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police

Palantir to fight crime and terrorism in Hesse

by Robert Klatt •06 April 2018 19:36
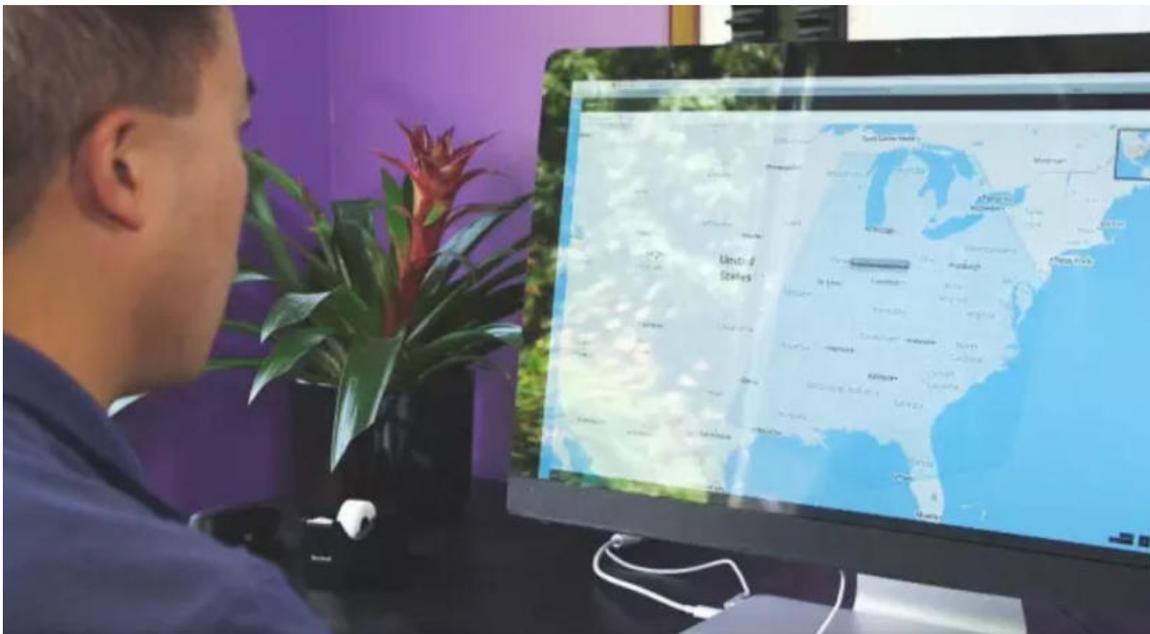
The software is designed to predict crimes before they happen by analyzing large amounts of data, thereby preventing serious crimes.

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According to a report by the Police-IT ⧉ blog , the police in the state of Hesse will soon be using software from the US manufacturer Palantir to better search large databases and social networks for traces of organized crime and Islamist terrorism. The software company has opened a branch in Frankfurt am Main specifically for training purposes. According to the magazine Tenders Electronic Daily, ⧉ the "procurement and operation of the analysis platform for the Hesse police to effectively combat Islamist terrorism and serious and organized crime" is almost free at a price of 0.01 euros. According to a report by the US magazine Wired, ⧉ Palantir is already known in the USA for providing police authorities with its software almost free of charge.

Since the public tender ⧉ for the entire contract was classified as secret, the actual price for the software and additional services such as staff training is unknown. The software's performance description is also secret and one can therefore only guess what range of functions the new purchase by the Hesse police will actually have.

Depending on the modules ⧉ booked , the software is designed to help with "predictive analytics" (crime prediction), searching for child pornography or obtaining information about organized crime or terrorism. Palantir advertises its reference customer as the Los Angeles ⧉ Police Department, which, according to the company, is already using the software successfully. A module that allows "nexus peering" is designed to simplify cooperation between local police departments and intelligence services. Palantir explained that its software makes it possible to combine data and thus create a common view, even where this is not actually permitted by law. Palantir's Germany boss Meline von Brentano explained during the European Police Congress in 2013 that the software can create an "integration level" across all data.

The company was founded in 2004 by the US secret service CIA and Facebook investor Peter Thiel, among others. Rumors say that

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