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Saskatchewan Police Predictive Analytics Lab Missing Persons Project: Year One

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PSPC Contract Number: W7714-186438
Technical Authority: Gerry Doucette, DRDC – Centre for Security Science
Contractor's date of publication: February 2019

Defence Research and Development Canada

Contract Report
DRDC-RDDC-2019-C056
March 2019

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Abstract

This contract report depicts highlights of the first year of activities in a data analytics project funded by *Canadian Safety and Security Program (CSSP)* investment CSSP-2017-TI-2245. The Program is led by Defence Research and Development Canada's Centre for Security Science (CSS), in partnership with Public Safety Canada. This investment complements activities undertaken by the Saskatchewan Police Predictive Analytics Lab (SPPAL) which was established through a partnership between the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice; Corrections and Policing (MOJ), the University of Saskatchewan (U of S), and the Saskatoon Police Service (SPS) in 2015.

The science and technology depicted herein is related to the development of predictive models and applied tools for end users - police and community safety partners – intended to improve real-time investigations, decision-making, and interventions for persons reported missing in order to prevent and reduce harm to these individuals. The investment from DRDC assisted SPPAL in building the human, technical, and business expertise required to examine two interrelated foci - missing children and missing adults - simultaneously, by integrating data from multiple data sources such as: police records management systems, social services information, and social media into new decision support tools.

The Canadian Safety and Security Program is a federally-funded program to strengthen Canada's ability to anticipate, prevent/mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters, serious accidents, crime and terrorism through the convergence of science and technology with policy, operations and intelligence.

Significance for Defence and Security

The primary clients for this initiative are police and social services agencies that use science and technology to identify and intervene on behalf of individuals and groups pre-disposed to being at high risk of harm. In addition to intended beneficiaries and stakeholders in Saskatchewan, this work is intended to contribute to a richer data analytics solution space to support public safety partners and social services agencies across Canada.

Résumé

Le présent rapport de contrat décrit les faits saillants de la première année des activités d'un projet d'analyse des données financé au moyen d'un investissement dans le cadre du *Programme canadien pour la sûreté et la sécurité* (PCSS), CSSP-2017-TI-2245. Ce programme est dirigé par le Centre des sciences pour la sécurité (CSS) de Recherche et développement pour la défense Canada, en partenariat avec Sécurité publique Canada. Cet investissement complète les activités entreprises par le Saskatchewan Police Predictive Analytics Lab (SPPAL), le fruit d'un partenariat entre le ministère de la Justice de la Saskatchewan; Corrections and Policing (MOJ), l'Université de la Saskatchewan (U de S) et le Service de police de Saskatoon (SPS) en 2015.

Les aspects scientifiques et technologiques qui sont décrits ici ont trait à l'élaboration de modèles prédictifs et sont appliqués à des outils destinés aux utilisateurs finaux – les partenaires de la police et de la sécurité communautaire – dans le but d'améliorer les enquêtes en temps réel, la prise de décisions et les interventions relativement à des personnes portées disparues, afin de prévenir et de réduire les préjudices causés à celles-ci. L'investissement fait par RDDC a aidé le SPPAL à constituer une expertise humaine, technique et administrative nécessaire à l'examen de deux éléments reliés entre eux – les enfants portés disparus et les adultes portés disparus – simultanément, par l'intégration, aux nouveaux outils d'aide à la décision, de données provenant de sources multiples telles les suivantes : systèmes de gestion des dossiers de la police, services sociaux et médias sociaux.

Le Programme canadien pour la sûreté et la sécurité, financé par le gouvernement fédéral, vise à renforcer la capacité du Canada à anticiper et à prévenir les catastrophes naturelles, les accidents graves, le crime et le terrorisme, à en atténuer les conséquences, à s'y préparer, à y réagir et à récupérer de ces événements, et ce, grâce à la convergence des sciences et de la technologie avec les politiques, les opérations et le renseignement.

Importance pour la défense et la sécurité

Les premiers clients de cette initiative sont les organismes de la police et de services sociaux qui font appel aux sciences et à la technologie pour identifier les personnes et les groupes prédisposés à un haut risque de préjudice et à intervenir en leur nom. Outre les bénéficiaires et intervenants voulus en Saskatchewan, les présents travaux visent à contribuer à un espace enrichi lié à des solutions d'analyse de données afin de soutenir les partenaires de la sécurité publique et les organismes de services sociaux à travers le Canada.

Produced for: Centre for Security Science, Defence Research and Development Canada

Prepared by: Dr. Kiera Stockdale, Saskatchewan Police Predictive Analytics Laboratory

Saskatchewan Police Predictive Analytics Lab Missing Persons Project: Year One

Background

In November 2015, the Saskatchewan Police Predictive Analytics Lab (SPPAL) was established through a partnership between the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice; Corrections and Policing (MOJ), the University of Saskatchewan (U of S), and the Saskatoon Police Service (SPS). Municipal police agencies in Saskatchewan, RCMP “F” Division, and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Social Services, Child and Family Programs have all agreed in principle to share information with SPPAL. The Canadian Safety Knowledge Alliance (CSKA) is also a SPPAL collaborator. Potential collaborations with other jurisdictions are also being explored.

A primary objective of SPPAL is to increase capacity to integrate and examine large amounts of police and community safety data in order to develop predictive models and applied tools that can assist police and partner agencies to intervene effectively with a view to reducing risk to individuals and promote community safety. In other words, SPPAL intends to be an operational lab working with selected data from multiple information sources, thus positioning police and partner agencies to collaborate and intervene to reduce the potential for harm in high risk cases and situations.

