



GET SMART

In the previous article entitled Video Analysis we discussed the convergence of Artificial Intelligence with video surveillance systems, giving birth to a new technology platform known as video analytics. As SIMON HALL reports, the best systems available make CCTV a proactive solution.

VIDEO analytic software is installed on a server and integrates with existing CCTV systems. Using complex algorithms, the system continually scans live video feeds for specific behaviours or events that may be of concern to an organisation. Video analytics is a cost effective alternative where manned control rooms are a necessity but the budget won't allow it.

In this article we consider video analytic offerings from 2 of the major players in Australia. While the average cost of a video analytic system can start at around \$10,000 - and potentially thousands more for onsite software 'tweaking' - it's well worth getting familiar with current products and features, not to mention testing and measuring the software to ensure its stability and ability to deliver what the glossy brochures promise.

A new player to the video analytics market is manufacturing giant NEC - which for the past 5 years has ranked in the top 4 companies for the number of U.S. patents issued. NEC's analytic software offering - Smart Catch - incorporates an impressive array of feature-rich modules for customers to choose from. The Smart Catch suite is comprised of 10 modules including - Crowd Detection, Exit Lane (Directional Traffic), Tailgating, Loitering, Perimeter Intrusion, Stopped Vehicle, Unattended Object and Turnstile Hopping.

While Smart Catch has only been available in Australia 6 weeks it's already being trialled in various key sites locally, overseas it is currently managing security systems in Helsinki Airport, San Francisco Airport, SF Jewish Centre, Salt Lake City Airport, San Diego Airport and more.

According to senior product manager Lance Heather, Smart Catch will be supported by NEC's own support network, 'NEC will provide senior technical people to do the

install and commission. In addition, we provide on-going support and site visits twice a year for optimisation of behaviours based on any environmental changes.'

The team at NEC Australia has set its sights on targeting key industries for Smart Catch including airports, major roadways, transport and utilities.

Another key player in the market is iOmniscient, a company which developed its IQ Series video analytic systems here in Australia. The IQ Series is comprised of 7 product SKUs, each SKU being bundled with a series of modules. The flagship product IQInfinity comes packaged with 16 modules built-in.

iOmniscient's product manager, Matthew Bertram, says that IQInfinity is the company's biggest selling product because it can run multiple applications simultaneously, even in crowded areas.

'Most of our projects are for high traffic public areas including airports and railways. Our ability to operate in crowded areas means that the IQ Infinity is highly sought after.'

He pointed out that often in high security areas, such as international airports, IQInfinity is being chosen as the preferred solution for its ability to enable a single camera to scan for more multiple behaviours or events. This means the video feed from each security camera, can scan things such as abandoned objects, crowd congestion, people entering a 'no go' zone, moving in the wrong direction and more.

Bertram claims iOmniscient's people-counting solution - IQ110 - was recently audited by an independent body and the results showing an accuracy exceeding 99 per cent.

'One of the biggest theme parks in the world is currently in the process of installing our systems to understand the average waiting times for rides and to manage queue lengths,' Bertram explains.

Here at home iOmniscient has notched up some impressive reference sites including - Commonwealth Games Village, Sydney Harbour Bridge and the ANSTO Nuclear Reactor (Australia's national research reactor located 40 kilometres south west of Sydney's CBD). ▀▀

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