The CCTV: What influences operations?

- System Objectives: Not well defined
  - Universal assumption that CCTVs were good
  - Funding available easily

- Management of the project
  - Lack of appropriate technical expertise
  - End-users consulted during planning but reluctant to be involved.
  - Picking suitable Project Managers was a problem

- Density, camera coverage and positioning
  - Statistics showed uneven camera density for similar areas under different schemes
  - Complex relationship between camera density and reduction of crime observed

- Technical Characteristics
  - 2 types of cameras used: Static and PTZ (pan, tilt, zoom)
  - Level of lighting
  - Recording techniques

- Control Room Operation
  - Live monitoring
  - Recording of evidence
  - Communication links between agencies
  - Area being monitored
The CCTV: Economic evaluation

- £500 million was spent in Britain on CCTV during 1996-2006!
- CCTV produced overall low cost benefits because:
  - Schemes had little overall impact on the incidence of crime
  - Complexity of systems made them expensive to set up and run
- Statistics from City Outskirts did show a cost-benefit ratio > 1
- However, in most other cases, the cost clearly outweighed the benefit
### Table 5.7: Cost benefit ratios for schemes where crime was reduced relative to the control

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scheme</th>
<th>Annual equivalent cost (£)</th>
<th>Crimes prevented</th>
<th>Calculated cost-benefit ratio</th>
<th>Real cost-benefit ratio (based on statistical significance)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City Outskirts</td>
<td>176,542</td>
<td>437</td>
<td>1.24</td>
<td>1.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawkeye Total*</td>
<td>775,185</td>
<td>567</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>0.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High risk*</td>
<td>270,436</td>
<td>436</td>
<td>1.27</td>
<td>1.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium risk*</td>
<td>243,950</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>0.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low risk</td>
<td>287,164</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borough Town</td>
<td>60,115</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>0.63</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Estate</td>
<td>77,746</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>-0.18</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shire Town</td>
<td>39,017</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>4.88</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastcap Estate</td>
<td>70,899</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Hospital</td>
<td>9,303</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1.79</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Statistically significant.
The Big Picture: **Do the CCTVs really reduce crime?**

- Assessed on the evidences from the report, CCTV cannot be deemed as a success.
- The logic, and the statistics, are superficially impressive, but analysts are not convinced.
- Crime reduction claims being made by CCTV proponents are not convincing.
- Majority of the schemes evaluated did not reduce crime.
- It has cost a lot of money but hasn’t produced the anticipated results.
- Little emphasis on showing why CCTV was the best solution.
Factoids...

- An increase in only the reported crime was seen, not reduction in crime itself.
- For every 1000 cameras in London, less than one crime is solved per year.
- Despite there being over 1 million cameras in London, less than 1000 crimes were solved using CCTV in 2008.
- Public frequently told that they are captured on camera three hundred times per day.
- In 2006, a report showed that in one month, across 32 boroughs, only 8 out of 269 robbery detections could be attributed to CCTV.
However...

- Crime rates appeared to the authors to be a poor measure of the effectiveness of CCTV.
- There was a lack of realism about what could be expected from CCTV: it was “over-sold”.
- The objectives often did not drive the scheme.
- There were many instances of the successful use of CCTV which could not be measured by changes in crime, or even fear of crime.
  - Finding missing children
  - Acting as a catalyst to attract more funding into an area
  - Controlling alcohol-related and other anti-social behavior in town and city centers
- The public is still predominantly in favor of use of CCTVs.
- There was no pressure to have it removed.
To conclude...

- CCTV cameras are not as effective at reducing crime as people thought initially.
- The concept is new and promising and if developed properly, under expert guidance, can be very effective.
- CCTV schemes require good support from the control room operators and police to be effective.
- Too much must not be expected of CCTV. It is more than just a technical solution; it requires human intervention to work to maximum efficiency and the problems it helps deal with are complex.
Thank you...

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