The founding of the SPPAL provided the footing to explore SPS missing persons data analytics with special emphasis on vulnerable and/or marginalized groups who may be at increased risk for harm including: children in care, “habitual runaways,” and Indigenous persons reported missing in the province of Saskatchewan (SK). Additional SK municipal police data and SK child welfare data will be integrated with existing data as key technologies representing project deliverables are further advanced (e.g., methodologies to support secure data transfer and linkage). Ultimately, advanced predictive analyses and development of computer interfaces will assist SPS and other public safety and social service agencies in responding to a high volume of calls for service and developing coordinated interventions for persons reported missing.

Approach and Methodologies

Applied community safety analytics requires ongoing engagement and collaboration with police agencies, subject matter experts and highly qualified persons (HQPs) in the areas of policing, mathematics, statistics, computer science, and the human services (e.g., psychology, social work). A multidisciplinary SPPAL Missing Persons (MP) Project Team complete with Project Leads from the MOJ and SPS, as well as three Principal Investigators (PIs) from the University of Saskatchewan (U of S), and project supports (e.g., financial and legal services) was created.

Major tasks to be completed by the MP Project Team over the 2-year funding cycle for *Canadian Safety and Security Program* funded project CSSP-TI-2017-2245 are depicted in *Figure 1*.

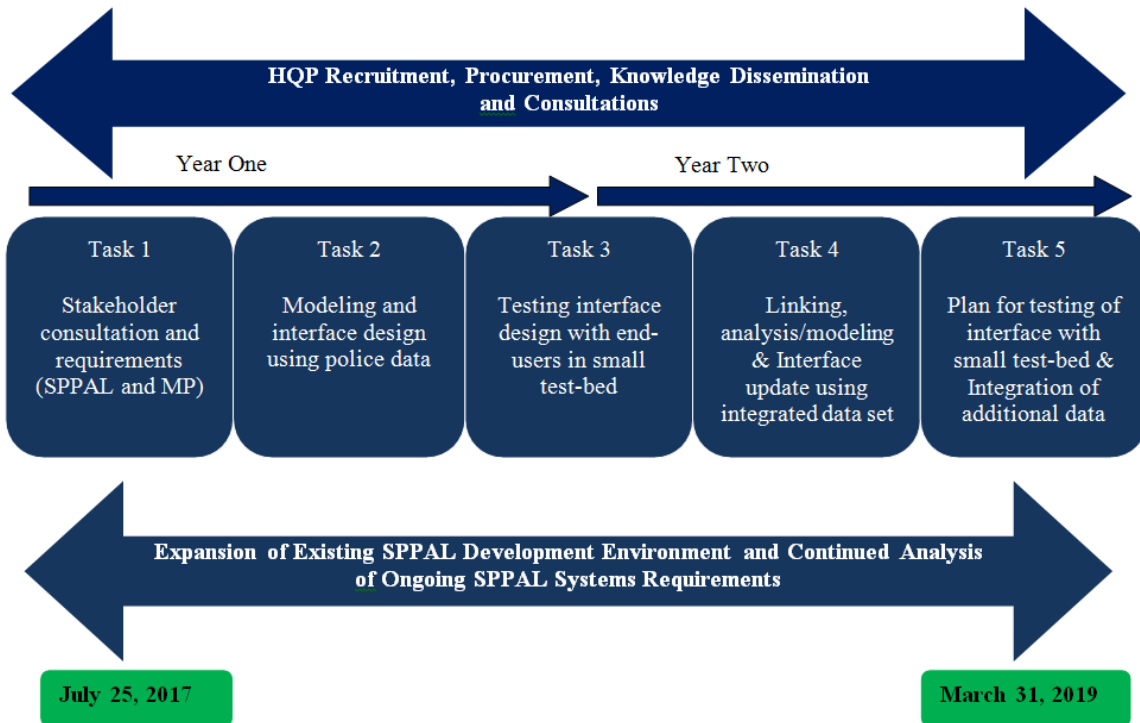


Figure 1: Major tasks to be completed within the scope of the SPPAL MP Project

An important first task was to complete an updated assessment of systems requirements. Considerations such as privacy, information security, data sharing, hardware, software, data integration, data streaming, human resources/HQPs, and potential future needs for SPPAL in order to support the MP Project Plan and achieve project deliverables. These results are currently being used to create a data inventory and development environment for the MP project that can support analyses with municipal police data in order to develop and test advanced predictive models for MP cases and also build an integrated database containing information from collaborating agencies complete with requisite support tools and structures.

The creation of applied decision support tools for end users (e.g., police and community safety partners) has been simultaneously occurring alongside the development of the data environment described above. This has included an initial assessment of user needs (e.g., municipal police) to inform the development of computer interfaces incorporating analytical models for purposes of communicating searches and analytical results to frontline community safety partners. A follow-up workshop has also been planned with representatives from police, social services, non-government community-based organizations, and academia. This will further assist the MP Project Team in understanding the processes and practices currently used by community safety partners to prioritize and respond to missing persons cases and in light of relevant risk factors to be considered for use in advanced modeling from a multidisciplinary perspective. Members of the Project Team will also be invited to share work completed to date (e.g., preliminary computer interfaces) and obtain feedback.

Testing, evaluation, and updating the user interface using models developed on police and enriched data sources (e.g., social services data) will occur in Year 2 of the . A proposed framework for evaluating applied tools/prototypes and updated requirements analyses will also be completed.

Preliminary Results

Work completed thus far on the SPPAL MP Project provides a solid foundation for developing predictive models and applied tools for police and community safety partners to: inform decision-making; guide preventative interventions; and assist in reducing time as a missing person and associated negative outcomes for individuals reported missing.

