

HOW TO AUTOMATE ILLEGAL CONTENT DETECTION ON THE INTERNET?



Communications Regulatory Authority
Ieva Žilionienė



GOVTECH CHALLENGE SERIES 2.0

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Communications Regulatory Authority / Digital Services Department

Vaidotas Ramonas

GOVTECH LAB





CONTEXT

CURRENT SITUATION

- The RRT hotline (www.svarusinternetas.lt) receives and investigates reports on prohibited content found on the Internet (child sexual abuse material (CSAM), pornography, etc.);
- The purpose of the hotline is to remove prohibited content as quickly as possible.

SCOPE

- In 2019, 998 notifications were received using the internet hotline in Lithuania (302 of the notifications were confirmed as related to CSAM and pornography);
- Overall, CSAM discovery online is increasing. In 2018, 223 999 such images were registered by the INHOPE organisation.

PROBLEM

- At the moment, only messages received via the internet hotline are investigated;
- No proactive search for prohibited content is carried out;
- It is believed that Lithuanian servers have significantly more prohibited content than is received through the internet hotline;
- As the dissemination of such content is not stopped, all internet users, especially children, suffer from it.

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CHALLENGE

We strive to protect internet users, especially children, by automating the identification of prohibited content placed on Lithuanian websites and servers.

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SOLUTION

KEY FUNCTIONS

- To operate in the Lithuanian IP address range;
- Be able to identify websites operating in Lithuania;
- Be able to recognize prohibited visual material;
- Send a link (URL) of the detected prohibited visual material to the RRT hotline.

METRICS FOR SUCCESS

- Information on the amount of prohibited content in Lithuania would be a significant benefit and a useful starting point;
- The effectiveness of the tool will be measured by the confirmed messages received from the tool.

IMPORTANT ASPECTS

- The developers of the solution will not be provided with images of child sexual abuse, and the storage of such images is not allowed;
- The Cybercrime Unit of the Lithuanian Criminal Police Bureau supports the development of such a solution and will provide consultations and CSAM hashes to increase the quality of the solution.

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OPPORTUNITIES

INSTITUTION

- The solution could be developed by automating other RRT Internet hotline processes:
 - continuous monitoring of confirmed cases until the information is removed;
 - prioritization of messages;
 - sending automatic messages to the information hosting service provider, police and other institutions.

MARKET

- The solution could also be adapted to:
 - hotlines in other countries;
 - other bodies (e.g. police) investigating reports of possible other illegal activities in the cyberspace.

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