



With record snowfalls in both north america and much of europe, we could be forgiven for thinking that extreme seasonal weather may be the only proper topic of conversation these days, but for some, a plethora of high profile CCTV related news stories, have served as a reminder of just how rapidly things are moving in the world of video surveillance. Lot's to follow, but as always if you need to look back at any past offerings, then my [Newsletter archive](#), has links to all the previous editions Happy reading! DJ.

P.S. Exhibiting at IFSEC2010 ? if you'd like to be included in my [Show Guide](#), please send your details to ifsec2010@doktorjon.co.uk

So what's been making the CCTV headlines in the last month ?

When it comes to CCTV related news stories, it's fair to say that the last month has provided a somewhat eclectic mix, and that's putting it mildly.

- In recent days, international reports have been dominated by the apparent assassination of a senior Hamas official, allegedly at the hands of a Mossad 'hit squad'. Whilst much of the interest has focussed on the individuals thought to be involved having travelled on fake UK and european passports, various news reports (including this offering from [TimesOnline](#)) have cited sources as saying that whilst the team were well aware of extensive video surveillance throughout the hotel where the murder took place, their masters have been absolutely astonished at the efficiency with which the Dubai police have managed to stitch together so much high quality forensic surveillance footage.
- Meanwhile, the frustrations of Strathclyde Police have been reported by the [Daily Record.co.uk](#); apparently, despite their best efforts to crack down on security firms being used as a front for criminal activity in Scotland, their latest attempts to close down an allegedly crooked CCTV company, have failed miserably. The director of one business which is believed to have a £ 4m a year turnover, was subject to enforcement action by the Security Industry Association, but following legal advice they've been forced to back down and return his licence.
- [The Globe and Mail](#) have reported that a group of liberal Senators on the Senate's Security Committee, have recommended that in future all Royal Canadian Mounted Police Officers



should be equipped with Body Worn Video systems; with regards to the cameras, no word yet on how the Mounties are planning to mount them.

- From police to academia, and earlier this month scientists at the University of Southampton, UK. announced details of their biometric 'tunnel' which is designed to help refine their ongoing 'gait' research work. According to [IHS. Jane's](#), using an array of synchronised CCTV cameras, subjects that walk through the tunnel are digitally captured in a 3D environment, producing a unique footprint of their walking movements, which it's hoped will eventually provide a basis for identifying an individual simply by the way they move.

- Meanwhile, as reported on [Newswire.ca](#) scientists working at the University of Toronto have developed a unique privacy encryption tool for video surveillance systems. The revolutionary technology will be

demonstrated at the "Privacy by Design : The Gold Standard" event being organised by Ontario's Information and Privacy Commissioner. Unlike existing privacy masking systems, this ground breaking technology allows facial images to be obscured on a recording, but subsequently recovered using the appropriate secure decryption key, if the images are required to assist in an investigation.

Forthcoming Security Shows & CCTV / IP Video related Events in 2010

- 1st - 3rd March - [ISNR Abu Dhabi](#) - Abu Dhabi
- 2nd - 5th March - [Security Show](#) - Tokyo, Japan
- 2nd - 5th March - [SICUR 2010](#) - Madrid, Spain
- 8th - 9th March - [Total Security Summit](#) - Essex
- 9th March - ["Putting the National CCTV Strategy into Practice"](#) Global MSC Seminar - Bristol, UK
- 11th March - [IP in Action LIVE](#) - Liverpool, UK
- 16th - 18th March - [HOSDB 2010](#) - Farnborough, Hants. UK.
- 18th - 21st March - [Segurex 2010](#) - Lisbon, Portugal
- 23rd - 24th March - [GovSec](#) - Washington DC, USA
- 23rd - 26th March - [ISC West](#) - Sands Expo - Las Vegas, Nevada, USA

• [DJ's complete listing of Forthcoming CCTV / IP Video Shows and Events](#) •



'VIPER' CCTV Performance Evaluation Reports



The 'TRUSTED' CCTV Improvement Project



DJ's CCTV / IP Video Forum



DJ's IFSEC 2010 Show Section



DJ's pick of this months CCTV related news stories from around the globe

The drone is silenced - Merseyside Police have been forced to ground their small Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (drone), after it was revealed that a recent change in the law requires all UAV's operating at low levels, to be regulated by the UK's Civil Aviation Authority. Pending the granting of a licence to fly, the force's 'eye in the sky' will remain firmly on the ground. - Source - [BBC News](#)