Initial projects tasks have been completed or are nearing completion (see Tasks 1, 2, and 3 as depicted in *Figure 1*) and include the following key deliverables: development of a phased roadmap for further development of the SPPAL data environment, architecture design documents, proposed privacy and security mechanisms, preliminary user interface needs assessment and development, planning for multidisciplinary stakeholder workshop, development of living data dictionary, consideration of relevant data coding standards, exploratory data analysis, and expansion of the SPPAL environment. Key findings are presented below.

Phased Solution Roadmap for SPPAL Development

The anticipated roadmap for laboratory infrastructure and solution development is as follows:

1. Initial laboratory establishment with no external access or access to external data stores. Offers encrypted project-specific data access, verification of ethics and authentication processes, ‘Docker’ container-based dependency and security management.
2. Expansion of SPPAL to include a secure demilitarized zone (network configuration) DMZ, with security ensured via multiple levels of firewall, including software and hardware (router) based mechanisms. The resulting system will support external support of Docker-based analysis containers¹ via cryptographically secure lab-specific ‘Gitlab’ instance, and access to external social media feeds and selected government-based servers.
3. Creation of synthetic datasets adhering to schemas of underlying data sources in order to avoid privacy and confidentiality concerns through the use of artificial data. Larger investments in this area will support capturing key statistical and structural patterns within the data.
4. Creation of mechanisms for automatically validating data structures proposed for export, thus easing manual verification.
5. With a view to improving the solution security posture and support cross-linking of databases, further project investigation of the following:
 - a. Programmatic separation of (identifiable) master-list from rigorous de-identified data for analysis.
 - b. Exploration of incorporating homomorphic encryption for the laboratory, which will allow an important subset of analyses to be performed on the encrypted data. We will explore the use of subsets of such encrypted data outside of the laboratory.
 - c. Implementation of privacy-preserving data mining infrastructure (in context of non-encrypted data).

¹ Docker container is an open source software development platform. Its main benefit is to package applications in “containers,” allowing them to be portable among any system running the Linux operating system <https://www.sdxcentral.com/containers/definitions/what-is-docker-container-open-source-project/> [Accessed February 21 2019]

Proposed Architecture/Design

Consistent with the roadmap described above, the design and development of the SPPAL data environment has involved investments in technologies and a partnership with the University of Saskatchewan focusing on secure efficiency, scalability, performance, and robustness. These investments will permit the lab to perform interactive and exploratory analyses of large volume, flexible, independent, robust and systematic analyses in a more timely fashion. These expansions also support a more secure and autonomous environment by lessening vulnerability to outside attack. Critically given the nature of the data being analyzed, such advantages are being secured in an environment which provides strict and rigorous guarantees concerning the confidentiality and privacy of the underlying data.

Metadata curation and updates

Maintenance of accessible, informative and up-to-date sustainable documentation will serve as an important facilitator for analysis within the SPPAL. Because of the secure and isolated nature of the SPPAL intranet, it is important that such documentation be available offline while within the laboratory itself. Given that the SPPAL infrastructure -- with the sole and specialized exception of the external work package submission system -- is not accessible from outside the SPPAL, and that public hosting of SPPAL metadata is inadvisable, it has been proposed to use the popular offline documentation system Zeal to view lab metadata and documentation, with appropriate docsets available only to SPPAL associates. For any subsets of such documentation with particularly restrictive guidelines, it has been proposed that the documentation be available via a lab-internal document-based HTTP server.

SPPAL infrastructure configuration

The SPPAL Infrastructure plan underway makes central use of computational service providers (virtualized servers), and a set of network and human protocols for conducting work. This plan is discussed and depicted below (see Figures 2 and 3).

