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PROBLEMS OF THE USE OF VIDEO SURVEILLANCE AND VIDEO ANALYTICS SYSTEMS IN ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL POLICE BODIES (UNITS)

Abstract. Purpose. The purpose of the article is to highlight problematic issues of the use of video surveillance and video analytics systems in the activities of the National Police bodies (units).

Results. The article considers the specificities and problems of the use of video surveillance and video analytics systems in the activities of the National Police of Ukraine. It is established that the use of video surveillance systems and video analytics by police officers opens up new possibilities for crime prevention, contributes to effective and accurate decision-making for detecting crimes, including in “hot pursuit”. It is noted that now only one information subsystem “Harpoon” of the information and telecommunication system “Information portal of the National Police of Ukraine” operates but has a limited functionality to work with the flow of video information and cannot fully meet users’ requests. It is determined that the legal and regulatory mechanism for the use of video surveillance and video analytics systems in Ukraine is in the early stages. In many regions of our state, the scope of regional programmes for crime prevention, public safety and public order “Safe City” provides for the development and improvement of video surveillance and video analytics systems. Statistical data and examples of “hot pursuit” detection with the help of video surveillance systems and video analytics are examined. Problematic issues in the operation of these systems are identified. The Information portal “Harpoon” and video analytics software ULA are analysed.

Conclusions. The study makes proposals for the development of a unified video analytics software with a high potential and its warranty. It is proposed to leave video cameras on the balance sheet of local self-governments, but to transfer the processing and storage of information received from them to the state level – to create single or multiple mirror servers in different parts of the country, to which all services concerned will be able to access after having legally obtained the relevant login and password. This will allow controlling access to information properly and standardizing the necessary processes.

Key words: video surveillance, video analysis, software product, access to and protection of information, legal and regulatory framework.

1. Introduction

The active development of information processes and the introduction of new inventions, achievements and technologies into production and managerial processes have led not only to the possibility of the progressive development of our state but have also increased the number of crimes and improved the means and methods of committing them. Therefore, the use of video surveillance and video analytics systems by bodies (units) of the National Police of Ukraine (further – NPU) is increasingly relevant, since it opens up new possibilities for crime prevention, contributes to effective and accurate decision-making for detecting crimes, including in “hot pursuit”.

The video surveillance and video analytics systems of the NPU are rapidly improving in today’s environment, but urgent problems in their use arise, both in legal and technical terms. Now only one information subsystem “Harpoon” of the information and telecommunication system “Information portal of the National Police of Ukraine” (IPNP) (Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine “On approval of the Instruction on formation of the information subsystem «Harpoon» of the information and telecommunication system «Information portal of the National Police of Ukraine»”, 2018) operates, but has a limited functionality to work with the flow

of video information and cannot fully meet users' requests, which has limited video flow functionality and is unable to fully implement user requests. It should also be noted that the NPU, which are the main users of video surveillance and video surveillance systems, require an appropriate legal and regulatory mechanism, which unfortunately does not exist at present. An analysis of the regulations in force shows that the legal and regulatory mechanism for the use of video surveillance and video analytics systems in Ukraine is in the early stages. Therefore, the issue of the further development of the system of video surveillance and video analysis, as well as the legal and regulatory mechanism for its use by bodies (units) of the National Police of Ukraine, becomes particularly relevant.

The use of video surveillance systems and video analytics in the activities of the police were studied by I.V. Bondarenko, V.M. Kardash, I.B. Kochetkova, O.M. Kliuev, O.V. Maknytskyi, V.O. Myroshnychenko, M.O. Rusylo, and others. However, the dynamics of modern information development confirm the relevance of studying this problem.

The *purpose of the article* is to highlight problematic issues of the use of video surveillance and video analytics systems in the activities of the National Police bodies (units).

2. Identification of the required range of video surveillance and intrusion detection equipment

Scientific and technological progress determines an increase in the range of video surveillance equipment and its penetration into all sectors of human activity. In 2015, after the adoption of the Law of Ukraine "On the National Police" (Pietkov, 2020), they took on a larger scale in the work of the NPU. The main objectives of video surveillance systems and video analytics are to prevent offences, reduce their number, bring perpetrators to justice and increase the public's sense of security. I.V. Bondarenko, V.M. Kardash, and O.M. Kliuev argue that "Video surveillance systems assist the bodies and units of the National Police of Ukraine in crime prevention" (Bondarenko, 2005; Kardash, 1999; Kliuiev, 2010).