Physician protect thyself - After months of being stalked by her former partner, a doctor decided to spend around £ 3,000 (\$ 4.8k, € 3.3k) installing CCTV to capture the individual causing repeated damage to her car. Following numerous incidents of tyre slashing and criminal damage to both her own and neighbours vehicles, she eventually caught him in the act. On the strength of the evidential recordings, her ex a 46 year old property developer was found guilty on nine counts of criminal damage, and one of harassment at York Magistrates Court. He was ordered to pay a total of £ 1,595 in compensation to be shared by the doctor and her neighbour victims. - Source - [Mail Online](#)

The alibi for Mr Ali. - Having been arrested and accused of threatening behaviour and assault outside a school in Jogeshwari, India, Mr. Mozam Ali was able to successfully counter the allegations. It would appear that at the time he was supposed to have been threatening a woman with a handgun, he was actually being recorded on CCTV in the Bombay High Court. Having spent a total of four days in custody, he is now pursuing legal action against the police officers involved. - Source - [Indian Express.com](#)

Pune police review forensic surveillance - Police officers investigating the terrorist attack on the German Bakery in Pune, India, have located vital forensic surveillance recordings that will hopefully assist in identifying the suspects. The blast which killed seven people has been variously attributed to a number of possible terrorist groups, currently mounting attacks across India. - Source - [Indian Express.com](#)

Cameras of the Caribbean - Government co-operation is the order of the day for the tiny tropical island of St. Lucia in the Caribbean. It's been announced by their National Security Minister Guy Mayers, that Britain will be providing vital CCTV Training to the local police service. - Source - [e-turbonews.com](#)

A heavy price - Increasing terrorist attacks in Pakistan have led to the deaths of 353 police officers during 2009. On 22nd December, the final moments of a suicide bomber attempting to enter the Peshawar Press Club, was recorded on CCTV as they were restrained at the entrance by Head Constable Riazuddin, whose selfless bravery saved the lives of hundreds attending press briefings within the building. - Source - [IPS News](#)

On the wagon - Train drivers and guards working in the Mumbai District of Central Railway, will in future have to be on their best behaviour when CCTV cameras are shortly installed in their rest areas. Despite protests, the installation of cameras is intended to help reduce the problem of staff consuming alcohol whilst working on the railways. - Source - [Indian Express](#)

Persistence pays off - After two years hunting for a child kidnapper caught on a number of surveillance systems, detectives from the Los Angeles Police Department have finally captured their suspect. The arrest of an hispanic male was initially triggered when his vehicle was 'pinged' by a police cruiser's onboard license plate recognition system. A subsequent surveillance operation, led to the arrest of the 41 year old male, who now faces 25 years to life if convicted of a string of child abductions and sexual assaults. - Source - [The Los Angeles Police Department Blog](#)

Privacy issues served up on a plate - According to a recent article, there are currently 10,502 CCTV cameras across the UK, which are linked in to vehicle Automatic Number Plate Recognition systems (ANPR). The cameras, which are fed through to the National ANPR Data Centre (NADC) are currently reading and recording around 10 - 14 million vehicle plates every day, although the systems already have the capacity to store up to 50 million in the future. - Source - [Kable](#)

Shop till they drop - Around 1,000 small retailers across the U.K. will benefit from a share of the £ 5m (\$ 8m, €5.5m) crime reduction Small Retailers Grant Fund, announced by the Home Office. As part of the Retail Crime Action Plan, the grants can be used to purchase CCTV alongside other security equipment. - Source - [Home Office](#)

What goes around - Police in Kettering, Northants, UK have acquired 800 domestic CCTV cameras courtesy of the local criminal fraternity. Using powers under the 'Proceeds from Crime' Act, the cameras were purchased with £ 25,000 (\$ 40k, €27.5k) out of a total of £ 1.5m recovered from criminal activity in the county last year. The cameras will be handed out to homeowners and the victims of repeat crimes in an attempt to deter further incidents. - Source - [Evening Telegraph](#)

An open and shut case ...? - News from Philadelphia, USA where a family have issued a law suit against officials at their son's school. It's been reported that the 15 year old pupil was accused of improper behaviour at home, which was allegedly remotely captured using the webcam built in to the Apple laptop computer, supplied to the student by the school. The family along with civil libertarians are outraged at the suggestion that pupils could be monitored at home, which if proven would clearly be in breach of their rights under the Constitution. - Source - [Philly.com](#)

Top marks for the camera system - In the previous year, the Huntcliff Secondary School in Lincolnshire, UK reported over £ 20,000 (\$ 32k, €22k) worth of damage caused by vandals. Since installing an IP Video camera system that transmits images of intruders to a mobile dog team, incidents have been completely eliminated, saving the school money both on repairs and increased insurance premiums. - Source - [This is Scunthorpe](#)



DJ's pick of this months CCTV related news stories from around the globe - continued

