

comTM
sur

the missing piece of CCTV

THE FOOTAGE WHISPERER

"SEE WHAT THE CAMERA SAW"

GET THE BOOK



100+ TOPICS - AIRPORTS TO ZOOS

GAUTAM D. GORADIA



UTILITY VALUE OF
COM-SUR™ DURING
ELECTIONS

WELCOME



AUDIT HOURS OF FOOTAGE IN MINUTES
FIND OUT HOW COM-SUR, THE BEST
'MOUSETRAP' WILL HELP

["Seeing is believing - See what the camera saw"](#)

CCTV surveillance and videography is common during elections world over, but footage is often only reviewed reactively. Our company realized this problem early-on and has developed the world's only CCTV video footage auditing software that encourages daily auditing (hours in minutes) of CCTV footage, filling the gap for a complete "workflow". The software works with existing cameras and VMS, regardless of type/brand, and provides a standardized approach for intelligent incident reporting. Our software also offers exceptional investigative capabilities.

'COM-SUR' – THE WORLD'S ONLY
CCTV/SURVEILLANCE VIDEO FOOTAGE
AUDITING, SMART BACKUP, AND
STANDARDIZED INTELLIGENT INCIDENT
REPORTING SOFTWARE – THE MISSING PIECE
OF CCTV/SURVEILLANCE VIDEO

COM-SUR is the world's only CCTV/surveillance video footage auditing, smart backup, and standardized intelligent incident reporting software that serves as a complete workflow and force multiplier. It helps audit 24 hours of footage in minutes, reduces data size, creates standardized intelligent reports, and delivers business intelligence. COM-SUR helps unlock hidden information in CCTV/surveillance video footage and enables people to gain actionable intelligence, improve homeland security, prevent crime and losses, identify and mitigate threats and hazards, and improve operational efficiency. It empowers people to gain new jobs as CCTV/surveillance video footage auditors and start new businesses of auditing video footage. Like MS Office, COM-SUR is an enabler that makes it easy to work with CCTV and other surveillance cameras in a standardized way, leading to better decision-making. It also offers exceptional investigative capabilities.

HOW COM-SUR SMARTLY REDUCES 'VIDEO'
STORAGE SIZE

COM-SUR employs an innovative approach to

smartly reduce the amount of video to be audited and consequently the storage size of videos. Regardless of the video's frame rate, COM-SUR captures a single image of the consolidated 'moment' of 'that' one second, when the I, P, and B frames come together. This method significantly reduces data size without sacrificing vital information. It goes without saying that when multiple cameras are displayed in a grid view, say 4x4, the storage size is further reduced since all the cameras are captured as a single image. Since no suggestion is being made to replace the actual video with images, COM-SUR acts as a wonderful supportive technology both to audit (review) just 86400 frames representing 24 hours and reducing the data size at the same time.

CHALLENGES FACED DURING ELECTIONS

1. Voter intimidation and violence:

There can be instances of voter intimidation, physical assaults, or violence directed towards voters, political candidates, or election officials. This can undermine the integrity of the electoral process and create a climate of fear.

2. Election fraud and manipulation:

There is a risk of election fraud, such as tampering with ballot boxes, unauthorized access to voting systems, or manipulation of voter registration databases. These actions can compromise the fairness and credibility of the election.

3. Public disorder and protests:

Elections can be accompanied by public demonstrations, protests, or civil unrest, which may escalate into violence or disrupt the normal functioning of polling stations.

4. Insider threats:

Elections have to face the prospect of insider threats from disgruntled election officials and poll workers who have authorized access to sensitive information or systems and can use the same to cause harm, manipulate data, or undermine the electoral process.

5. Humongous growth of surveillance video:

The exponential growth of surveillance cameras has resulted in an unprecedented surge in surveillance video. Effectively managing this data has become a daunting challenge due to the massive storage capacity required, especially considering the prolonged retention periods necessary for security, incident investigation, or legal purposes. Furthermore, the prevalence of high-resolution video with increasing megapixels compounds the storage demands, making efficient data management an urgent priority for organizations grappling with the immense volume of surveillance footage.

USE OF VIDEO SURVEILLANCE DURING ELECTIONS

During elections, video surveillance at polling centres is deployed at the following areas:

- Entry and exit points
- Voter registration and check-in areas
- Polling booths
- Ballot collection and counting areas
- Strong rooms
- Common areas
- Parking lots

Further, in order to record important events and potential irregularities (if any) during the election process, the respective electoral authority makes use of videography. Generally, this entails a videographer with a camera recording the activities at polling centres, counting centres, and other areas where incidents of voter intimidation or violence are likely to occur. In some cases, drones are also used. The recorded footage is then reviewed and analysed by the concerned stakeholders of the electoral authority.

LIVE MONITORING – CHALLENGES

During elections, several countries set up a dedicated control room with operators, set up for live monitoring of CCTV and other cameras such as drones. However, live monitoring comes with its own set of challenges of video blindness, poor attention span, boredom, operator bias, false alerts, and so on.

Moreover, these cameras continuously capture and record humungous amounts of video data. It therefore becomes a daunting task for the operators to review and analyse this data whenever the need arises. Thus, it may be noted that benefits from video surveillance systems can accrue only when they are used optimally, suggestions for which are enumerated further on, in this document.

AI - HOW TO MAKE IT MORE EFFECTIVE

The solution to making AI more effective lies in continuous learning from real-world incidents through post-event auditing. COM-SUR provides exactly this capability, enabling AI models to evolve based on audit findings and incidents that go beyond real-time detection. By auditing daily footage, capturing exceptions, and feeding this data back into AI models, the accuracy of AI

systems can be significantly improved, helping to reduce false alarms and enhance detection capabilities.

