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Oddity helps Police Unit The Hague with violence detection

Efficient camera surveillance thanks to smart algorithm deployment

Efficient camera surveillance thanks to the deployment of a smart algorithm

Central camera surveillance is used to ensure security in public areas in the city center, entertainment areas, in eight surrounding municipalities, and around ADO The Hague's stadium. More than 250 fixed and flexible security cameras provide razor-sharp video images to support enforcement.

To make the monitoring process of these images more efficient, The Hague's Technical Supervision Team has been successfully using Oddity's intelligent violence detection software since 2020.

Further development and innovations

Dutch Police Force Operations Specialist A Henk Molenaar has been involved in the cooperation with Oddity from the beginning and is very enthusiastic about the solution. Henk: " As part of my role, my primary focus revolves around establishing and maintaining effective communication with the eight municipalities that rely on our camera surveillance services. This includes legal matters and expansion of cameras. I also manage the business processes in our monitoring center. Important themes for me are further development and innovations. Recent examples are bodycam projects, developing our own video distribution system and, of course, the cooperation with Oddity."
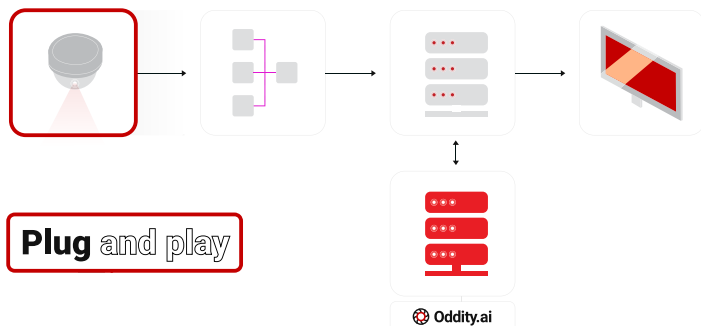
Connection to core task

One of the biggest challenges facing the Technical Surveillance Team is finding enough people to watch the camera footage 24/7. This was therefore the reason to look for a company that could make this vital task more efficient. Henk: "That's how we ended up at Oddity. Oddity's software now monitors video streams and triggers an alert when it detects a violent incident. Thus, the solution fits seamlessly with our core mission and helps us execute it even better. After all, the cameras we operate are there to maintain public order, and fights and aggression disrupt that public order."

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Technical challenge

The Oddity solution is basically plug & play and can be integrated with existing hardware without any problems.

Henk: "Still, we initially had one technical challenge, and that was the lack of an interface to integrate Oddity with our video management system IndigoVision. We then received a software development kit from our supplier, which Oddity used to develop the interface within a few weeks."

Plug and play

"We also chose to fully integrate the system so that notifications would not appear on a separate screen. After extensive testing, some adjustments were made at the request of our operators. They did not want notifications to be pushed to the spot monitor on which they are working so as not to lose focus. To alert employees to a notification, we now work with an audible alarm. These adjustments were smoothly implemented by Oddity."

Prioritizing notifications

An important feature of the Oddity solution is that it is 'Wpg-proof' (Police Data Act). Henk: "Privacy is always a sensitive issue in public camera surveillance. It is also subject to all kinds of legislation, including the Municipalities Act, the Police Act, and the Police Data Act. Working with Oddity does not cause any additional privacy complications, due to the simple fact that the system does not process any personal data and there is no reference database with personal characteristics. Only the moment an alert is generated is recorded. So, Oddity doesn't do anything other than prioritize alerts. The entire assessment and follow-up process is and remains human work. With this, the Oddity solution falls under the regular processing of the Police Data Act."

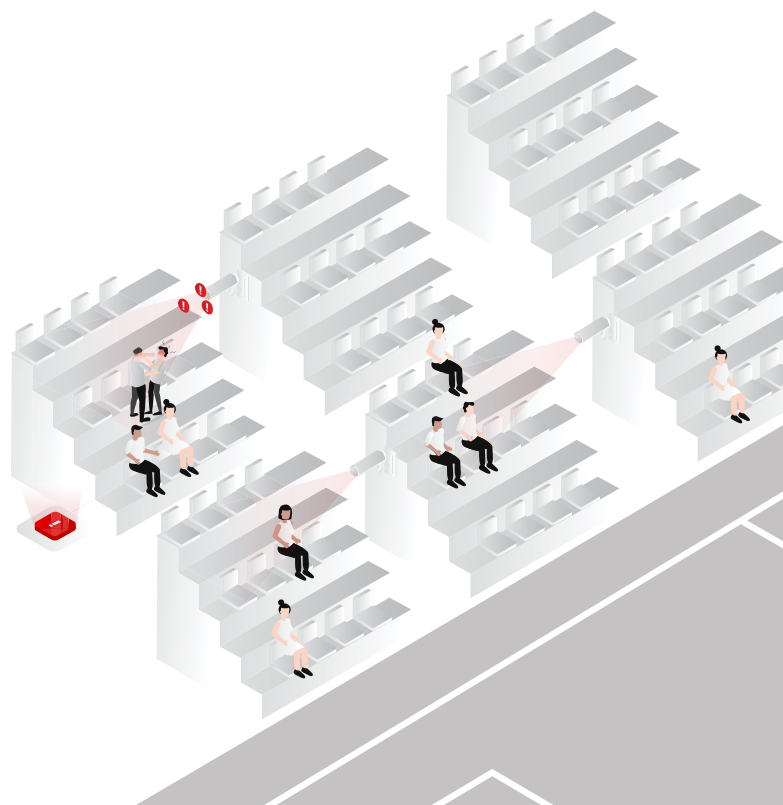## Improved images for the follow-up process

Automatic violence detection was developed, among other things, to relieve surveillance centers in terms of staffing. Henk: "That's true, but if you start observing better you usually start bringing in more. And that's what Oddity does; we have dozens of cases in which we were able to assist victims at an early stage to prevent worse. A key benefit is also that if you're alerted to an incident earlier, you can optimize camera positions. With that, you have better footage for the follow-up process. For example, we've had several robbery cases where someone was pulled behind a hedge or into an alley. You don't see the incident itself then, but what precedes it was noticed by the system."

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The future of detecting

For Henk and his colleagues, Oddity's automatic violence detection software is a valuable tool in maintaining public order in The Hague. Henk: "By now the Oddity software has become indispensable here, and incidents are detected daily, on which we can take immediate action. When I look to the future, I do see more possibilities for automated detection techniques - not just violence detection. Next steps could focus on weapons detection and specifically on monitoring and securing the embassies here in The Hague. There is still a bright future ahead for smart technology!"

About The Hague's Technical Supervision Team

Team Technical Supervision is part of the Department of Regional Operational Cooperation (DROS). DROS consists of

The Departments Regional Conflict and Crisis Management	Infrastructure	Detainee Tasks
Surveillance and Security / **Regional Coordination Tasks**	Regional Service Center	Police Coordination Center

Team Technical Supervision falls under the Infrastructure Department. The Infrastructure Division oversees surveillance, enforcement, and crime control at infrastructure nodes. The department consists of the teams Nodal Orientation, Traffic, the Heterdaadloket and Technical Surveillance.

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