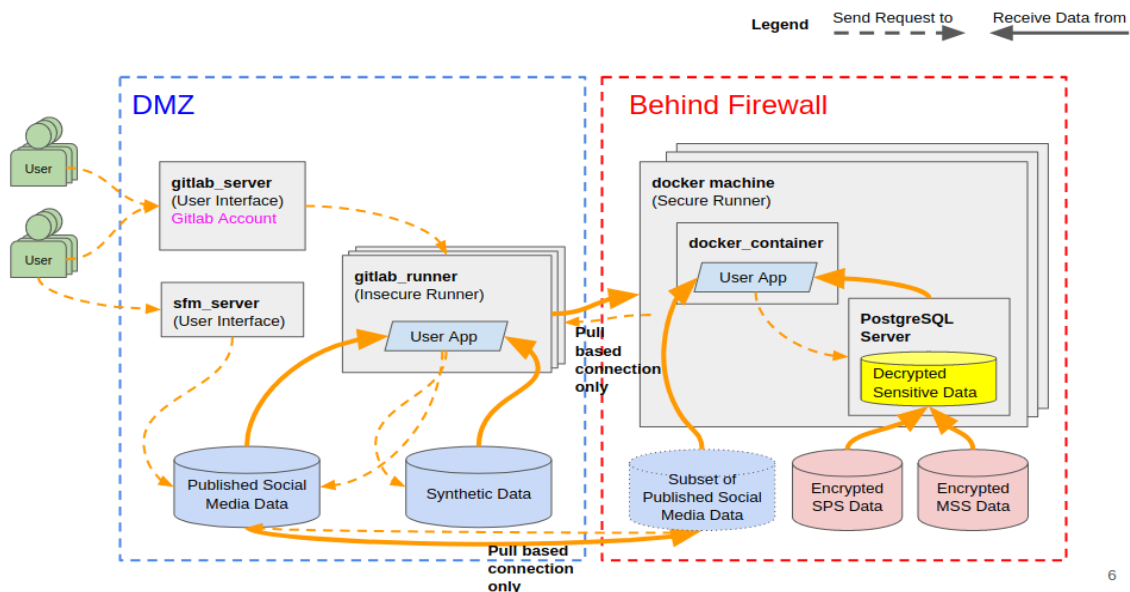


Figure 2: User Access Control

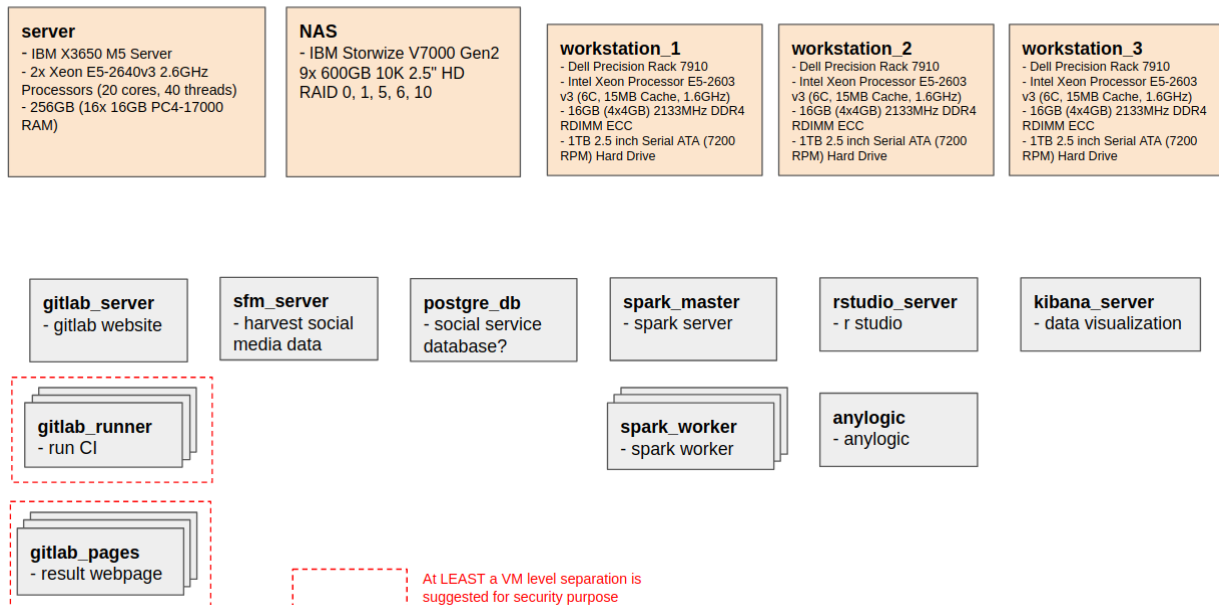


Figure 3: Resources-service Map: Hardware and Logical Machines

Server configuration

The laboratory architecture will make use of a set of virtualized (machine) servers (*‘VM-level separation’*² depicted within the figure above), recognizing that two elements will likely be provided by a cluster of machines for performance reasons. Specifically, the laboratory architecture establishes a division into internal data servers hosting encrypted data, analysis servers serving as computational engines but holding no persistent data, and (in the DMZ) a bulk headed and process-isolated external work container Gitlab-based submission server. All such servers will be set up to maintain an extensive audit travel concerning work being conducted. This is supported by configuration to support detailed multi-level logging, both through traditional Linux system logs as well as container-based logging, database logging of queries, and code uses of the programming libraries on that machine via the application programming interface (API), such as through *ltrace* and *strace*. Particular classes of servers will be equipped with added protection. Each such type of servers is described briefly below.

Data server

For security reasons, the architecture plan is to have SQL Postgres databases running inside encrypted Docker images, rather than connecting to external database machines. Analysis will pull data from such machines and cannot update it (via a “read only mount”). We anticipate initially limiting the database availability on such machines with the traditional. Following experimentation and evaluation, the popular No SQL database Cassandra may also be used. Beyond data, the servers will further host restricted-access documentation and metadata and an associated HTTP-based browsing system whose circulation is limited to the laboratory (see below). A key part of

² A virtual machine (VM) is a software program or operating system that not only exhibits the behavior of a separate computer, but is also capable of performing tasks such as running applications and programs like a separate computer. <https://www.techopedia.com/definition/4805/virtual-machine-vm> [Accessed February 21 2019]

the audit trail for the databases will be provision of system log entries that record all queries, the time at which such requests take place, the user involved and identity of the verified analysis application making the request.

Analysis infrastructure

The analysis infrastructure for SPPAL will consist of a Spark cluster of one or more machines. The purpose of such machines is to serve as scalable computational engines for (potentially large-scale) analyses and for exploratory data analysis, all while providing strict guarantees ensuring privacy and confidentiality. The storage of data on such analysis machines is not allowed, and the system will be configured to prevent storage of data and results on the machine resources; such storage can only take place within the containers themselves, with the result only being exported for analyst use if SPS approval is granted. There are several mechanisms anticipated to further enhance the security of such analysis servers. In addition to the audit trail supported through system logging, such servers will further support detailed audit trails via jobs submitted to Spark via the Spark history server mechanisms. In addition, while the analysis server will act as clients of the external data server (specifically for automatically importing security-checked packages) and of the data analysis containers, by controlling send requests (easily confirmed as secure), risks of leaking any internal data server to external data server will be essentially non-existent due to the one-way connection provided. Further, as noted below, this server will blacklist all connections from the external-facing server, thus preventing connections from coming in that direction. Most storage directories are stored purely within the Docker container context and will thus automatically be cleared at the time that the container completes execution.

