You are here: Home > Collections > **Law Enforcement**
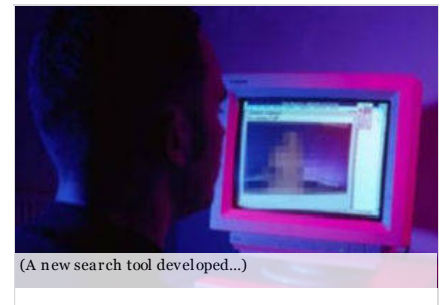
Researchers develop new tool to fight child porn

ANI Jun 6, 2013, 05.31PM IST

Tags: Porn | Child pornography | child porn

MONTREAL: A new search tool developed by
researchers in Canada can now help crime
investigators extract hidden knowledge from a large
volume of text and thereby catch cyberthieves.

With computing devices storing terrabytes of
personal data, it can take months before enough
evidence can be cobbled together from reams of
documents, emails, chat logs and text messages.

(A new search tool developed...)

Ads by Google

But now a new technique has been developed by researchers at Concordia University, who
have slashed the data-crunching time. What once took months now takes minutes.

Gaby Dagher and Benjamin Fung, researchers with the Concordia Institute for Information
Systems Engineering, will soon publish their findings in Data & Knowledge Engineering.

Law enforcement officers are already putting this research to work through Concordia's
partnership with Canada's National Cyber-Forensics and Training Alliance, in which law
enforcement organizations, private companies, and academic institutions work together to
share information to stop emerging cyber threats and mitigate existing ones.

The researchers' new methods automatically identify the criminal topics discussed in the
textual conversation, show which participants are most active with respect to the identified
criminal topics, and then provide a visualization of the social networks among the participants.

Dagher, who is a PhD candidate supervised by Fung, explained that the huge increase in
cybercrimes over the past decade boosted demand for special forensic tools that let
investigators look for evidence on a suspect's computer by analyzing stored text.

He added that their new technique allows an investigator to cluster documents by producing
overlapping groups, each corresponding to a specific subject defined by the investigator.

Fung said that, "out of all the types of available data in cybercrime investigation, text data is the most common medium used by scammers, identity thieves and child exploitation criminals. But this type of data is also the most challenging to analyze. It's really hard make a software program automatically interpret the underlying meaning of the text."

The researchers have also developed a new search engine to help investigators identify the relevant documents from a large volume of text.

This new method of quickly sifting through huge amounts of text to zero in on the evidence could soon be used by law enforcement agencies around the world, meaning future cybercriminals can go to trial much more quickly, saving time for the police - as well as money for tax-payers.

FEATURED ARTICLES

7 Day flat belly diet plan

5 Steps to a flat tummy in 7 days

3 simple exercises for a flat tummy

More:

3 simple exercises for a flat tummy

20 ways to gain weight fast

10 tips to get rid of under eye puffiness

Work-from-home becomes popular in India

Diabetes diet for Indians

Power diet for quick weight loss