

Make prisons safe again!

researchXchange - presentation

Armin Schmidt 01.10.2021

How it all began

InPercept



Armin Schmidt

- BSc Electrical Engineering (Embedded Systems and Management)
- MSc in Engineering (ICT)



Thousands of illegal cell phones every year



State of the Art



Personal searches at the prison entrance **or recurrent searches of inmate cells**

- Extremely time consuming and therefore costly
- Can't uncover all cell phones
- Problem of corruption



Jamming of mobile communication or Fake Base-Stations

- Neighborhood is effected too
- Problematic due to needed concessions



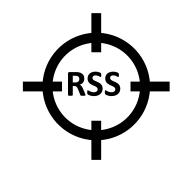
Detection sensors in each inmate cell

- Expensive
- Problematic due to vandalism

Problem Statement

- A feasible solution has to be
 - As automated as possible
 - Central logging to prevent corruption
 - Should **not disturb** the neighborhood
 - Using as **few sensors** as possible

- Our institute is developing since 2012 a system for indoor localization
 - Is based on fingerprinting using RSS
 - Supports 2G, 3G, 4G and 5G communication standard on all currently used mobile frequency-bands

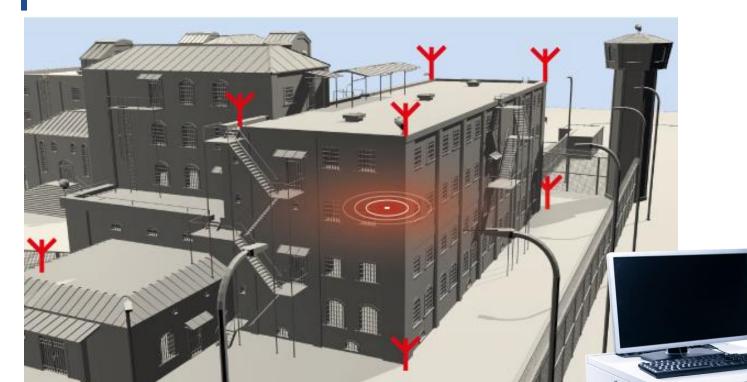








Based on protected IP's





- Based only on received signal-strength
- No signal decoding necessary
- No active transmission of signals
- Small number of sensors
- Published at IEEE Conference: IPIN in Pisa 2019





The approach is a novelty in literature and there are no third-party patents restricting us.

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Fingerprinting-Algorithm based on RSS

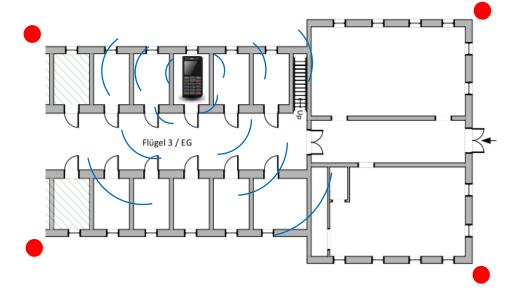
• Problem:

• **No direct access** to the mobile-communication signal and therefore no RSS estimates



• Solution:

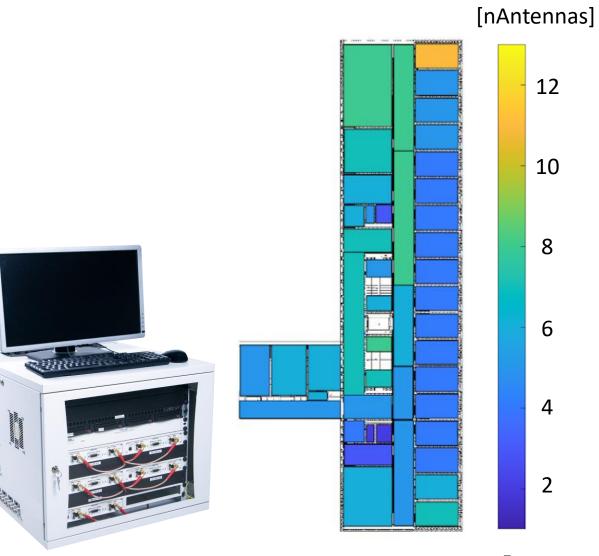
- Multiple antennas are placed around the building
- RSS of a specific cellphone is estimated from all sensed antenna signals



