Microsoft Microsoft 365

Azure

Office 365

All Microsoft ⌄

Cart 🛒

Search

Orchestrating a brighter world

NEC

Customer
NEC Corporation India

Products and Services
Azure
Azure Cognitive Services (AI)
Azure IoT Hub
Computer Vision (AI)

Industry
Partner Professional Services

Organization Size
Large (1,000 - 9,999 employees)

Country
India

Share this story

f t in ✉

NEC Corporation India uses spatial analysis to help its customers reduce COVID-19 risks for its frontline employees

October 12, 2020

Providing safe work environments for frontline workers has become crucial to companies everywhere with the spread of COVID-19. To help its customers bring onsite employees back to work as safely as possible, the global information and communications technology leader NEC Corporation India is using Microsoft Azure Cognitive Services in combination with other Azure cloud resources to extend the functionality of the NEC Mi Eye video analytics platform. Customers can use the capabilities of the combined solution to effectively manage social distancing, occupancy limits, and other COVID-19 requirements—and help reduce the risk of workplace transmissions.

Microsoft

" In response to COVID-19, we saw how we could quickly apply advanced analytics in Azure with our Mi Eye solution to help keep our customers and their employees productive and safe during this time period."

—Aditya Kumar: Practice Lead, CX DX Vertical Strategy
NEC Corporation India

Bringing advanced analytics into the return to work

Across the globe, more people are working remotely than ever before—but telework isn't an option for everyone. Businesses with essential frontline workers balance the need to bring employees into offices or other physical workspaces with the commitment to taking every precaution to maintain a safe work environment.

When COVID-19 began to spread around the world, those twin requirements became even more important for organizations everywhere. Global information and communications technology giant NEC Corporation India saw the opportunity to help its customers maintain business continuity and safeguard their essential employees during the pandemic—an opportunity that began with Microsoft Azure (https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/) cloud-based analytics.

"We've been offering video analytics to our customers for a while now," says Aditya Kumar, Practice Lead of NEC Corporation India's CX DX Vertical Strategy Team. "In response to COVID-19, we saw how we could quickly apply advanced analytics in Azure with our Mi Eye solution to help keep our customers and their employees productive and safe during this time period."

A safety-first approach

Microsoft

NEC Corporation India set out to help its customers reopen facilities and keep employees on the job while safeguarding their health and well-being. The company teamed up with Microsoft to enhance the NEC Mi Eye video analytics platform using Azure Cognitive Services (https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/services/cognitive-services/) and other Azure resources.

The NEC team used spatial analysis (https://aka.ms/spatialanalysis/) , a new feature of Azure Computer Vision (https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/services/cognitive-services/computer-vision/) —part of Cognitive Services —to easily add built-in skills to Mi Eye. This helps organizations evaluate and optimize how employees interact with spaces and how best to enhance workplace health and safety. The team replaced key open-source AI models with advanced AI models from Cognitive Services. And the platform now uses Azure IoT Hub (https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/services/iot-hub/) to connect video streams at multiple work sites, aggregate and distribute data to the cloud, and perform detailed people counts.

With Mi Eye, NEC Corporation India customers can now monitor and manage social distancing, occupancy limits, and other COVID-19 requirements to analyze typical workplace conditions experienced by employees and reduce the risk of transmission in the workplace. In addition to real-time occupancy rates in cafeterias and other common areas, analysts can see and evaluate how people interact in a space. The constantly updated data tells them how many people are in an area, how far apart, and for how long. It also tells the analysts where people bunch up in aisles and how long they wait in queues.

Businesses can use the insights gained from that data to issue real-time safety alerts to employees' mobile devices, identify trends, and act quickly to reduce risks and provide proof of compliance. "We used Azure AI technology to give our customers a way to identify risky situations, take appropriate actions, and monitor and prove how effectively their companies comply with government mandates," says Aditya.

Microsoft

© 2017 Microsoft

Business continuity and responsible AI

By helping customers reduce risk for their employees and minimize the spread of COVID-19 in their workplaces, NEC Corporation India also helps them maintain business as usual. They can continue to operate, keep all their employees working productively, and avoid closing facilities or shutting down production.

