INTERPOL

Innovation SNAPSHOTS

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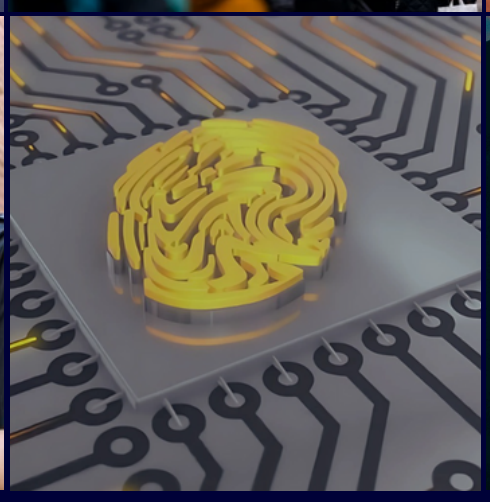



IN THIS ISSUE

SOUTH AFRICA DEPLOYS AI-POWERED DRONES

South Africa's border forces are equipping themselves with advanced aerial technology. The Department of Home Affairs recently unveiled four AI-enabled drones and 40 body-worn cameras to patrol the country. These unmanned aerial vehicles are fitted with night-vision and thermal sensors and use onboard AI to lock onto heat signatures (people or vehicles) in real time. Capable of speeds up to 43 kilometres per hour and operating in remote areas (even without GPS), the drones launch within seconds and feed live video to control centres.

According to officials, deployment of the new drones has yielded dramatic results — interception rates jumped by 215 per cent when drones were first tried over a recent holiday period. In addition to aerial patrols, the new body cameras link officials to a digital evidence system, ensuring footage of illicit crossings is admissible in court.

This combination of AI-drone surveillance and wearable cameras marks a major step in South Africa's tech-driven border security.

Source: ITWeb

DID YOU KNOW?

INTERPOL is using virtual reality (VR) technology to train investigators in tackling counterfeit goods and fraud. At the 2025 International Law Enforcement IP Crime Conference, the International IP Crime Investigators College took workshop participants on a journey into simulated operational environments providing hands-on training experiences without the limitations of physical access to restricted areas.

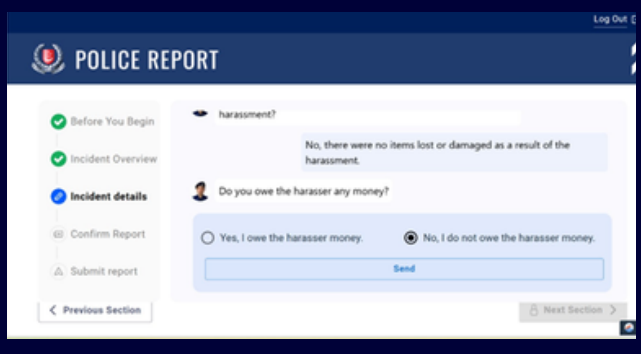
Wearing VR headsets, officers practiced moving through real-world crime scenarios working as a multi-agency task force where they handled counterfeit products such as lithium-ion batteries and examined fraudulent documents as if they were on a real operation. They had to make decisions on the spot – what to seize, what to question, what looks suspicious – but with the freedom to pause, replay and learn from mistakes.

The VR training can be combined with online training or in-person training to create a unique training experience, where instructors can share real-life content, and subsequently foster engaging and interactive discussions with participants.

For more information, please see: Interpol.int

SINGAPORE'S AI CHATBOT FOR POLICE REPORT LODGING

The Singapore Police Force's "Report Lodging Co-Pilot" (R-COP) helps members of the public lodge reports faster and officers with allotting more time to case investigation instead of endless follow-up calls and information requests. R-COP also incorporates guardrails to ensure accuracy of information and uses government servers for data storage security.



R-COP guides users in report lodging through "a simple step-by-step conversation," blending "yes/no" and open-ended questions depending on the case's nature, structuring the information, and generating a draft report, which the individual can review before submission. Police officers remain available to assist, and users are reminded to check the draft carefully before confirming it.

