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Out-of-the-box justice

Virtual incarceration

Rapid advancements in geospatial technologies and location-based data analysis converge, replacing countless bars and boxes with state-of the-art electronic monitoring for low-risk offenders. “Virtual incarceration” combines cutting-edge technologies—wearable and mobile computing, remote check-ins and one-touch access to support services—with cognitive restructuring techniques to achieve the goals of protection, retribution, and rehabilitation. The new model has economic implications, as prisons have often served as vital sources of employment in rural areas.

Big data for micro-tailored interventions

Justice centers leverage “big data” during pretrial hearings, sentencing, and parole hearings to determine the most appropriate candidates for virtual incarceration. These tools help judges select effective combinations of interventions specifically targeted for individual needs and risks. Analytics and predictive modeling—some from novel sources such as facial coding software, which tracks facial expressions to reveal emotions and predict future behavior—reduce the individual and system-level risk of virtually incarcerating offenders.

Law and justice 2020

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Winning the “reform” game

Gamified interfaces on web and mobile apps allow offenders to connect and stay engaged with remote training and meetings. Offenders earn points tied to rewards for making check-ins, staying out of high-risk zones, and completing pro-social behavioral exercises. Game elements allow offenders to see their progress and break up large goals into smaller, more manageable tasks, making the reform process engaging and achievable. Case managers benefit from dashboards offering features such as interactive maps that allow them to see their charges’ movement patterns and behavioral data in real time.

Justice restored: A dual approach to sentencing

Sentencing increasingly incorporates interactions such as victim-offender mediation, family-group conferences, and community restorative boards, which use trained citizens to confront offenders with the consequences of their actions and discuss possible reparations. Benefits include less traumatic stress and related costs for victims and a lower rate of recidivism. Restorative justice programs, enabled by technology, facilitate connections between victims and offenders to create virtuous feedback loops that provide closure and the ability to move on for victims and offenders alike.

Justice “markets”

Public-private exchanges and full-fledged markets in recidivism reduction and preventative services become ubiquitous, addressing the factors that contribute to criminal behavior (drug dependence, mental health problems, lack of financial and peer support). Open markets—where buyers include governments, foundations, and offender families, and sellers include nonprofits, social enterprises, companies, and other governments—are complemented by government-led solutions.

Next-generation policing

Pervasive policing

Real-time intelligence and police demand-matching become so exact and quick that would-be offenders are deterred by a sense of “justice everywhere.” Analytics such as crime mapping, geospatial prediction, data mining, and social network analysis, as well as omnipresent sensor networks and, ultimately, driverless cars that allow officers to operate as data mechanics in a mobile laboratory, coalesce to deliver not just faster response times when crimes occur but the intelligence needed to thwart crimes before they happen.
**Drone police**

Unmanned aerial vehicles and ground-based drones supplement human patrols in almost every stage of policing. During recon, UAVs provide cheaper, more scalable alternatives to police helicopters, gathering and transmitting data in lieu of beat cops. Remote-controlled drones represent the front line in high-risk situations such as stand-offs and bomb threats, saving lives and tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars in manpower and cleanup costs.

**Human robocops**

Manpower meets computing power. Equipped with an augmented reality app, the camera on a cop’s mobile device becomes as indispensable as a sidearm or handcuffs. Data-overlaid video feeds on handhelds, cruiser windshields, and wearable computers such as Google Glass give officers access to real-time language translation, cultural or biometric maps, floor plans, and more, as well as instant identification capabilities via facial recognition software. Bolstered by powerful GPS and crowd-tracking capacities, losing a suspect now happens infrequently. Patrol patterns become organic and unpredictable as analytics inside patrol cars route officers to areas of high risk.

**Facial-recognition ID systems**

Agents match faces-in-crowd photos and closed-circuit television images against the criminal database. In an instant, agents can identify subjects and their records, and tap real-time data feeds if the subject is serving a virtual incarceration sentence.

**Crime fighting via predictive video**

Cities’ closed-circuit television networks, both public and private, become an integral part of proactive crime fighting. While CCTV cameras have been used in subways and streets to identify crime in a retroactive capacity for years, video-analytics software now added to feeds detects peculiar crowd and traffic movements and suspicious vehicles, bags, or people, transforming visual data into real-time intelligence.

**Crime prevention officers**

As police efforts shift from reacting to crime to stopping it before it occurs, neighborhood police officers are recast as crime prevention officers. As the UK’s Policy Exchange envisions it, these CPOs have much more autonomy than traditional officers and are held directly responsible for crime prevention in their areas. CPOs are equipped with body cameras to collect evidence and protect them from false claims, and meet with commanding officers regularly to review data on their performance. CPOs also play a larger role in the procurement process, testing the latest tools and providing vital feedback before their departments green-light new technology. Creating this new cadre of cops requires a significant change in hiring practices, as CPOs are vetted on the basis of their ability to absorb information quickly and master the newest technologies with ease.
Crowdsourced crime prevention

Real-time crowdsourcing of data on crime (incidence, degree, and nature) helps create large databases that can be used to identify areas meriting greater security. Through social media, citizens play a greater role in calling attention to specific issues and identifying and tracking down perpetrators.

Upgrading cyber security

Innovation hubs to fight cyber crime

By 2020, much of the world’s crime is committed through the Internet. Advanced cyber security becomes a necessity—and a huge economic opportunity for innovative problem-solvers and governments willing to collaborate with them. These public-private collaborations look like technology campuses, featuring incubators and “lean” security startups that employ white-hat hackers and emphasize rapid testing and learning, integrating the latest trends into daily police activities.

Interagency security initiatives

Because of the urgency of the challenge and the need for expertise and economy, different arms of government join forces to fight cybercrime. Governments follow the lead of the Netherlands, which has launched a National Cyber Security Center, a Center of Information Security and Privacy, and a center for municipal cyber security.

Cyber security goes horizontal

Cyber security adopts cybercrime’s networked, decentralized structure as rigid top-down lines between international, national, and local jurisdictions dissolve. Security leans heavily on technology, lightweight solutions, and international collaboration, characteristics defining a new cadre of global enforcement officers. These GEOs, created at the federal level, can bypass international jurisdictions and seamlessly join foreign teams to bring global cybercriminals to justice.
“Biocrime” demands bio security

The world sees a spike in a new form of crime, biocrime, as advanced, genetically targeted weapons and DNA-related identity theft insidiously trail the personalized medicine and molecular therapies movement. In response, governments and private genetics companies engage in a global effort to concentrate DNA information in central, secure databases.

Transparency algorithms to identify cyber perpetuators

One of the biggest challenges of fighting cybercrime is identifying the perpetrator. Police team with academia to build arsenals of algorithms designed to unmask international cybercriminals. From intrusion software to big data correlation, cyber cops now have a range of tools to connect pieces of data with individuals. These algorithms represent some of the core activities at innovation hubs and cybercrime centers. Powerful cloud analytics help agents predict future cybercrime activity. The latter technology requires extensive international cooperation as cloud services and storage providers must agree to participate.

Online national IDs

As a result of the need for stronger means of online authentication, companies and citizens increasingly rely on government-standardized electronic IDs to interact with all parts of government and commerce. Such identification becomes a de facto requirement for all online services from government, healthcare providers, and multinational companies.
Sources

Deloitte deeper dives


Other sources