Coverage of all Frequency Bands

• Problem:

- Hardware has limited Bandwidth
- Provider bands range from 700MHz to 2.6GHz
- Antennas have limited view on building

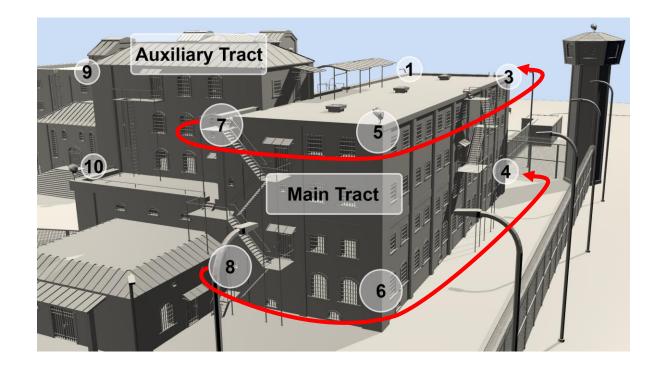


Coverage of all Frequency Bands

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• Solution:

- Two mode operation (Scanning/Localization)
- Frequency band rotation



High cell phone activity in the vicinity

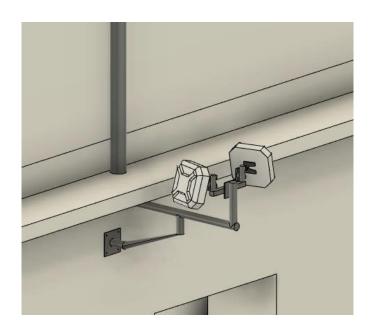
• Problem:

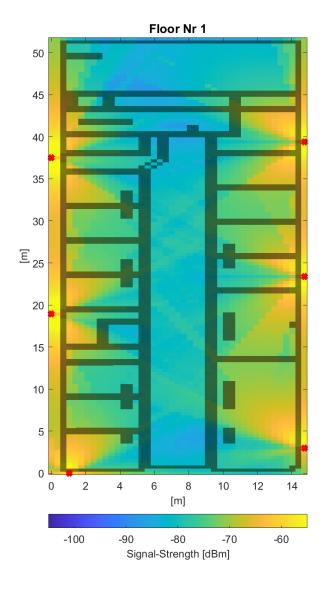
- High cell phone activity in the vicinity due to penitentiary staff
- Leads to unwanted detections
- ... and partial blindness on other frequency bands



High cell phone activity in the vicinity

- Solution:
 - **Directional** Antennas



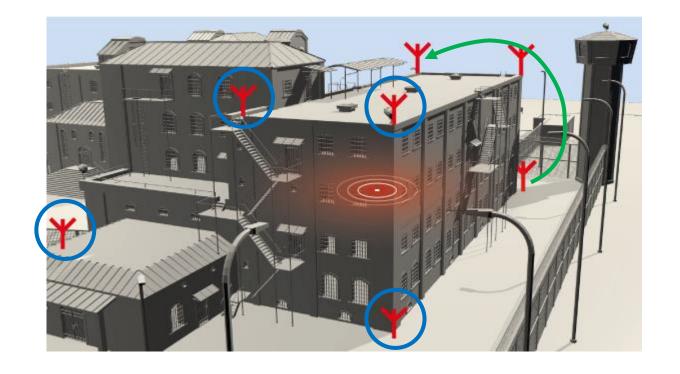


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High cell phone activity in the vicinity

• Solution:

