



The system can track connections between people: *NetAskari*

This massive data-fusion effort attempts to stitch together a person's physical whereabouts, consumption habits and digital footprints into a flawless "holistic personnel archive."

Tracking foreign journalists

Within this increasingly airtight net, foreigners — especially journalists and other citizens from Western countries — are being looked at more by authorities. The system's "smart report" statistics

shows Chinese security agencies disproportionately focus on citizens from the "Five Eyes" countries, comprising **the US, the UK, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.**

Deep in the backend, certain foreign journalists are assigned a special real-time tracking tag called "trackable." The moment they step into a jurisdiction, the system can automatically trigger early warnings for the police. For independent journalism in China, this is an existential threat.

In the past, foreign reporters traveling to sensitive regions such as Xinjiang often relied on experience to shake off plainclothes police trailing them in the rearview mirror. Now, algorithmic upgrades to the policing system render this traditional cat-and-mouse game obsolete.

"They don't need to send two or three cars to follow you anymore," NetAskari said. Because the system has access to your mobile payments, ticket purchases and social networks, authorities can perfectly anticipate your itinerary, ensuring you only see what they want you to see upon arrival.

If the data network detects you interacting with certain individuals, police can simply call and intimidate your sources behind the scenes. In this perfectly closed surveillance loop, the concept of an "under-the-radar investigation" is being systematically eradicated.

The screenshot shows a list of foreign nationals tracked by the system. The table includes columns for '姓名' (Name), '护照号' (Passport No.), '国籍' (Nationality), '具体位置' (Specific Location), '登记日期' (Registration Date), and '数据来源' (Data Source). The list includes individuals from Slovakia, USA, Sweden, and UK, all located at '大興華雪場' (Daxinghua Snow Field).

姓名	护照号	国籍	具体位置	登记日期	数据来源
[Blurred]	[Blurred]	Slovak	大興華雪場	2023-12-02 13:39:12	小程序游客登记
[Blurred]	[Blurred]	USA	大興華雪場	2023-12-02 13:20:47	小程序游客登记
[Blurred]	[Blurred]	Sweden	大興華雪場	2023-12-01 12:06:54	小程序游客登记
[Blurred]	[Blurred]	Sweden	大興華雪場	2023-12-01 12:06:18	小程序游客登记
[Blurred]	[Blurred]	UK	大興華雪場	2023-12-01 12:05:41	小程序游客登记

Names, faces and locations of foreign nationals are kept in the system: *NetAskari*

System knows where you'll be

What truly transforms this surveillance is the system's capability for group analysis and relationship modeling.

Traditional tailing requires immense police resources. But modern "smart policing" attempts to visualize interpersonal relationships through algorithms.

In the dashboard's core, the system automatically generates intricate network graphs based on how frequently targets are captured interacting on camera, revealing exactly who knows who, and how much time they spend together.

This technology has been in development for years. In 2019, Chinese tech giant Hisense filed a patent for "holistic relationship models for people involved in cases," which aimed to map out travel, call records and

vehicle usage. In 2025, the Shanghai Putuo Public Security Bureau awarded a \$200,000 contract for a "Holistic Personnel Archive System."

The high error rates and manpower bottlenecks of past manual surveillance methods are rapidly being replaced by cold, highly efficient and tireless automated algorithms.

Is China's facial recognition data for sale?

Admittedly, Western democracies are also grappling with controversy over the abuse of surveillance technologies such as Palantir. But as the researcher NetAskari points out, the comparison with China's authoritarian system only goes so far.

"In Western democracies, there are debates... In China, this debate doesn't exist at all. The police and the Ministry of State Security just do whatever they want with relatively little oversight."

Whether it is a foreign journalist navigating Beijing's narrow alleys for a story, or a regular tourist vacationing at a ski resort, everyone ultimately dissolves into cold code on a colossal data dashboard.

NetAskari said in this system, people are reduced to numbers, patterns and vector operations. They become *"a 'datamass' that can be controlled, shaped and coerced as needed."*

Edited by: Wesley Rahn