

Innovative Solutions Canada Program

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

Attachment 5 Questions and Answers #19 to #24

This document contains questions and answers related to this challenge.

Question #19:

Problem statement reads “it is common for a person to ask for all video footage at a certain location that contains their image”. Is it possible that one request included many individuals?

Response #19:

Yes, this is possible.

Question #20:

Essential outcomes #1 reads “allow the processing of digital audio and video recordings”. Can you provide the majority of videos resolutions and compression example H.264, 720p, and audio coding?

Response #20:

Any standard output from audio video surveillance systems that are on the market today. It would be great if a system could ingest native formats from video management systems, but we can always add a step that leverages off the shelf tools to convert the audio and video to a format acceptable for the targeted redacting system (such as mpeg4).

Question #21:

Essential outcomes #3 reads “replace the zone of interest with silenced audio”. Can you define “zone of interest”, is it when the individual is visually in the scene or when this same individual has left the scene but still audible?

Response #21:

The zone of interest for audio includes 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. The redaction of audio is needed even if the person speaking is not in the scene. The objective is to protect the release on private and personal information that belongs to others

besides the requestor of the media. Therefore the audio redaction is needed whenever personal and/or private information of others is present in the audio whether or not the individual is in the scene.

Question #22:

Essential outcomes #6 reads “multiple media ingestion through all reviews and final media exports”. What is the preferred media format for exportation?

Response #22:

Any standard viewable format such as mpeg4.

Questions #23

This is a follow-up to question #4 and response #4. Could there be a situation in which you want to redact say a person’s mug/watch/wallet/keys, assuming the mug/watch/wallet/keys does not contain personally identifiable materials beyond the fact that the mug/watch/wallet is known (by people close to the person) to belong to that person?

Response #23

Identity would be a face / a car with a specific marker / any visible ID Card such a work badge or any other physical identifiers. As for mug, watch, or keys, these items are not required to be redacted.

Question #24

As a further follow up to question #4. Our understanding of response #4 is that personally identifiable information really boils down to faces, names, addresses and license plates and all their reflections. So what truly needs to be redacted are those information and not specific objects. Is this correct? A solution that can redact categories such as faces/text/licence plate (and their reflections) is very different technologically from a solution where the operator can select anything (like a pair of keys or a teddy bear) and expect that object to be redacted across multiple video feeds.

Response #24

Correct. See answer 23.