

3-D smart digital model shows calamities in a city with one-look overview

September 10 2020



Credit: Eindhoven University of Technology

A unique 3-D smart digital model has been developed to combine the different streams of data from cities on one common platform, and is the result of the ITEA project PS-CRIMSON, a collaboration of six

academic and industry partners from the Netherlands and Canada. With this platform, public safety and disaster management can be improved, as pilot projects in Eindhoven and Vancouver have shown. Researchers from Eindhoven University of Technology developed AI image technology that can detect the location of incidents from an image and re-track the walking routes of people using multiple cameras. Today, PS-CRIMSON was awarded with the ITEA Award of Excellence, with special recognition in the categories of Exploitation and Unique business partnerships.

Nowadays, cities are digitalizing more of their services to facilitate data gathering on mobility, safety, and in relation to communication with citizens. However, authorities still need to tackle issues associated with information fragmentation caused by a lack of common platforms, toolsets and separated data streams per area. The PS-CRIMSON consortium delivers a [platform](#) that serves as a single-entry point for city representatives. This Smart City platform is designed to save time and money, and to also provide a single view of all data collected within a city environment, thus enabling representatives to act upon data in a more timely fashion. The focus of the platform is on the [public safety](#) and disaster management domains, where the platform's benefits are extremely important.

Improving public safety and disaster management

The cities of Eindhoven and Vancouver participated in the initiative from the start, providing input on the design and implementation of the platform. This resulted in two technology demonstrators for two use cases, focusing on public safety and [disaster management](#).

Currently, in the case of public safety, a team responsible for video-surveillance might need to monitor up to sixty live-screens in a control room. In addition, they receive dozens of calls from local citizens and

officers regarding suspicious events. Thanks to the PS-CRIMSON platform, a team member could work with one single screen and, once logged in, virtually walk through a 3-D model of the city.

AI image technology

A team of researchers from Eindhoven University of Technology led by Peter de With, Professor at the Video Coding and Architectures (VCA) group, developed AI image technology which was applied to study geo-localization and human re-identification. "With geo-localization, the system is able to automatically detect the location of an incident with an accuracy of 10 meters from a mobile picture sent to the police by searching through a photo database of the city," explains De With.

Human re-identification allows the system to detect individuals in a certain area and connect the walking routes of individuals using cameras distributed throughout the [city](#). "We call this rewind in time'," says De With. "Walking routes can be made visible either forwards or backwards in time."

A lot of privacy protection is built into the system reassures De With. "For our implementation, people's faces are blurred. Current data rules allow for the storage of video files for no longer than 72 hours, and we have a very strict GDPR law in the Netherlands." Fundamentally, the management of the system lies with the police and local authorities.

Earthquake detection

In Vancouver, the PS-CRIMSON application and model showed the effect of an earthquake, which was 6.9 on the Richter scale, on the densely populated downtown. The application and model simulated different scenarios and provided predictions and pre-assessment of

damage with a much greater level of detail and accuracy. The application also alleviates the restriction of just looking at data over a census block level of five to 10 buildings. Thanks to the application, it is possible to study the effect of the earthquake down to the level of interior units in damaged buildings, and also study the effect of any flooding caused by the earthquake.

Provided by Eindhoven University of Technology

Citation: 3-D smart digital model shows calamities in a city with one-look overview (2020, September 10) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://techxplore.com/news/2020-09-d-smart-digital-calamities-city.html>

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