To date, the NPU's bodies (units) use several types of video surveillance equipment: chest video recorder (body cam); dashcam; video cameras in administrative buildings, public places and roads; intelligent video-analytics software, digital video information that helps to solve the following tasks: aggressive and inappropriate behaviour of citizens towards police officers, abuse of power by police officers, unjustified use of physical force against citizens, as well as prevention of crimes and offences by

prompt response to events, detecting crimes in "hot pursuit".

This study focuses directly on the use and problems of video surveillance and video analysis. In many regions of our state, the scope of regional programmes for crime prevention, public safety and public order "Safe City" provides for the development and improvement of video surveillance and video analytics systems. The territorial bodies of the National Police are primarily interested in introducing such systems, since their use has a positive impact on the detection and investigation of criminal offences and on the prevention of administrative offences.

According to the NPU, more than 38,000 CCTV cameras were installed under the regional programmes "Safe City" in Ukraine, of which 18,708 were installed in regional centres, 19,846 in other cities and towns of the state. It should be noted that information from 21,946 video cameras is given the Emergency Operations Centres of the General Directorates of the National Police in the Regions (GDNP) for further use in the performance of official duties. More than 3 thousand of these cameras are connected to the software of IS Harpoon IPNP, as well as other video analytics systems integrated into the IPNP system, thanks to which cities, such as Kyiv, Dnipro, Odesa, Chernivtsi, Chernihiv, have improved the tendency to detect crimes just committed.

For example, police officers of the Department of Organizational and Analytical Support and Operational Response of the GDNP in the Dnipropetrovsk region (dispatchers and emergency operations analysts) thanks to the reactions of the video analytics system ULA software complex, in real time mode, timely respond and guide in detail police units to detect transport in search, in accordance with information subsystem Wanted vehicles of the IPNP. As a result of the measures taken, in the last four years, 476 wanted vehicles were seized (in 2018 – 77; in 2019 – 243; in 2020 – 141; in the first half of 2021 – 15). In particular, on November 9, 2018, the department of 102 of the GDNP in Dnipropetrovsk region received a report from a citizen about the theft of two state license plates from his car Geely in Dnipro. In 10 minutes, the dispatcher with the help of the video analytics software ULA discovered the car Skoda-Superb on which the stolen state license plate was mounted and guided the police that detained the vehicle and persons of Caucasian nationality who were inside.

It should be noted that only an intelligent video analytics system, as a multiplier of force, augmenting the efforts of limited police personnel, can provide a greater long-term return

on investment in video surveillance. Through intelligent elements, the video analytics software can: perform continuous data processing; perform rapid search by vehicle registration numbers; determine hard evidence in court, etc. (Action plan of the National Police of Ukraine aimed at improving the system of rapid response to offenses or events during the IV quarter of 2020 and 2021, 2020).

It should be noted that, in order to improve the effectiveness of its work, the Ministry of Internal Affairs has drawn up the Strategy for the development of the system of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine (Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On approval of the Strategy for the development of the system of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine until 2020", 2017), Concept of the program of informatization of the system of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine and central executive bodies, whose activities are directed and coordinated by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine through the Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine for 2021–2023 (Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine "On announcing the decision of the board of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine", 2021), with a view to maximizing the use of information and communications technology in the performance of official duties, including video surveillance systems.

However, to date, the NPU own no unified powerful video-analytics software product. Currently, the IP Harpoon operates in the IPNP system of the NPU (Regulations on the information and telecommunication system "Information Portal of the National Police of Ukraine", 2017), but its functional capacity is significantly reduced in comparison with the functional software of video analytics ULA, and is designed for statistical comparison of information received from the video cameras with transport information recorded in the IPNP system about wanted vehicles, and in case of its detection dispatchers DOASOR of the GDNP are informed by automatic creation of electronic card 102 of IPNP, which also contributes to the detection of crimes (Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine "On approval of the Instruction on the organization of response to statements and notifications about criminal, administrative offenses or events and operative informing in bodies (units) of the National police of Ukraine", 2020).