External submission and secure harvesting server

The external submission and secure harvesting server is a small virtual machine that is recycled frequently. While very narrow and highly restricted, the exposure of this machine to the external world requires extraordinary security measures. These are reflected in two ways. The first is its isolation within a “DMZ” by 2 firewalls (one separating from other SPPAL machines, and one separating it from the external world). The second is the fact that all other SPPAL and SPS machines will be set to ignore all connections from the IP of this server. This allows the connections to be unidirectional, in that the other servers can send requests to this server (e.g., to obtain the validated packages), while this server is unable to contact any of the other machines.

This machine serves two functions. Firstly, the server will run a web (HTTPS) server accessible only via virtual private network (VPN) from the external world. (IP filtering options further limiting connections to certain selected partner sites are also being considered). The sole web content served by this web server consists of a Gitlab instance “work container submission” system, which allows external analysts to submit a secure Docker “work container” specification that packages up an analysis script with the resources that it requires (where the required dependencies are only downloaded from available sources). The system will undertake its normal continuous integration pipeline on submitted work packages submission server, validating the integrity of the submitted work packages, sequestering failed packages for system administrator study, and sending mail to the claimed submitter that indicates the outcomes of the validation. For packages that fail validation, that information will contain indication as to some causes for the validation failure. Successful work packages passing authenticity and validation tests will be turned into Docker containers for operation (in a protected space) within the SPPAL analysis area. Because of the one-way connection from the SPPAL analysis area, such compiled Docker containers will only be retrieved (pulled) by the analysis components of the laboratory, rather than pushed to the laboratory.

The second major function served by this server is hosting of a virtualized machine providing selective access to external data specifically from validated websites (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, publically available Government of Saskatchewan data, etc.). An important need for such access comes in the form of “streaming” services that provide just-breaking data for identification of important trends (e.g., copycat suicide phenomena, discussion of restricted substances). For the near future, we anticipate this machine specifically hosting Social Feed Manager for the purposes of harvesting such data as well as custom harvesting scripts emerging from other laboratories.

To provide the necessary level of security that is advised, this system will further be located in a technical “DMZ” that features two firewalls: One that separates it from the external world (and only supports connections via virtual private network [VPN, and possibly from only certain partner IP addresses]) and another that separates the work package submission server from the internal network of SPS. The machine will further be configured to only make use of a secure domain name system (DNS) server, to avoid possible DNS redirection attacks.

Lab-Wise Security Mechanisms

It is essential that the SPPAL support analyst engagement that is rigorously and robustly secure from both technical and human vulnerabilities, while at not so burdensome that it prevents sustainable engagement with the lab. To achieve this, in addition to physical security mechanisms, we propose the use of fine-grained virtualization in the form of containers, as supported through widely-used Docker technology. Such “containerized software” provides a means of creating user-and-project-specific “sandboxes” in which analyst-supplied analysis scripts can safely run, but also a means of packaging up such scripts with the requisite resources, such as software libraries (obviating the need to download such mechanisms to the SPPAL, with resulting loss to security). Such “sandboxes” are by default not able access system resources, and cannot do so unless explicitly and transparently configured so as to do so. The integrity of the containers can also be validated explicitly prior to running using encryption mechanisms. Even more importantly, such containers can be executed in a controlled fashion that prevents the container execution from binding to any inappropriate resources (e.g., network, folders outside of the user’s home folder), and to govern the output of any data (in this case, limiting it to output to particular directories to which only SPPAL staff have read-access, for the purpose of checking).

Researchers be provided with a means of uploading (only) via a cryptographically signed connections specifications for Docker containers created with the Docker container management system to a secure server located behind the SPPAL firewall, and accessible only via password-protected HTTP on a non-standard port. The server will validate the Docker scripts and confirm that the resources proposed to be accessible via these containers fall within the acceptable guidelines, with the results of that validation being reported to the users. Only specifications for containers whose resource requests are acceptable for a given project will then be available for in-lab execution in a secure user-and-project specific sandbox by the user. Rejected resources will be deleted from the server. Only approved SPS employees will have access to the upload server.

Users themselves will not be able to issue commands (e.g., “dock”) that lead to execution of the software containers; such commands will not be available for their access on the SPPAL analysis servers. Instead, the sole route to users running an approved container on the SPPAL analysis server will be for that user to run that container via a simple web-based specifically for use in the SPPAL. This execution will execute the container in a “sandboxed” fashion that denies it access to all but encrypted (using a project-specific encryption key) read-access directories within or beneath the user’s project-specific folder. Moreover, output can only occur to directories on a filesystem to which the user lacks read access, and only approved SPPAL personnel enjoy such access. Such output files must then be inspected by approved SPPAL personnel for security, privacy and confidentiality reasons before

their final placement in a time-limited user folder for export from the lab. All intermediate files output by the container will be cleared immediately following execution of the container.

Once transmitted to the lab, the user is not permitted to transport containers to outside of the SPPAL. Just as restricting the inputs from the container provides an extra degree of security within the lab environment, effective regulation of outputs from the container is important to ensuring that output data matches ethical guidelines for use. All data written by the container (e.g., output files giving summary statistics and other aggregated information in accordance with ethics guidelines) must reside within the container itself until the point where contents proposed for export are validated as being in compliance with Ethical Approvals and approved by SPS staff.

SPPAL Technologies

The laboratory expansion involves installation, configuration, and optimization of a variety of groups of technologies as outlined below. The container management system will be highlighted here as it is critical to proposed security mechanisms and other technologies will be briefly reviewed.