- **Directional** Antennas
- Parallelization of Scanning and Localization
- Subspace Approach



Based on extensive validations

Validation-Setup:

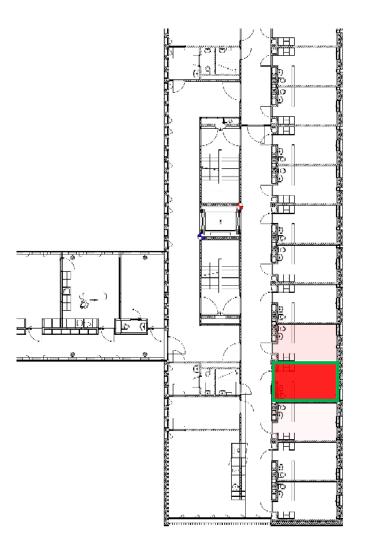
- First prototypes were tested in Prison Lenzburg and Bellechasse
- Current demonstrator is installed in a large Swiss prison with two buildings (four and five storeys respectively with over 200 cells/areas per building)

Offline-Validation

- On 800MHz, 2100MHz and 2600MHz
- 20'000 recordings per frequency band in over 200 cells/areas per building

Field Tests

- Randomly selected inmate cells
- Dispatch SMS



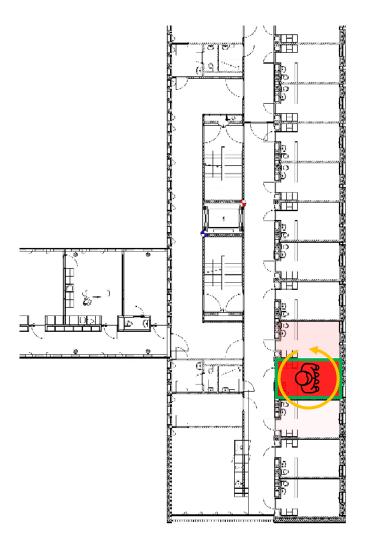
Offline Validation

Results Building A

- Cell Accuracy: **51%**
- Dispersion (< 1 cell): **95**%
- Error-Distance (i70, i80, i90):
 0.38m, 0.7m, 1.4m

Results Building B

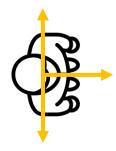
- Cell Accuracy: **71%**
- Dispersion (< 1 cell): **95**%
- Error-Distance (i70, i80, i90):
 0.06m, 0.3m, 1.3m

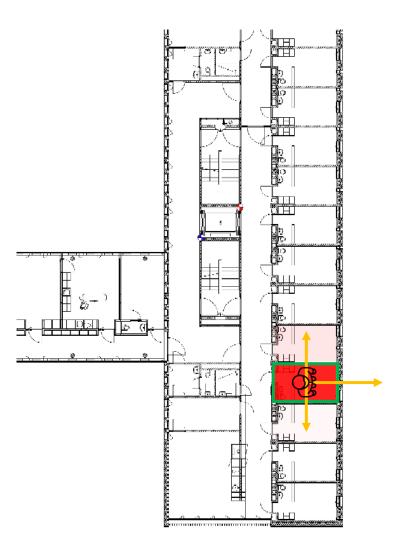


Field Tests

• **Results** for building B so far:

- Detection sensitivity: **98.4**%
- Similar results in localization-performance like in offlinevalidation, when following same test-protocol
- Orientation of Test Person has a large effect on localization





Customer Segments ... and Market Potential

Total Indoor Localization Market:

- Global Indoor Location Market 2018 2023: \$58 Billion, CAGR 42%
 - Intrusion-Detection
 - Monitor employees in hazardous environ.
 - Logistics (Industry 4.0)
 - Navigation / Marketing



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Our Focus on Correctional Facilities:

- Estimated market penetration of 20%
- Switzerland and neighboring countries: 600 up to 900 salable Systems
- 60 sold Systems in the first 5 years: CHF 5 Mio.