In connection with the above, individual GDNP additionally use the video analytics software product ULA, developed by Odesa private enterprise LanTek. This video analytics software functionally allows to determine the direction of a car, its characteristics, the track of a route

over a certain period, etc. At the same time, the use of such software, developed by private enterprises, has a negative impact on the budget of the country or the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, the NPU and the GDNP, since, in addition to the purchase, it is necessary to budget its warranty annually, which in 2021 is estimated to be 1 million 197 UAH (Lytvin, 2021). In our view, these costs could have been avoided if the NPU had a similar unified video analytics product, the warranty thereof the Department of Information Analysis Support (DIAS) of the NPU was free.

At the same time, in Ukraine, together with the positive aspects of the application of the capabilities of video surveillance systems and video analytics by the NPU, problematic legal issues regarding their use, as well as inadequate protection of the information received, exist. In particular, video surveillance data greatly facilitates the work of the NPU, but any such case could potentially collapse in court, law does not find such evidence admissible. A lawyer could convince a judge that such evidence had been obtained in an irregular manner and therefore could not be admitted.

3. Ways to address the problematic issues of video surveillance and intrusion detection

The Association of Ukrainian Human Rights Monitors (further – Association UMDPL) systematically examines problematic issues in the use of video surveillance and video analytics in the work of the NPU. In particular, on 15 October 2019, during a round table at the Ukrainian Media Crisis Centre, M.V. Kameniev, an expert of the Association UMDPL, drew attention to the absence of a legislative basis for the establishment of video surveillance systems in public places. Individual local self-governments have only approved the Regulations on the operation of video surveillance systems, but all of them have shortcomings (Decision of the Kirovohrad City Council "On approval of the Program of implementation of the video surveillance system for the protection of public order in Kirovohrad", 2011). This potentially poses a risk that an order of a court or other authorized body can ban the use of cameras installed. The second problem is the uncertainty of who can access the digital data of these cameras. According to M.V. Kameniev, the results of the inspections revealed that access to video information and its retention period were different, and that the requirements for the protection of such information were not met. There is almost no warning of filming, although there should be a warning at the video surveillance sites and information on who is conducting the video surveillance and how to contact them.

The situation regarding the use of video-analytics software, such as the identification of license plates of vehicles and faces has also not been regulated. This functionality exists in many of the installed CCTV cameras. In addition, in Ukraine, in most cases faces of individuals are not considered as personal information to be protected under the Law of Ukraine “On Personal Data Protection” (Law of Ukraine “On Personal Data Protection”, 2010). As of May 2021, 224 cameras operate in Kyiv that functionally provide facial identification (Karpenko, 2021).

However, according to the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, an individual’s face is personal data. I.Yu. Lishchyna, Deputy Minister of Justice of Ukraine, Commissioner for the European Court of Human Rights, argues that video surveillance systems are widely used in European Union countries, but there are clear requirements for the use of cameras, namely that the use of data does not violate citizens’ rights to personal data protection and privacy” (Myroshnychenko et al., 2020).

In our opinion, it is most appropriate to leave video cameras on the balance sheet of local self-governments, but to transfer the processing and storage of information received from them to the state level – to create single or multiple mirror servers in different parts of the country, to which all services concerned will be able to access after having legally obtained the relevant login and password. This will enable to properly control access to information and standardize the necessary processes.

In addition, it should be underlined that Chinese-made cameras of Hikvision are most often used in Ukraine, which are of good functionality, rather reliability and of simple configuration. However, there are legal concerns about their use, since the company, 42% of which is owned by the Chinese government, has been on is on the U.S. Department of Commerce sanctions list for China’s human rights violations. In April 2021, due to the violation of the rights of Uighurs in the re-education camps of China, EU countries abandoned the use of video cameras Hikvision, installed in EU countries in 2020 for temperature measurements. Previously, in 2020, the Government Pension Fund Global of Norway, which invested oil and gas revenues in various companies, excluded the Chinese company Hikvision from investing because it was involved in serious human rights violations (Savenas, 2019).

In addition, in 2019, Lithuanian researcher Thomas Savenas underlined the vulnerability of the video camera Hikvision, namely inadequate protection of information (in video cam-

eras backdoor is set allowing to remotely get administrative access to video cameras, even after the manufacturer has updated their software, to date it remains in question) (Savenas, 2019).