Container management system and infrastructure

The container management system being used for the SPPAL expansion is based upon Docker (version 17.04.0-ce). This technology will aid enhanced security by greatly lessening the need to connect to external resources for dependency (e.g., library, package, and module) management, allow different analyses to run in isolation, etc. In addition to basic configuration, a Docker library is being set up to allow lab users to employ a standardized templates for forming their Docker images for particular types of analysis. A critical additional element of the work involves web server to support the submission system. The following diagram demonstrates several stages associated execution of Docker containers. The Docker container is involved in a set of test, validation and verification steps prior to execution. Once inside the firewall, a researcher physically within the analysis area of the laboratory or through external cryptographically signed connections can provide a private key that supports decrypting the project-specific data, populating the databases and running the analysis containers

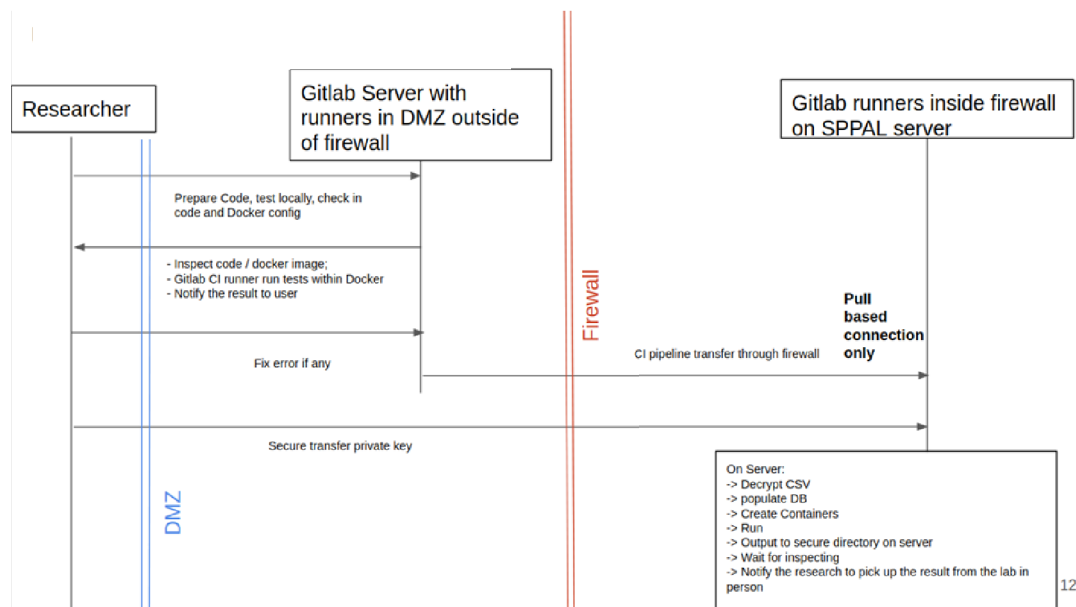


Figure 4: Day-to-day Workflow Using Docker

Additional technologies include:

Java based technologies: In the SPPAL expansion, Java serves both as a supported programming language and (via the Java Virtual Machine) as a platform for many additional technologies.

Python based technologies: The programming language Python is highly popular for large-scale data analysis. As such, there are a large set of Python technologies that we are installing for the SPPAL.

R based technologies: The software package R is a highly popular tool for data analysis, and offers some support for large-scale data analysis. The laboratory expansion involves installing R version 3.4.0, together with other supporting packages.

Supporting libraries and tools: To support the above, the lapack.o/blas.o libraries will be installed and as well as various supporting tools (e.g., documentation tools, tools to take visual differences between text files, software development tools).

Simulation software: In order to create synthetic ground-truth data for machine learning models, for testing such models, and for understanding the patterns seen in some of the data, AnyLogic will be installed.

Exploratory data analysis tools: The software Tableau is widely used as for exploratory data analysis with large volumes of data. This software is particularly valuable for rapid exploration of data and showing data to non-technical stakeholders. We also plan to install and configure the increasingly popular and powerful Apache Kibana software.

In addition to setting up the technologies above, it is important for SPPAL to have in place two mechanisms (“servers”) for providing common services and tasks. The database server selected for this work is to be used for an important subset of data, such as publically available datasets, including those brought in from the DMZ via Social Feed Manager and from other non-sensitive data sources. We have selected Ubuntu LTS (“Long Term Service”) 16.04 as the base operating system.

Finally, iterative, incremental software development is a widely used approach for creation of reliable software. While use of external services (such as GitHub’s build system) is widespread among software developers, the lack of access to external resources rules out such use for SPPAL. We are using Gitlab as the build server to manage continuous integration pipelines, together with a Git repository and Wiki.

Privacy and Security Considerations

Many elements relating to privacy and security are discussed elsewhere in this summary document however, a primary focus of initial deliverables involved working to “making SPPAL safe.” These processes have been well articulated by the Project Team and approved by Project Champions and several key mechanisms will be highlighted here.

- The laboratory technology shall prevent removal of any data in electronic form from its security premises without expressed approval of an appointed officer approved by the SPPAL oversight/steering committee.
- Data provided by partners shall be accessible in decrypted (plain-text) form only to validated members of groups having ethics- and partner- approval to access. Physical security checks shall take place and confirmation will be provided from SPPAL Partners and Research Ethics Board Approvals as to what data (at a field- and table- level) can be accessed. A private key/public key pair shall be generated at this point, with the

private key being then being stored in a Docker image within the continuous integration mechanisms for a particular project.