For law enforcement agencies, AI-enabled tools may reduce time spent on paperwork and improve the completeness and consistency of reports. By standardizing question flows, using plain-language prompts, and flagging missing information, R-COP is designed to support users who may find traditional forms difficult to complete. In addition, R-COP can correct typos and grammatical errors, as well as summarize accounts in a comprehensible manner for users who are experiencing distress and problems in articulation.

Source: Singapore Police Force website; Home Team Science and Technology Agency website

CALIFORNIA REQUIRES TRANSPARENCY IN AI-DRAFTED POLICE REPORTS

In the United States, California became the second US state, after Utah, to pass a law on AI-written reports. Senate Bill 524 mandates that any police report written with AI assistance must be clearly labelled as such. Agencies must keep an audit trail noting who used the AI tool and which bodycam/audio files were used to generate the text, and they must preserve the original AI-generated draft alongside the final report.

Basically, AI-generated drafts cannot and should not replace an officer's statements. Proponents of this regulation say these rules simply enforce transparency – anyone reading an arrest report will now know if a large language model drafted the narrative. Without such requirements, AI tools could insert unverified or biased information into records without oversight. California's measure explicitly addresses this risk by requiring metadata and human sign-off on AI content. By officially putting "AI on the record," the state hopes to balance technological efficiency with accountability in policing.

Source: Phys.org

KUWAIT'S AI-POWERED PATROL CARS

Kuwait has deployed a new fleet of high-tech patrol vehicles equipped with advanced AI, marking a significant step in the Ministry of Interior's digital transformation strategy.

Developed by specialized national experts, these "smart patrols" are designed to modernize the country's internal security framework. The initiative aims to enhance the speed and accuracy of field operations by integrating state-of-the-art surveillance technology directly into mobile units.

The patrol vehicles function as intelligent mobile hubs, featuring a suite of interconnected systems.

Key capabilities include smart mobile cameras linked to facial recognition software for identifying suspects and automated licence plate readers for detecting wanted vehicles in real time.

Additionally, the units are equipped with mobile fingerprint scanners that allow officers to verify identities on the spot. All onboard systems maintain direct connectivity with the Ministry's central criminal and civil databases, utilizing AI algorithms to process images and data instantly.

This operational upgrade provides field officers with immediate, data-driven intelligence, significantly streamlining security procedures. By automatically flagging wanted individuals or suspicious vehicles, the system reduces reliance on manual checks and accelerates decision-making.

Source: The Times of India, Arab Times

DID YOU KNOW?

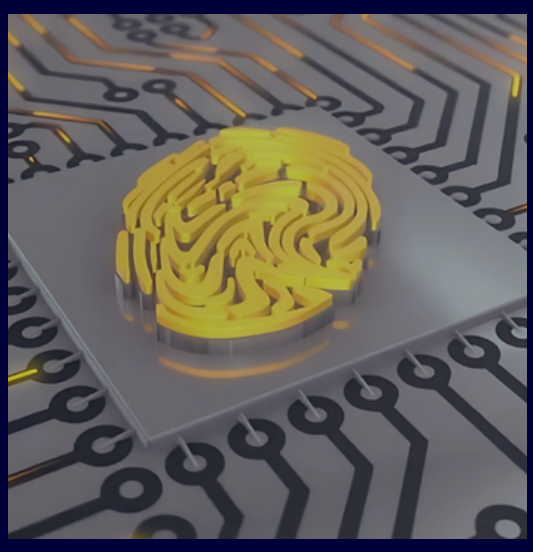
The Metropolitan Police Service in the United Kingdom is escalating its deployment of live facial recognition (LFR) technology across London, integrating it as a key component of its proactive crime-fighting strategy.

The need for this expansion comes from operational data, which confirm LFR's efficiency in rapidly identifying and apprehending subjects wanted by the courts or those posing a risk to public safety.

As individuals pass through a designated area, the LFR system streams facial images and matches them against a carefully managed watchlist of persons of interest.

