

ST Meeting #27 - 6.21.22

Participants:

Nico Diaz
Deputy Mayor Sharon Owens
Jason Scharf
Mujtaba Tirmizey
Martha Grabowski
Johannes Himmelreich
Ken Stewart
1st Deputy Chief Shoff
Ocesa Keaton
Jessica Brandt
Mark King
Afiya Rahman (City Intern)
Kelsey May
Daniel Schwarz
Chief Tim Gleeson
Michelle Sczpanski
Matthew Malinowski, SPD
Sarah Robbins, Datamir
Sylvie Joseph, Datamir
Julie Cramer, Datamir

Absent

Jennifer Tift (Excused)

Agenda:

- Discussion of new Technology Request for Review
 - Datamir - Lt. Matthew Malinowski, SPD Public Information Officer, and Datamir staff available to answer questions
- Update on STWG Social Get-Together
- Technology Audit Update
- Coming Up
- Questions

Meeting Notes:

- Sarah Robbins, Datamir - First Alert
 - Use Publicly available information to track public information and alerts
 - Can't search by individuals
- Sarah Robbins presented on Datamir Technology
 - First Alert - Real time event detection platform across 300 datasets
 - Get updates as an event is breaking
 - Customers include US Marshall Service, State Department, TSA, NYS Police, NYC Mayors Office
 - Technologies they work with
 - Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Snap Chat)
 - Text
 - Video & Image
 - Sensor
 - Audio
 - Get insights as they happen
 - This pulls from 300,000+ datasets
 - Only pulling information that is relevant regarding public safety updates
 - Chief Shoff stated that they usually get notified from County Emergency Management, instead of hearing about this 1 hour later from news.
 - Buffalo, NY is not a customer of theirs
 - **Groups Questions:**
 - Do they have access to protected tweets
 - When accounts are deleted on Twitter, is this removed from Datamir database?
 - Sarah stated that they are only accessing Twitter's publicly available data
 - Developer Docs: <https://developer.twitter.com/en/docs/twitter-api/enterprise/compliance-firehose-api/guides/honoring-user-intent>
 - Sarah did not know the answer to this, but said that they will check.
 - Artificial Intelligence
 - NLP, Image Recognition, Machine Learning
 - Proprietary algorithms that Datamir owns
 - Martha asked if they were using AWS SageMaker or modules in their analysis
 - Sarah said no
 - Used Buffalo shooting as an example
 - First Alert obtained information about Buffalo Shooter, 1 hour before CNN released information on this.
 - Sarah Robbins shared that they do not predict events, they just report on them.

- Ken Stewart asked about examples that showed benefit of customer's acquiring data from the system
 - Collapsing of building on Florida as a result of First Alert
 - Alert hospitals if there is a mass casualty incident
- Kelsey asked a question regarding how residents that report shots fired on a Twitter or Facebook, how this might affect the people that reported this being viewed as a suspect.
 - Chief Shoff said that he does not think that SPD would be given information regarding who posted an event such as shots fired
 - Chief Shoff said that they can get the names in events, if necessary
 - Michele Sczpanski asked about if these social media posts
 - Chief Shoff shared that he hadn't really thought about this being used for evidence
- Deputy Mayor Miner shared that residents will send her links to people posting threatening videos of people brandishing guns
 - Lt. Malinowski - Someone heard that there was an active shooter, in Syracuse
 - Sex Trafficking in a parking lot, early detection
- Daniel Schwarz asked how Dataminr was ensuring that no First Amendment protected rights were captured (such as the right to protest)
 - Stated that they are looking for patterns of events (event centric), not looking at the people who are carrying them out
 - Can't search by a handle or a hashtag, focus is on breaking news events
 - Also have training for Dataminr employees, to try to help make sure that they are not bringing bias to the product
 - Clients have asked to be able to track individuals or protests and Sara stated that they don't sell to them.
- Daniel also asked if there were any audits completed regarding Dataminr's algorithms
 - Sarah stated that Public Service clients have to be approved by Social Media providers
- Nico also asked for information regarding audits that have been completed.
- Mark King asked that they are about event tracking, not people or groups. Mark asked if there are topics they are selected from, is there topics that are prohibited from.
 - Sarah Robbin stated that one of their capabilities is that they are a topic based platform.
 - Have 50 public safety topics. Easier to access sensitive information. Make sure that you are narrowing down this information. Notification through First Alert gives you who, what, when, where.
 - Martha asked about the topics. Is the topics fixed,
 - The topics available cannot be modified by clients, those are created by Dataminr.
 - Mark asked how they get the location?
 - Julie stated that she would have to clarify that.

New Action Items:

- Jason to work with Lt. Malinowski and Communications to draft our press release for the public comment period
- Jason and Nico to schedule a time for an in person community meeting at the North East Community Center to discuss Dataminr as a potential technology to help promote a more diverse response from the public comment period.

Previous Action Items:

- Muj stated that he will look up a legal definition for what is considered a legal definition of public information related to social media posts.
- Daniel to send over some information that the Brenner Center and NYCLU have already gathered regarding Dataminr technology.
- Jason will reach out to Communications team to start the Press Release
- Jason will reach out to Lt. Malinowski to invite him and Dataminr staff to the next STWG meeting.
 - Chief Shoff and Jason will also to share the questions that have been posed regarding the technology.
- Jen Tiff and Jason will be working on planning the STWG social get together.