- A passphrase for a project shall then be shared between the researchers associated with the project. When a project team member leaves the project, the passphrase shall be changed to a new passphrase. When accessing the SPPAL remotely or in person, beyond the standard researcher-specific login, the project-specific passphrase shall be provided by researcher, in order to further prove their affiliation with the project. Such provision of the passphrase together with their login credentials shall support the capacity to specify analysis specification to run in a container for that particular project. The analysis script shall undergo multiple levels of verification prior to execution, and then will be run in fashion that provides only access to the associated resources approved for that project. The individual who runs this script and others in the same project shall only be able to inspect the output in person in the laboratory.
- Data shall remain in encrypted format until time of use, so as to allow system administrators to manage the data files without compromising the security of the data. Any backups made by SPPAL data shall be made on encrypted data stores and will be transmitted for archiving in an encrypted fashion. Such backups will then not be accessible to system administrators during any restoration processes.
- The SPPAL shall record detailed auditing information on laboratory use, including -- but not limited to -- logs of log-ins and log-outs, access to particular computational packages (e.g., containers), queries executed on databases, command histories of analysis, all submissions and pipeline results for continuous integration pipelines.
- Individuals operating within the SPPAL shall have write access only to project-specific electronic resources within the laboratories. While a given user may be a member of multiple project groups, a given log-in to the lab shall take place within the context of a given project, and only provide access to data for that project. This restriction will further prevent such individuals from cross-linking different datasets.
- The laboratory shall remain inaccessible at a hardware level from any access from outside of the physical premises of the laboratory. All access to external data sources (such as those listed above) shall be made from a dedicated DMZ region of SPS information technology infrastructure. The DMZ shall be separated by from the main analysis area of the laboratory via multiple levels of firewall. These must include both software and hardware (router) based mechanisms.
- Researchers shall be capable of submitting batch packages of work from outside of the laboratory, using cryptographically protected methods. All submission of batch work packages (both from outside and from within the analysis components of the laboratory) must take place via the DMZ. Submission of mechanisms to the DMZ itself will ensure that malicious code cannot be injected within the laboratory itself. All packages of work (whether submitted within or external to the laboratory) shall be verified to only access acceptable data sources both statically (from Docker container specification) and dynamically (when run). These multiple lines of checking will help further elevate confidence in the security of the mechanisms involved.
- As required by Research Ethics Board and SPPAL partner requirements, a variety of automatic de-identification mechanisms shall be applied on the unencrypted data, ranging from the most simple (separation of a master list from the de-identified data, with de-identified data using scrambled unique identifiers that can be cross-linked to the master list) to more refined (such as use of cryptographic salts).

User Interface Needs Assessment and Development

A preliminary needs assessment was informed through consultation with end users (e.g., police officers in the Missing Persons Unit, Targeted Enforcement Section, and SPS). This document concludes with a list of User Interface needs which will be further refined as additional consultation occurs, including information collected from additional stakeholders (e.g., Social Services) at the upcoming Missing Persons Workshop.

In short, it has been proposed that the User Interface be a lightweight web application, where all functionalities are grouped visually and logically into thematic units, according to the types of data, analyses, or reporting with which they are associated. The main design principles of the User Interface are ease of use: to provide visual grouping of data, analyses, and reporting with minimal effort required regarding user actions; and flexibility: to permit inter-operation with other databases as required.

The following is a list of user interface functionalities deemed to be essential considerations in developing solutions for end users:

- *Common login screen*; user is able to enter username and password to access MPP data, analysis tools, and report creation.
- *Homepage*; user is able to navigate from here to access the main features of the software, i.e., loading / viewing / analyzing data, creating reports.
- *Administrative structure*; administrator is able to assign the level of data accessibility for users; user is only able to access data for which permission has been granted.
- *Data access*; user is able to access appropriate data bases or parts thereof according to permissions granted.
- *Data analysis*; user is able to perform analysis on data ranging in scope from time slicing or other data masking to machine learning or other advanced statistical analysis.
- *Reporting structure*; user is able to create reports based on data accessed through the User Interface, including convenient customization of common or frequent reports.

The following is a list of user interface functionalities deemed advanced or potentially desirable:

- In conjunction with identified security requirements and processes, allow login through social media such as Facebook, Twitter, etc.
- Convenient and dynamic visualization of data such as through bar charts, pie charts, and heat maps.
- Internal communication capability with team members/community safety partners such as via secure local e-mail or messaging.

Preliminary interfaces have now been developed and specialized code is also being written so as to incorporate future statistical models.

Data Coding - Police Data

A living data dictionary for SPS missing person data has now been created so as to define and structure police data for use in predictive analyses and interface development. Potential applicability of relevant standards and guidelines for the sharing of information (e.g., the National Information Exchange Model or NIEM) are currently being considered.

Conclusions and Future Directions

The SPPAL Missing Persons Project has generated considerable interest and excitement among police and community safety partners in SK. In addition to the work described above, members of the Missing Persons Project Team have also provided several invited talks in this reporting period (e.g., Prevention Matters Conference, Provincial Child Death Review Research Sub-committee). Researchers embarking on similar analytic work in Ontario in the area of criminal intelligence visited SPPAL in November 2017 to explore opportunities to share insights. There are plans for continued collaboration with agencies in Canada.

The SK Ministry of Justice and Saskatoon Police Service have also partnered with Mr. Norm Taylor and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police - Information and Communications Technology Committee (CACP-ICT) to host an Open Analytics for Community Safety and Wellbeing Conference. The conference will have taken place in April 2018 in Toronto, Ontario. MP Project Team Members will be presenting at this conference. In addition to knowledge dissemination, conference objectives include working to establish a network for community safety analytics research and practice in Canada in keeping with project deliverables for the second year.