Unlikely to get carried away - It's been reported that in the last four years, The US Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has seen claims for baggage theft and damage, drop from \$ 3.2million in 2005, to less than \$ 500k for most of 2009. The huge reduction in complaints about baggage issues, has been squarely based on the increased use of video surveillance to help counter terrorism across the nations airports. - Source - [Los Angeles Times](#)

Open discussion on closed circuit - A Lay panel which oversees CCTV operations in Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, UK and reports directly to the Borough Council, is planning to hold a public meeting next month, to give residents the opportunity to raise questions about the use of their local camera scheme. - Source - [This is Local London](#)

Let the games begin - With little over a week before the Winter Olympics opens for business in Vancouver, Canada, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the city authorities have set around 1,000 CCTV cameras in place to help maintain security. It's expected that the RCMP units will remain active until the conclusion of the Paralympic Games, after which they are most likely going to be decommissioned. - Source - [The Toronto Star](#)

Turning up the heat on poachers - Existing high tech infra red and thermal imaging cameras used to protect US critical infrastructure from possible terrorist attack, will in future be deployed to tackle a more down to earth problem. Natural Resources Police officers are soon to be provided with access to the Maryland Law Enforcement Information Network's long range imaging systems, to help locate and intercept poachers intent on depleting natural resources such as oyster beds, from vulnerable sites in the Chesapeake Bay. - Source - [The Baltimore Sun](#)

Veiled in secrecy - There is growing concern that the government in Egypt is planning to install CCTV in thousands of mosques. Despite denials by the Ministry of Islamic Endowments, it is being widely reported that plans are advanced to deploy surveillance cameras in a move designed to tackle problems with extremist preachers. - Source - [The MidEast News Source](#)

Departing from the truth - A passenger in the OR Tambo International Airport in South Africa, was checking the smashed locks on her suitcase when moments later her handbag was snatched. Whilst the security guards insisted that the CCTV was not functioning, an investigating police officer later discovered that not only was the surveillance working, but no effort was being spared in trying to prevent the police from viewing all the recorded material. - Source - [Independent Online](#)

Overcome on the run - A 30 year old fugitive captured on surveillance video fire bombing and vandalising 130 four wheel drive cars back in 2003, has reportedly been killed by an avalanche in Corsica. The suspect described as a 'militant environmentalist', had previously been convicted in his absence on eight charges and was sentenced to over 8 years in prison, by a court in Southern California, - Source - [89.3 KPCC](#)

Police prosecute persistent panty pincher - The 59 year old former mayor of Preesall, near Blackpool, UK, has been sentenced to two years in prison, after having been convicted of stealing ladies underwear. Preston Crown Court heard that the accused was only caught after a married mother of two installed hidden security cameras in her home, which captured him walking half naked into her bedroom before rifling through her underwear drawer. Police later visited his home and found a collection of lingerie worth around £ 900 (\$ 1,400, € 1,000). - Source - [The Mirror.co.uk](#)

Police cameras are given a rest - Police failed to capture on camera the alleged TIO bomber, after it was revealed that the CCTV at Darwin Police Station in Australia, was deliberately turned off at the time. This follows an ongoing investigation into allegations that the cameras, which had only been live for six weeks, were briefly being used 'inappropriately' to monitor a group of girls. - Source - [Heraldsun.com.au](#)

Tragedy caught on camera - A previously unseen surveillance video from a failed 2001 CIA drugs operation, has just been aired on US television amid accusations of a cover up. A small seaplane carrying a missionary family was shadowed by a CIA flight, in the mistaken belief that it was carrying drugs. The error led to the aircraft being fired upon by a peruvian airforce fighter, despite desperate radio calls being made on the wrong frequency. Two members of the family perished in the incident. - Source - [Herald Sun](#)

Not just prices being marked down - Councillors have reported a 30% drop in shoplifting in the St Annes and Kirkham areas of Lancashire, UK, following the installation of eight new Town Centre CCTV cameras. The drop in recorded crimes was measured in the last quarter of 2009 and compared against the same period in the previous year. - Source - [Fylde Borough Council](#)

When push comes to fruition - The CCTV cameras were rolling when a 32 year old mother of three, suddenly became a mother of four on the floor of a hospital foyer. Having been rushed by her husband to the Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester, UK, the expectant mum collapsed at the entrance to the maternity unit, and minutes later delivered a healthy 8 pounds 3 ounce daughter named Alice. Staff at the hospital presented the family with a suitably edited recording from the CCTV system, as a memento of the somewhat unusual event. - Source - [Babychums.com](#)



DJ's pick of this months CCTV related news stories from around the globe - continued

It's not looking good - Despite being on an almost permanently high level of security alert, Delhi's IGI Airport has reportedly been suffering failures in up to 40 CCTV cameras located throughout the complex. Although the problems have been reported to the airport operators, it's believed that the units have been out of action for up to two months. - Source - [The Times of India](#)