Auditing ensures that AI learns from what might have been missed in real-time, allowing it to adapt to the unique requirements of different environments. Whether it's improving facial recognition accuracy or refining anomaly detection, this continuous feedback loop makes AI smarter and more reliable over time.

However, it's essential to recognize that AI, like any automated technology, can only perform tasks it's programmed for. It cannot account for every possible scenario or exception, leaving certain areas outside its programmed scope. This is why human intelligence and intervention will always play a vital role in verifying and refining AI outcomes.

“CCTV AND OTHER FORMS OF VIDEO SURVEILLANCE ARE NOT ENOUGH – WE MAKE IT WORK FOR YOU”

While it is not being suggested that optimal usage of video surveillance can cure all issues, several issues of the following kind can be addressed by doing just a little 'more' with respect to making the optimal use of video surveillance systems:

- Influencing/Intimidation of voters
- Incitement at the polling booth
- Movements and activities of candidates with a criminal record
- Suspicious behaviour and/or movement
- Violation of norms during campaign related

public rallies /processions/events

- Issues during vote counting
- Poll code violations
- Violation of rules and regulations by candidates for incurring the expenditure as allowed to them
- Cameras/recorder malfunctions

So, what is the 'more' that needs to be done?

1) AUDIT CCTV AND OTHER SURVEILLANCE VIDEO FOOTAGE DAILY AS A STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

'Auditing' means 'seeing' what the cameras 'saw'. Auditing of CCTV and other surveillance video footage should be done daily (continuous investigation) to identify potential issues and threats. Auditing is a dedicated and systematic process that helps address challenges related to live monitoring and alert-based systems. Auditing helps in evaluating analyzing incidents to improve existing policies, procedures, and processes. Concerned personnel should be trained to become video footage auditors, and the audit teams should be rotated to avoid complacency/collusion. Daily auditing of CCTV and other surveillance video footage can also help in adhering to the principles of Kaizen and TQM for business improvement.

2) DOCUMENT AUDIT FINDINGS/INCIDENTS

Audit findings/incidents should be documented in a standardized template to find the root cause to prevent future recurrences. Historical data of such findings/incidents can reveal patterns that can help take better informed

corrective and preventive action. If all incidents are reported in a standardized template, relevant authorities can derive business intelligence from the data and take action for the collective benefit of all concerned stakeholders of the electoral process.

3) ENSURE DISASTER RECOVERY OF CCTV AND OTHER SURVEILLANCE VIDEO FOOTAGE – LIKE A 'BLACKBOX'

CCTV and other surveillance video footage must be stored at multiple locations in order to ensure that even if the recorder/storage device is stolen, destroyed or tampered with the data is never lost. Further, any backed-up data must easily be searchable and retrievable; else, it is going to be a nightmare finding the relevant video.

4) DISPLAY DYNAMIC INFORMATION AT RELEVANT PLACES

Document and display details of information that is dynamic in nature in relevant areas. For example:

1. List of election officials on duty.
2. List of authorized security personnel deployed at the polling centre.
3. List of habitual offenders/suspects likely to visit the polling centre (a 'Watch out' list).

5) USE A POWERFUL NEW SIGNAGE

"WE AUDIT CCTV VIDEO FOOTAGE EVERYDAY"

One size, one color, one powerful message.
Across the nation.

DE-CENTRALIZED SURVEILLANCE +
CENTRALIZED SURVEILLANCE = OPTIMAL
RESULTS

Organizations with multiple locations struggle with centralized video surveillance due to infrastructure cost, internet bandwidth, and operator limitations. De-centralized surveillance offers higher accountability at each location and better situational awareness, leading to more chances of discovering exceptions.

NEW SKILL – ‘CCTV VIDEO FOOTAGE AUDITOR’

In a groundbreaking move, the Ministry of Skill Development of India has established National Occupational Standards for the crucial skill of CCTV Video Footage Auditing. The Ministry of Education has also introduced a course to teach this skill to students in grades 11 and 12. This initiative will not only create new job opportunities and business ventures for those seeking a fresh career path but also for retirees from both the armed forces and the private sector. Additionally, this skill will help activate the millions of CCTV cameras currently underutilized, bringing them out of 'sleep mode' and enhancing their effectiveness.

AI WHERE YOU NEED IT, HI ALL THE TIME – THE
AUGMENTED INTELLIGENCE MANTRA

The true power of COM-SUR lies in its ability to seamlessly integrate AI and Human Intelligence (HI) into a cohesive, Augmented Intelligence system. With COM-SUR, AI can be leveraged when needed to enhance analysis and generate insights, while HI remains at the core of the system's operation, ensuring that the technology is always accessible, intuitive, and responsive to human needs. This balance between AI and HI is what defines Augmented

Intelligence, making COM-SUR a revolutionary tool that elevates the entire surveillance industry.

CONCLUSION

"You see, but you do not observe"—a famous quote by Sherlock Holmes in A Scandal in Bohemia (1891, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle)—perfectly illustrates the need for human insight in surveillance. While computers can 'see,' it is human observation that truly interprets and acts on what is seen. COM-SUR simplifies and enhances this critical process, leading to more effective and insightful results.

"Cameras don't lie"—but how will you know unless you 'see' what the cameras 'saw'? Don't wait for things to go wrong. Start auditing your CCTV footage with award-winning COM-SUR today.

In closing, we present three guiding principles that will revolutionize video surveillance:

- 1. Auditing is fundamental—everything else is peripheral.**
- 2. Cameras have lenses—humans have eyes.**
- 3. Let's make cameras 'accountable.'**