Figure 5: Open Analytics Conference

DOCUMENT CONTROL DATA

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1. ORIGINATOR (Name and address of the organization preparing the document. A DRDC Centre sponsoring a contractor's report, or tasking agency, is entered in Section 8.) Saskatoon Police Service 76 25 St E. Saskatoon, SASK S7K 3P9 Canada		2a. SECURITY MARKING (Overall security marking of the document including special supplemental markings if applicable.) CAN UNCLASSIFIED
		2b. CONTROLLED GOODS NON-CONTROLLED GOODS DMC A
3. TITLE (The document title and sub-title as indicated on the title page.) Saskatchewan Police Predictive Analytics Lab Missing Persons Project: Year One		
4. AUTHORS (Last name, followed by initials – ranks, titles, etc., not to be used) Stockdale, K.		
5. DATE OF PUBLICATION (Month and year of publication of document.) February 2019	6a. NO. OF PAGES (Total pages, including Annexes, excluding DCD, covering and verso pages.) 14	6b. NO. OF REFS (Total references cited.) 0
7. DOCUMENT CATEGORY (e.g., Scientific Report, Contract Report, Scientific Letter.) Contract Report		
8. SPONSORING CENTRE (The name and address of the department project office or laboratory sponsoring the research and development.) DRDC – Centre for Security Science NDHQ (Carling), 60 Moodie Drive, Building 7 Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K2 Canada		
9a. PROJECT OR GRANT NO. (If appropriate, the applicable research and development project or grant number under which the document was written. Please specify whether project or grant.)	9b. CONTRACT NO. (If appropriate, the applicable number under which the document was written.) W7714-186438	
10a. DRDC PUBLICATION NUMBER (The official document number by which the document is identified by the originating activity. This number must be unique to this document.) DRDC-RDDC-2019-C056	10b. OTHER DOCUMENT NO(s). (Any other numbers which may be assigned this document either by the originator or by the sponsor.)	
11a. FUTURE DISTRIBUTION WITHIN CANADA (Approval for further dissemination of the document. Security classification must also be considered.) Public release		
11b. FUTURE DISTRIBUTION OUTSIDE CANADA (Approval for further dissemination of the document. Security classification must also be considered.)		

12. KEYWORDS, DESCRIPTORS or IDENTIFIERS (Use semi-colon as a delimiter.)

Data Analytics; Interoperability

13. ABSTRACT/RÉSUMÉ (When available in the document, the French version of the abstract must be included here.)

This contract report depicts highlights of the first year of activities in a data analytics project funded by *Canadian Safety and Security Program* (CSSP) investment CSSP-2017-TI-2245. The Program is led by Defence Research and Development Canada's Centre for Security Science (CSS), in partnership with Public Safety Canada. This investment complements activities undertaken by the Saskatchewan Police Predictive Analytics Lab (SPPAL) which was established through a partnership between the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice; Corrections and Policing (MOJ), the University of Saskatchewan (U of S), and the Saskatoon Police Service (SPS) in 2015.

The science and technology depicted herein is related to the development of predictive models and applied tools for end users - police and community safety partners – intended to improve real-time investigations, decision-making, and interventions for persons reported missing in order to prevent and reduce harm to these individuals. The investment from DRDC assisted SPPAL in building the human, technical, and business expertise required to examine two interrelated foci - missing children and missing adults - simultaneously, by integrating data from multiple data sources such as: police records management systems, social services information, and social media into new decision support tools.

The Canadian Safety and Security Program is a federally-funded program to strengthen Canada's ability to anticipate, prevent/mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters, serious accidents, crime and terrorism through the convergence of science and technology with policy, operations and intelligence.

Le présent rapport de contrat décrit les faits saillants de la première année des activités d'un projet d'analyse des données financé au moyen d'un investissement dans le cadre du *Programme canadien pour la sûreté et la sécurité* (PCSS), CSSP-2017-TI-2245. Ce programme est dirigé par le Centre des sciences pour la sécurité (CSS) de Recherche et développement pour la défense Canada, en partenariat avec Sécurité publique Canada. Cet investissement complète les activités entreprises par le Saskatchewan Police Predictive Analytics Lab (SPPAL), le fruit d'un partenariat entre le ministère de la Justice de la Saskatchewan; Corrections and Policing (MOJ), l'Université de la Saskatchewan (U de S) et le Service de police de Saskatoon (SPS) en 2015.

Les aspects scientifiques et technologiques qui sont décrits ici ont trait à l'élaboration de modèles prédictifs et sont appliqués à des outils destinés aux utilisateurs finaux – les partenaires de la police et de la sécurité communautaire – dans le but d'améliorer les enquêtes en temps réel, la prise de décisions et les interventions relativement à des personnes portées disparues, afin de prévenir et de réduire les préjudices causés à celles-ci. L'investissement fait par RDDC a aidé le SPPAL à constituer une expertise humaine, technique et administrative nécessaire à l'examen de deux éléments reliés entre eux – les enfants portés disparus et les adultes portés disparus – simultanément, par l'intégration, aux nouveaux outils d'aide à la décision, de données provenant de sources multiples telles les suivantes : systèmes de gestion des dossiers de la police, services sociaux et médias sociaux.

Le Programme canadien pour la sûreté et la sécurité, financé par le gouvernement fédéral, vise à renforcer la capacité du Canada à anticiper et à prévenir les catastrophes naturelles, les accidents graves, le crime et le terrorisme, à en atténuer les conséquences, à s'y préparer, à y réagir et à récupérer de ces événements, et ce, grâce à la convergence des sciences et de la technologie avec les politiques, les opérations et le renseignement.