Our Valuepropositions ... and our Findings



High localization precision



In 95% of all cases error lower than one room-size, but orientation of test-person can have large effect on precision



24-7 and comprehencive



System searches and localizes around the clock and in the complete building under surveillance



No regulatory barriers



Due to the passive approach of our system and since the received signals need not be decoded, no legal permits are required.

Due to the minimal intervention in the building structure, even listed objects can be equipped

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Easy to use technology



Easy user interface with live and retrospective analysis for forensics



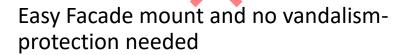
Concealed operation



Sensors are mounted outside of the monitored area and vandalism/shielding is therefore no issue



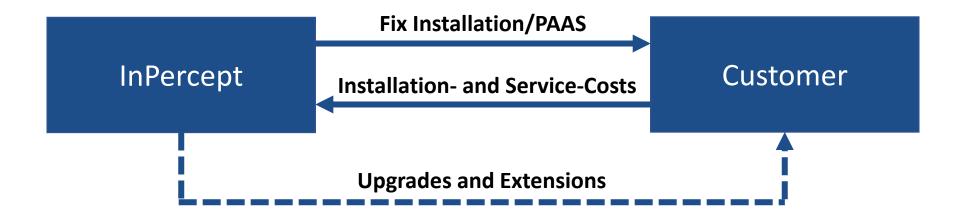
Cost effective installation and usage



Due to centralistic data-processing, easy upgradable to new mobile communication standards

Business Model

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Fix Installation:

Antennas and processing unit is installed and sold as a package (directly or over partners)

Product as a Service (PAAS) Installation:

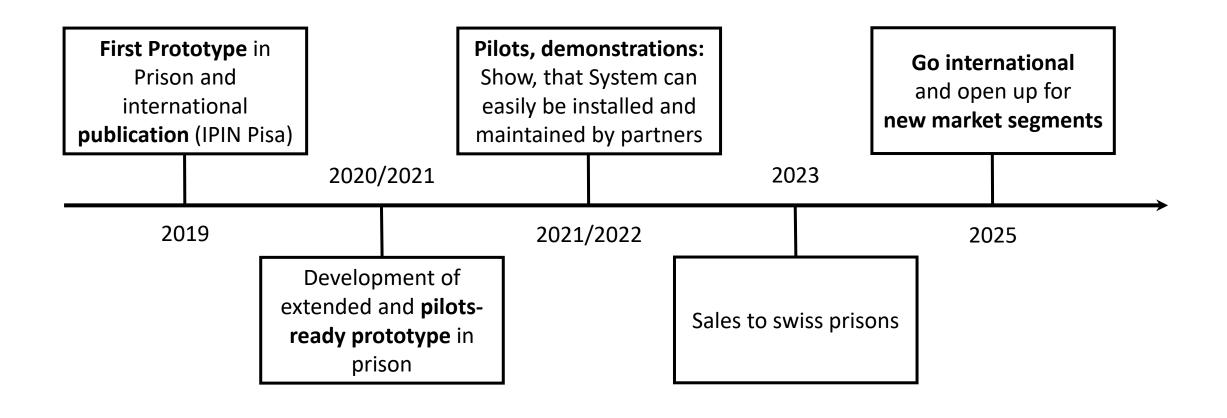
Antennas are installed permanently, processing unit is shared between different locations.



Customer Aquisition Costs: CHF 5000

Livetime Service/Product: 10 - 20 years

Roadmap



Our Conclusion & Learnings

- High localization-accuracy
- Value proposition is working
- Urgent need confirmed
- Upgrade- and service-contract important
- Trustful cooperation with international company

tyco

- Human body has larger effect on localization-performance than expected
- More activity in/around penitentiary than expected
- Construction costs are higher than expected
- Electrical installation-skills needed

Give illegal cell phones no chance...

Questions?