Source: biometricupdate.com
Image: thestandard.uk

SYNTHWAVE CONFERENCE: STAYING AHEAD OF SYNTHETIC MEDIA THREATS



TOKYO, Japan — With more than 60 attendees representing government and law enforcement agencies from 30 member countries, the INTERPOL Conference on AI in Digital Forensics: Unpacking Insights in Investigations and Analysis explored the intersection of AI and digital forensics to respond to synthetic media threats faster, better, and ahead of criminals.

Organized under INTERPOL's Project SynthWave, supported by the Government of Japan, and in collaboration with the National Police Agency of Japan and JC3 (Japan Cybercrime Control Center), the Conference was held from 28 to 30 October 2025. It provided a platform for law enforcement officers, academics, and industry experts to exchange best practices in identifying synthetic content and combatting the emerging threats they bring.

The three-day Conference discussed the following topics:

- Synthetic media threats, impact, and detection.
- Digital forensics tools and solutions used for investigations and threat analysis.
- Emerging capabilities, developments, and possibilities in digital forensics, investigations and analysis.

Expert speakers illustrated how generative AI can be misused, how AI tools can help with detection, and why law enforcement should be prepared to adapt investigative approaches as traditional methods for identifying fraud and synthetic media continue to change in a rapid manner.

A key takeaway from the Conference was the importance of collaboration between law enforcement, academia, and the private sector to stay ahead of emerging threats. The INTERPOL Innovation Centre fosters effective partnerships with technology experts from industry and academia, advancing the law enforcement community's collective efforts to combat crimes that leverage AI.

For more information, please see: INTERPOL Innovation Centre on X; INTERPOL Project SynthWave

RED TEAMING AI: SAFEGUARDING GENERATIVE SYSTEMS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

AI red teaming is a practical approach that runs realistic, controlled attacks on a system before it generally goes live to find and fix weaknesses. For example, a full red-team exercise can be used to safeguard something as advanced as a generative AI assistant designed to help analysts filter and prioritize incoming intelligence.

Such safeguarding is done by testers, who work in a sandboxed environment and reproduce realistic attacks — feeding the system malicious links and uploads, trying to trick it into revealing sensitive information, attempting to make it call external tools it should not access, and checking whether hidden instructions in cached prompts could be abused.

Rather than relying on a single test, the exercise follows realistic "attack chains" — sequences of steps a malicious actor might take — so investigators can see how one small lapse might lead to a much larger compromise. This assessment uses established adversary frameworks to map tactics and record which lines of defence held up and which did not.

Outcomes of the exercise include an attack coverage map that shows where protections succeeded or failed, concrete examples of the exploit prompts that worked (so engineers could reproduce and fix them), and a ranked list of recommended fixes. Additionally, a simple heat map summarizes overall exposure by likelihood and impact, helping prioritize investment in mitigations.

This leads to more secure controls on plugins and external tools, improved cleaning of data before it is fed into models, stronger protocols to ensure a human reviews critical outputs, and monitoring tuned to spot known jailbreak behaviours. The red-team exercise also sets up a cadence for repeat tests — shorter burst retests after major changes in the prototype — so defences stay current as new exploits and vulnerabilities emerge.

Source : Dr. Ali Dehghantanha, Avaly.AI

VACANCY NOTICE

SECONDMENT: Assistant Director – Applied Innovation
INTERPOL Innovation Centre, SINGAPORE

Are you passionate about driving change at the intersection of policing and cutting-edge technology? At INTERPOL's Innovation Centre in Singapore, you'll work alongside global experts, law enforcement agencies, academia, and the private sector to design the future of international policing.

DEADLINE: 15 JANUARY 2026
Please click here for more INTERPOL Innovation Centre job vacancies and details.

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CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Spotlight your innovations

- Law enforcement is evolving at an unprecedented pace, fueled by technological innovations and collaborative efforts that redefine policing.
- The Innovation Snapshots newsletter captures and showcases these transformative advancements and invites you to join the conversation.
- We welcome stories from law enforcement, industry innovators, and academic researchers that showcase technologies and novel approaches to drive advancement together.

Submission Guidelines

- Keep contributions to ~400 words.
- Include relevant, high-quality photos with usage rights and credits.
- Maintain a neutral and factual tone.
- Email your contribution to IC-Snapshots@interpol.int and a brief bio of yourself or your organization.

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