"With Azure, we've made it easier for employers to comply with COVID-19 guidelines, minimize transmission risks, and maintain business continuity," says Aditya. "Employees will have a safer environment to work in, more peace of mind, and higher job satisfaction."

Working together with Microsoft, NEC Corporation India has developed policies and practices to help keep its AI systems reliable, secure, inclusive, and governed by high ethical standards and rules regarding employee privacy, data storage, and transparency. The company stresses to its customers the vital need to communicate clearly with employees about how the data is being used to increase workplace safety.

"Each customer will play a critical role in promoting employee trust in the technology," says Aditya. "They need to be completely transparent about how employee data will be collected, used, and stored and how it will benefit them in turn."

More potential, less risk

Looking beyond COVID-19, NEC Corporation India plans to offer the Mi Eye video analytics platform with Cognitive Services to customers with other needs as well. Retailers can use Mi Eye in stores to get accurate customer counts and analyze how long customers dwell in front of displays or wait in line at checkouts. Construction firms and manufacturers can use the platform's new spatial analysis capabilities to decrease risks in work zones, such as monitoring workers'

proximity to heavy machinery or unsafe practices and taking action to create a safer work environment. That action may include changing signage, adding a fence where needed, or taking other precautions. These are examples of AI being used to put people first in a responsible manner.

These scenarios will help companies maintain business continuity with less risk and greater peace of mind for onsite employees. "By using Azure to add spatial analysis to our platform, we'll be able to target a larger set of enterprise customers and help them increase worker satisfaction, loyalty, retention, and productivity," says Aditya.

Find out more about NEC Corporation India (https://in.nec.com/) on Twitter (https://twitter.com/thenecindia) , Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/NecInd) , and LinkedIn (https://www.linkedin.com/company/nec-india-pvt-ltd/) .

" With Azure, we've made it easier for employers to comply with COVID-19 guidelines, minimize transmission risks, and maintain business continuity. Employees will have a safer environment to work in, more peace of mind, and higher job satisfaction. "

—Aditya Kumar: Practice Lead, CX DX Vertical Strategy
   NEC Corporation India

" By using Azure to add spatial analysis to our platform, we'll be able to target a larger set of enterprise customers and help them increase worker satisfaction, loyalty, retention, and productivity. "

—Aditya Kumar: Practice Lead, CX DX Vertical Strategy
   NEC Corporation India

Microsoft

Learn More

Microsoft Azure AI

Responsible AI at Microsoft

Azure Cognitive Services

Computer Vision

Similar Stories

Pearson empowers language
students to learn faster in a
natural way with Azure AI
capabilities

Keeping front-line workers
connected and employees
empowered, plastic film
manufacturer Achilles uses
Microsoft Azure SQL Edge as

© 2

eToro implements Zero Trust for Google Workspace using Microsoft security, identity, and compliance solutions

Global optics and photonics leader creates smart devices by connecting field devices with back-end systems

Follow Microsoft

What's new

Surface Laptop 4

Surface Duo

Surface Laptop Go

Surface Go 2

Surface Pro X

Microsoft 365

Windows 10 apps

HoloLens 2

Microsoft Store

Account profile

Download Center

Microsoft Store Support

Returns

Order tracking

Virtual workshops and training

Microsoft Store Promise

Education

Microsoft in education

Office for students

Office 365 for schools

Deals for students & parents

Microsoft Azure in education

Enterprise

Azure

AppSource

Automotive

Government

Healthcare

Manufacturing

Financial services

Retail

Developer

Microsoft Visual Studio

Developer Center

Channel 9

Microsoft 365 Dev Center

Microsoft 365 Developer Program

Company

Careers

About Microsoft

Company news

Privacy at Microsoft

Investors

Security

Microsoft

© 2017 Microsoft

9/22/21, 4:38 PM

Microsoft Customer Story-NEC Corporation India uses spatial analysis to help its customers reduce COVID-19 risks for its frontlin…

Microsoft

© 2017 Microsoft