From: Ferguson, Andrew <aferguson@udc.edu>
Sent: Friday, May 18, 2018 8:26 AM
To: Sean Malinowski
Subject: FW: A hypothetical question

Here is what I sent Jeremy… just fyi. I think it is completely possible to do in Baltimore or where ever.

From: Ferguson, Andrew
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2018 9:54 PM
To: Jeremy Heffner
Subject: Re: A hypothetical question

I think a sales pitch as a patrol management system is positive, but it is still an appeal to a police department with a focus on more efficient policing. I get that is your bread and butter, and don't think you need to change it (or at least I am not in a position to give you advice).

But, what if you said, look we have our patrol management system, but we also have another product for those departments that are concerned with police accountability over crime reduction.

Some cities want product A, some want product B.

And, both systems would have both crime prediction and patrol management, but it would be just pitched differently (and of course collect different data). I imagine the core would be the same, but the focus would be on monitoring the police as opposed to the criminals.

I am no business expert, but I bet there are a handful or more of progressive jurisdictions that would buy in. There are more that might be forced to buy in after lawsuits (consent decrees). And, you would differentiate yourself from the predictive policing bad press trap.

And, the cynic in me says that a Chief is going to make the following calculation: I want to know more about what is going on with my department. However, if I buy a predictive policing patrol management system I am going to get grief by everyone from the ACLU to the community (because the bloom is off the rose of predictive analytics). But, if I say I want a police accountability system, I will get that information about my officers as well as the crime prediction and patrol management on the back end. And, I will get credit from the community of caring about police accountability and won't have to deal with the predictive policing backlash.

Or one last take...

What if the ground has shifted from everyone wanting new efficiencies and black box magic to a new form of police accountability, and you guys accidentally built the system to give it to them. If your customer is the citizen and not the chief HunchLab becomes a progressive and liberty protective product.

From: Jeremy Heffner <jheffner@azavea.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2018 5:59 PM
To: Ferguson, Andrew
Subject: Re: A hypothetical question

Our struggle with keeping the "predictive policing" moniker versus describing HunchLab as a "patrol management system" directly aligns with this concern. Predictive policing has been increasingly vilified -- I think the core concerns are with the sloppy person-based systems, but nuance is largely dead in the mainstream discussion. Sigh.

I've considered more completely adopting the new description and then writing a little piece about why. My worry is that if we don't articulate the reason for the change in term then we'll be accused of simply changing terms to escape criticism. Maybe I can fit some of that concept into the revisions Kiel and I are making to the paper. As you've described many times, "the problem with predictive policing is the policing". The term does lend itself to thinking about a ratcheting up of policing activity -- we certainly get blamed for that often enough while I don't believe it is the case operationally.

Instead, the idea of "managing" patrols evoked more of a sense of balancing interests. I'm certainly open to other ideas for what to call the concept. Maybe the idea of "management" doesn't go to far?

A purely descriptive "blue data" tool could exist as a separate module in HunchLab. I don't think that a tool that incorporates produced harms to better manage patrols can exist without the crime event prediction side married to the produced harms side.

Jeremy

--
Jeremy Heffner

Azavea | 990 Spring Garden St, 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA, 19123
jheffner@azavea.com | T 215.701.7712 | F 215.925.2663

On Wed, May 16, 2018 at 5:18 PM, Ferguson, Andrew <aferguson@udc.edu> wrote:
I had a conversation yesterday with a government official who pretty much wanted the product you described below, and I found myself in the odd position of promoting HunchLab's capabilities and insights.

In doing so I felt a little conflicted because any city that wants to buy a police accountability tool (and needs it) also doesn't want the headline they are now using a predictive policing technology. If the community is demanding change, the potential bad press of predictive policing isn't going to help.

Have you guys thought about spinning out a new product (not predictive policing) but branded solely for police accountability? A city could choose which version they wanted (and really they would have the same backbone and data capabilities). A chief would say we are using HunchLab's "blue data" police accountability tool.

I imagine it would be the type of product that in an earlier era would have been required by federal consent decrees after DOJ investigations found a need for more data collection in a troubled police department. And could be proactively adopted by police departments who want to pitch a data driven police accountability strategy.