Sick of secretive surveillance - Shocked workers at the Hospital of the University of Montreal (CHUM), have discovered twenty hidden miniature CCTV cameras secreted throughout the site. Having been installed by managers as part of an 'administrative investigation', employees are pretty much powerless given that Quebec law permits the use of covert surveillance in these circumstances. - Source - [Toronto Sun](#)

Life in the fast lane - Residents living on Terry Road, in Hartford, Connecticut, USA have decided to tackle problems with speeding motorists, by installing their own technological solution. Having been plagued by cars racing through from the nearby university, a resident decided to fix two street monitoring CCTV cameras on the tree in his front garden, and then leaflet local vehicles warning them that any cars caught speeding would be referred to the authorities; initial findings suggest that vehicle speeds have dropped significantly since the cameras went up. - Source - [Hartford Courant](#)

Smart or stupid ... you decide - Waltham Forest Council in Essex, UK, has decided to become the first local authority to post details of it's CCTV vehicle operations on the internet. Their six video equipped Smart cars are routinely deployed to catch drivers committing traffic offences, and in response to growing outrage from furious motorists, they will in future place the precise locations, dates and operating times on their website. - Source - [Waltham Forest Guardian](#)

Bringing back order in the wake of chaos - The Kanda Suehiro Association organised a ribbon cutting ceremony, to celebrate the launch of a sixteen camera street surveillance system in the Akihabara district of Tokyo. The area was rocked by a frenzied attack back in 2008, when a truck driver ran amok killing a total of seven people. It's hoped that the new CCTV scheme will help to improve the areas standing, as the 25 year old attacker moves to trial in the next few days. - Source - [The Japan Times](#)

Does evidence guarantee justice? - A carer caught red handed on camera, stealing from the disabled woman she was supposed to be looking after, has walked away from court with a suspended sentence. The victim had suspected that money was being stolen from her home, so she arranged for a covert CCTV system to be installed. Whilst the video recordings were damning for the thief Jane Hoy, the judge's decision to set a suspended sentence alongside community service and minor compensation, has left the victim distraught, and the wider community furious at the outcome. - Source - [This is Bristol.co.uk](#)

Cameras on the cut and run - Officers at Slough Borough Council, UK, are becoming increasingly concerned by a spate of vandalism attacks on their street surveillance cameras. In the most recent incident, the cover was forced off the CCTV mounting pole and all the live cables cut through, which with past attacks has proven to be a pre cursor to further criminal activity. - Source - [Slough & Langley Observer](#)

They just ain't bovvered ... - Local residents in Gipsy Hill, South London, are becoming increasingly frustrated at Lambeth Council's use of their traffic enforcement CCTV Smart Car. The vehicle which is reportedly parked up unlawfully during operation, has been issuing Penalty Charge Notices to motorists that fail to give way to oncoming traffic. A recent Freedom of Information request has indicated that 321 tickets were issued at the road junction during September and October 2009, or roughly equivalent to one being printed every five minutes. - Source - [Streatham Guardian](#)

Droning on about surveillance - It's been reported that plans are being developed to deploy airborne surveillance systems over the UK, using adapted military standard drones. The project which is being backed by the Home Office, will see BAE Systems and the South Coast Partnership, which includes Kent Police, working on a practical solution that can be brought into service in time for the 2012 Olympics. - Source - [Guardian.co.uk](#)

The message is clear - The US National Transportation Safety Board has been carrying out an inquiry into the fatal Chatsworth rail crash in September 2008, which was caused by the driver passing through a stop light, whilst apparently sending a text with their mobile phone. The key recommendation to the Federal Railroad Authority, is that all train cabs should in future be fitted with both audio and video recording systems, something which has gone down less than well with the train drivers union. - Source - [Progressive Railroadng.com](#)

CCTV and the keys to success - Aleksander Kudajcsyk may be a world class pianist now, but at one time he was just a humble cleaner at the Glasgow University. It was only when he was captured by CCTV secretly practising on the colleges piano, that word got out, and the talented virtuoso was then on his way to the start of a glittering musical career. - Source - [The Jakarta Post](#)

• Doktor Jon's current Global CCTV News page - <http://www.doktorjon.co.uk/whatsnew2.html> •



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If you're looking for yet more to read, why not check out an interesting new paper from australia - "Information Overload: CCTV, your networks, communities and crime" by Vandra Harris & Crispin Harris; for aficionado's of CCTV research it's worth a look. If you have any suggestions for possible inclusion, or if you happen to know someone that would like to receive their own copies; perhaps you decide you don't wish to receive future editions, then why not drop me a line:- newsdesk@doktorjon.co.uk
Hopefully the next Newsletter will be published towards the end of March, so until then, here's wishing you good times in the coming month ahead D.J.

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