Innovative Solutions Canada Program

Challenge EN578-170003/32: Automated redaction of video recordings for the purposes of Access to Information requests Challenge

Attachment 4
Questions and Answers #12 to #18

This document contains questions and answers related to this challenge.

Question #12:

Are videos being processed at all ports of entry between Canada and the US?

Response #12:

We cannot disclose the details around the surveillance at ports of entry, however, we have over 10,000 video cameras deployed across Canada

Question #13:

How many points of entry are videos being requested?

Response #13:

This is not relevant to the bid. The video is from one of the more than 10000 cameras deployed across the country, and current plan is to process this video at a central location.

Question #14:

Is the goal in the future to license the technology at every point of entry?

Response #14:

This is not yet known. Our immediate goal is to find a solution that will be used in the HQ region for redacting video related to access to information requests.

Question #15:

Can you provide an example of the redacted footage? In particular, I'm seeking to better understand what it means to "blur the overall scene … while maintaining the basic context of the scene."

Response #15:

We do not have examples of redacted video that we can post. Redacting video is about ensuring that private information that is not associated to the requester of the video is not disclosed. Consider that you are in a video scene with others (walking in an airport) and you request a copy of this video. The

redacting process would ensure that all other people and personally identifiable information (such as name tags) would be redacted while keeping images of you clear and your context (walking through an airport) clear. In this case, all background images could be blurred to remove personal identifiable information of others, but the level of blur would also need to maintain the context of you walking through the airport.

Question #16:

For item 3: replace the zone of interest with silenced audio:

a) How is a zone of interest determined with regards to audio?

b) Are zones of interest for audio tied to the objects that are to be redacted in the scene?

c) Are zones of interest for audio determined on their own exclusively?

Response #16:

a) The zone of interest for audio include any audio that contains information that is personally identifiable and private to anyone that is not the requester of the information. Let's say the video is an interview and during the interview the requester answers a questions by providing a name and address of an acquaintance. The name and address of the acquaintance would need to be redacted by silencing this portion of the audio. However, there may be no need to redact the video as the requester may be the only person in the scene.

b) Not always, all redaction is based on removing personal identifiable and private information of anyone who is not the requestor of the video/audio. The information is sometimes linked to the same objects in the video scene, but this is not always the case.

c) Sometimes. Please see response above.

Question #17:

In the problem statement: For example, it is common for a person to ask for all video footage at a certain location that contains their image.

Can you please provide some more details about this process? Is this image a digital image and can it be used by the proposed solution?

Response #17:

The images are usually in the format of a digital video or multiple digital videos. The videos are usually captured via overt video surveillance that is used to monitor areas of interest such as a parking lot or waiting area. A person who requests a copy of this video is entitled to the video as long as they are in the video. However, personal identifiable and private information of others cannot be disclosed to the requestor. The process of redacting is to remove all personal identifiable and private information of others while marinating the context and detail of the requestor who is in the video. This is usually done by either blurring the information related to others, or by completely blacking out the information

related to others. The process involves moving through the video frame by frame while identifying and removing/blurring the information of everyone other than the requestor.

Question #18:

What form of audio redaction is being sought for this? Simply removing audio or anonymizing the voices themselves.

Response #18:

Removing audio would only be required. There is no anonymizing any voices.