It should be noted that in 2021, the Security Service of Ukraine was also not stayed away from this security problem and made recommendations to the National Police of Ukraine on underscoring negative factors when using video surveillance and video analytics systems of software of foreign manufacture by subordinate bodies and units.

In order to address the above-mentioned problems with regard to the regulatory mechanism for the use of video surveillance and video analytics systems by bodies and units of the NPU, and the implementation of a security monitoring system, that is, a large-scale use of technical means and devices, in particular with the functions of photo, audio, video recording, that enable to record and early detect offences, to identify various objects, and moreover, pursuant to the Plan of legislative work of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine for 2021, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine and the NPU are planning to draft and submit the draft Law of Ukraine On Security Monitoring Systems to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine for consideration and adoption (Order of the National Police of Ukraine “On approval of the Action Plan of the National Police of Ukraine for the implementation of the Plan of legislative work of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine for 2021”, 2021).

4. Conclusions

The analysis of the material on the introduction of video surveillance and video analytics systems in the activities of bodies (units) of the NPU allows concluding that it is necessary to develop this trend. Therefore, in order to improve the performance of the video surveillance and video analytics systems, we propose:

- the Department of Information and Analytical Support of the NPU to develop a unified video analytics software with a high potential and its warranty;

- to further develop the draft Law of Ukraine “On Security Monitoring Systems”, which provides for: basic concepts and principles of video surveillance and video analytics systems; the scope of the Law; forms; the format; protocols for the information exchange; the terms of its storage; the places where they may be installed; the procedure for informing the public about video surveillance and their rights in the video surveillance zone; the obligations of the entities installing the systems; the procedure for access to the information received; technical specifications and equipment unification.

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ПРОБЛЕМАТИКА ЗАСТОСУВАННЯ СИСТЕМИ ВІДЕОПОСТЕРЕЖЕННЯ ТА ВІДЕОАНАЛІТИКИ В ДІЯЛЬНОСТІ ОРГАНІВ (ПІДРОЗДІЛІВ) НАЦІОНАЛЬНОЇ ПОЛІЦІЇ УКРАЇНИ

Анотація. *Метою статті* є виокремлення проблемних питань у застосуванні органами (підрозділами) Національної поліції України у своїй діяльності систем відеоспостереження та відеоаналітики.

Результати. У статті розглянуто особливості та проблематику застосування в діяльності Національної поліції України систем відеоспостереження та відеоаналітики. З'ясовано, що використання поліцейськими систем відеонагляду та відеоаналітики відкриває нові можливості для профілактики злочинності, сприяє ефективному й точному прийняттю рішень із метою розкриття злочинів, зокрема й «по гарячих слідах». Констатовано, що наразі в Національній поліції України функціонує лише одна інформаційна підсистема «Гарпун» інформаційно-телекомунікаційної системи «Інформаційний портал Національної поліції України», у якій функціонал роботи з потоком відеоінформації обмежений – вона не здатна повною мірою реалізувати запити користувачів. Визначено, що використання систем відеоспостереження та відеоаналітики в Україні перебуває на ранніх стадіях правового регулювання. У багатьох регіонах нашої держави в межах регіональних програм профілактики злочинності, забезпечення публічної безпеки та порядку «Безпечне місто» передбачені заходи щодо розвитку та розбудови систем відеоспостереження й відеоаналітики. Проаналізовано статистичні дані та приклади розкриття злочинів «по гарячих слідах» за допомогою систем відеоспостереження та відеоаналітики. Окреслено проблемні питання роботи цих систем. Проаналізовано роботу інформаційного порталу «Гарпун» та програмного забезпечення відеоаналітики «ULA».

Висновки. Надано пропозиції щодо розроблення єдиного програмного забезпечення системи відеоаналітики з потужним потенціалом та його гарантійного супроводу. Запропоновано залишити відеорежими на балансі органів місцевого самоврядування, проте обробку та зберігання інформації, отриманої з них, передати на державний рівень – створити єдиний чи декілька дзеркальних серверів у різних частинах країни, до яких зможуть мати доступ усі зацікавлені служби після отримання в законному порядку відповідного логіну та паролю. Це дасть змогу належним чином контролювати доступ до інформації та стандартизувати необхідні процеси.

Ключові слова: відеоспостереження, відеоаналітика, програмний продукт, доступ до інформації та її захист, нормативно-правове регулювання.

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