source - nzherald.co.nz

Who says CCTV doesn't work ...? - A 19-year-old mother and her six-month-old baby were surrounded and threatened by three armed youths in Wood Street, Walthamstow, without a witness in sight. The local authority CCTV cameras in the area are unlikely to be of much help, seeing as how they'd recently been decommissioned to save on operating costs. A year previously, the council approved an emergency release of funds for updating CCTV, to the tune of £312,000 (\$470k, €345k) although it's unclear whether the money was actually ever made available. - Source - Waltham Forest Guardian

Court out on a technicality - A judge sitting at Northampton Crown Court had no option but to throw out the case in front of him, due to lack of evidence resulting from failures in basic police procedures. A 25-year-old male was standing accused of assault, after having been identified on CCTV as the person thought responsible for head-butting another man in a kebab shop in Kettering. Unfortunately police failed to make a copy of the CCTV recording before it was automatically wiped off the system, some seven days later. - Source - Northants Evening Telegraph



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And to finish off, just a little bit more last minute industry news in brief

First off, congratulations to Video Analytics specialist iOmniscient who are currently celebrating 10 years of success in developing advanced interpretive systems, that many still consider to be a revolutionary new concept. On the subject of analytics and more specifically acquisitions, Keeneo have announced that they've been acquired by Digital Barriers, and specialist IT business dauidiT GmbH, have been bought out by Dallmeier.



Looking briefly closer to home, Xtralis have recently confirmed that their new UK headquarters is now open for business (photo left), and likewise Surveon Technology have also established a UK office "set to better serve Europe". Strategic partnerships are increasingly becoming very much the way forward for progressive business development, and the last quarter has seen a number of key players making announcements - Convergint Technologies and BriefCam, OnSSI have partnered up with Seneca Hardware, and also Data Direct Networks, CCTV Center and Next Level, Milestone and Surveon, Schneider Electric and ULIS; it's possibly fair to say with a reasonable degree of certainty,

that there's probably many more similar announcements scheduled to come out during 2012. In terms of product supply, Tri-Ed and IQinVision have entered into a distribution deal, and UK based Pro-Vision has also recently been named as a new Mobotix distributor. In the US, Mission 500, a non-profit charity supported by the security industry to serve the needs of children and communities in crisis, has launched an ambitious charity media campaign. ... well worth supporting!! Finally, if you fancy a change of career, your favourite TV shows are CSI, and you hate seeing the bad guys get away it, then you may well be interested in the Postgraduate Certificate in Forensic Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Analysis course, jointly developed by Cheshire Constabulary and Liverpool John Moores University.

Doktor Jon's brief Guide to some Forthcoming CCTV and Security Related Events

- 15th - 17th January - InterSec 2012 - Dubai Int. Conference Centre - UAE
- 22nd - 26th January - IS&T/SPIE Electronic Imaging - California - USA
- 30th - 31st January - Border Security Asia Pacific - Singapore
- 31st January - CCTV, Technology and Crime Reduction - London - UK
- 31st January - 2nd February - Security & Policing 2012 - Farnborough - UK
- 19th - 21st Feb. - ASIS 3rd Middle East Security Conference - Dubai - UAE
- 29th Feb - 1st March - National Security Australia 2012 - Melbourne - Australia
- 28th Feb. - 1st March - AFCEA Homeland Security Conf. - Washington - USA
- 29th Feb. - 1st March - Border Security - Sofia - Bulgaria
- 28th Feb - 2nd March - Safety and Security - Sofia - Bulgaria
- 6th March - Global MSC Security Seminar - Bristol - UK
- 6th - 7th March - IFSEC West Africa - EKO Expo - Lagos - Nigeria
- 6th - 7th March - Border Security Expo 2012 - Phoenix - Arizona - USA
- 6th - 9th March - Security Show 2012 - Tokyo Big Sight - Tokyo - Japan
- 7th March - IP in Action LIVE - Costa Mesa - California - USA
- 8th March - IP in Action LIVE - Santiago - Chile
- 12th - 13th March - SECTECH Norway - Oslo - Norway
- 15th March - IP in Action LIVE - Bolton - UK
- 28th - 30th March - ISC West - Sands Expo - Las Vegas - Nevada - USA
- 2nd - 4th April - GovSec - Washington DC - USA
- 15th - 17th April - ASIS 11th European Security Conference - London - UK
- 25th - 26th April - Counter Terror Expo - London - UK

A fully updated list of events for the coming 12 months, will shortly be available on my main website; if you are organising a show, event, conference, seminar, roadshow, webinar or coffee morning related to CCTV & IP Video, why not drop me a line if you'd like details included both on my website and also in future editions of the Newsletter.

Well that's about it for now, the final CCTV & IP Video Newsletter of 2011 is significantly done and dusted ... at last! I hope you've enjoyed reading it or at the very least found it useful. Keep your stories and case studies coming in, and if you've anything that you'd like to be considered for inclusion in the next edition, the deadline for submission will be 2.17am GMT on 7th April 2012, unless of course I can stay awake longer! So, until the next time

As always, if you have any comments or suggestions, or if you'd like to register a friend or colleague to receive future copies of this regular quarterly CCTV / IP Video Newsletter, please drop a line to:- [newsdesk\[at\]doktorjon.co.uk](mailto:newsdesk[at]doktorjon.co.uk)

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