Just a thought...

Andrew G. Ferguson
Professor of Law
UDC David A. Clarke School of Law

On Feb 19, 2018, at 4:38 PM, Jeremy Heffner <jheffner@azavea.com> wrote:

> Hi Andrew --
>
> Sorry for the delay; I just got back from some extended leave.
>
> Quite an astute observation and this aligns with our "patrol management" moniker that you picked up on.
>
> Getting adoption of our patrol recommendations via the interactive app is the most complicated part to demonstrating value with HunchLab at new clients. If, instead, we can demonstrate value that does not require officers to be using HunchLab then we are in a stronger position. The idea of using HunchLab to examine police patrols without directing those patrols fulfills this. The feature set for analyzing police presence data (GPS) is similar whether HunchLab is generating missions or not. Related to presence data is data to represent police actions (stops, arrests, uses of force, etc.) We need that data as well as measures of harm for those events occurring in order to determine whether the aggregate response exceeds the risk or not. Step one will be visualizing these things together.
>
> On the tactic selection front, the intended tactic isn't data that is generated consistently via existing systems. The closest thing is CAD statuses which can indicate what an officer is doing. I'm not convinced that we've figured out how to capture the tactic selection process accurately yet, but it is a goal so that we can then correlate intended tactics with outcomes (crime, stops, searches, etc.)
>
> HunchLab could be used without modification in the scenario you mention to:
>
> - Store space time events entered in other systems (crimes, uses of force, arrests, stops, etc.) in one database (HL)
> - Ingest GPS feeds and then run aggregations and metrics on it in relation to events
> - Deploy patrols to existing zones (not HL generated ones) and then measure presence from GPS, events captured, tactics selected.
>   - An external system can push missions into HunchLab
>   - Command staff can create all missions manually in HunchLab as well
>
> With some modifications we could also:
>
> - Enable officers to initiate a tactic being applied at any location (self directed)
>
> On the data capture of stops and related events where capturing the legal justification matters, most departments have existing systems for that, but things get filled out after the fact. After many officers have told me how they avoid ped stops due to filling out paperwork and fear that things will go wrong, I think there are some legal and beneficial stops that are not happening

due to these factors. These potential events are not captured because the officer decides against going forward and therefore doesn't fill out the forms. The same goes for a car stop.

Picture, instead that an officer sees a traffic violation and can stop a car but is unsure if she wants to deal with it. I picture a system that the officer then asks whether to proceed with the stop. That system can say no a varying proportion of the time based upon: (1) whether the stop is likely to result in a positive outcome (such as finding contraband) including adjustments for officers that are more or less cavalier about stopping people and (2) a balancing of the harm incurred from a stop at the location based upon recent stop history in the area. In such a format, the software is never suggesting the stop (the officer initiates things) and so the officer must have justified reason for the stop independent from the computer.

I think such a system would help to control the rate of useless and/or damaging stops while also appealing to officers as a bit of a shield for proceeding with the stop in that the computer said to proceed. We don't have any current plans to actually build such a system but it intrigues me.

Jeremy

--
Jeremy Heffner

Azavea | 990 Spring Garden St, 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA, 19123
jheffner@azavea.com | T 215.[redacted] | F 215.925.2663

On Tue, Jan 16, 2018 at 11:56 PM, Ferguson, Andrew <aferguson@udc.edu> wrote:
Let's say a city came to you and said, we are interested in using HunchLab technology primarily to improve police accountability— to figure out where police go, what tactics they use when they arrive, how they interact with suspects, etc. and then match those activities up to the existing crime data (which would also be collected)— you could do that right? You could create a full crime map of not only where the crimes are but also where the police are when those crimes occur. And you could track stops, frisks, arrests, handcuffing, use of force etc, as well as the legal justifications for all of those police actions via the tactical pull down screens on the HunchLab mobile devices.

And assuming you had the data collected you could track/map/analyze the effectiveness of particular police tactics in particular areas creating a database better than the stop and frisk data in NYC?

Thanks...

Andrew G. Ferguson
Professor of Law
UDC David A. Clarke School of Law