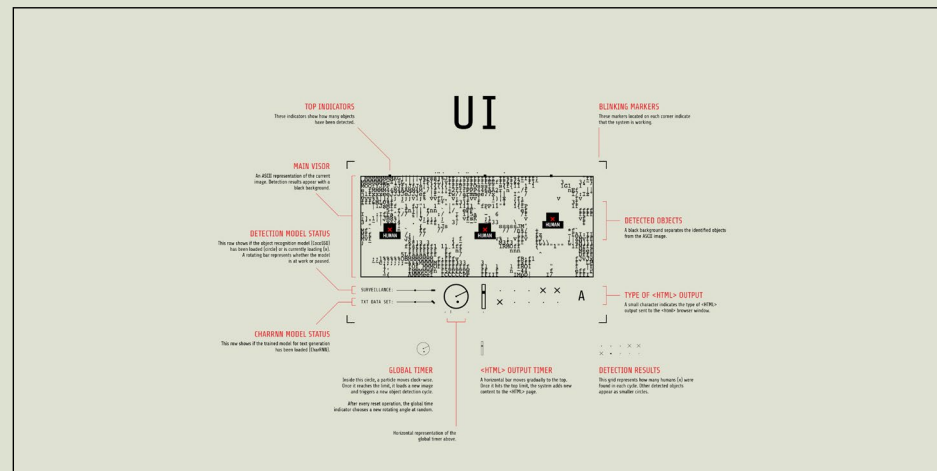


PSAA*

POST-SURVEILLANCE ALTERNATIVE ATLAS

TITLE	P.S.A.A. Post-Surveillance Alternative Atlas
AUTHOR	Juan Manuel Escalante
URL	http://jmescalante.info/otherContent/psaa/
DOWNLOAD AT	http://jmescalante.info/otherContent/psaa/v1_0.zip

UIX



** This version has been prepared for the MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology's upcoming symposium, "Unfolding Intelligence: The Art and Science of Contemporary Computation."*

DESCRIPTION

Post-Surveillance Alternative Atlas (P.S.A.A.) is an AI-generated cartography. We have witnessed an increasing adoption rate of artificial intelligence techniques in multiple law enforcement agencies worldwide during the last few years.

In the age of rising mass surveillance architectures, this browser-based program turns the systems back to the observers. P.S.A.A. generates a new type of poetic pseudo archive of alternative machine readings. Over time, the program unfolds on the browser's screen, extracting the main features from several images and generating new layers of reconstructed data. In a way, a diagrammatic representation of humanity and the violence we inflict upon each other.

SOURCES

The following libraries make this project possible: p5.js, ml5.js, and ASCII Art. All source data sets were used under the notion of “fair use.” The main text on the center is the result of a CharRNN model trained with five key texts from the late French philosopher Paul Virilio. The comments that appear throughout the map follow the same approach but are trained instead using the comments from the subreddit r/LateStageCapitalism.

SOURCES

All source data sets were used under the notion of “fair use.” ML Models trained with various Paul Virilio’s texts and comments from r/LateStageCapitalism. The following libraries and tools make this project possible:

- p5.js
- ml5.js
- ASCII Art
- html2Canvas
- Processing

<https://p5js.org>
<https://ml5js.org>
<https://www.tetoki.eu/asciart>
<https://html2canvas.hertzen.com>
<https://processing.org>

TESTING

I thoroughly tested this version of the system in a desktop (iMac late 2018) and a laptop configuration (Macbook Pro 2014, Macbook Pro 2020) using the Chrome, Safari, Firefox, and Opera browsers.

Book page generation does not work properly on Safari. Please use Chrome, Firefox, or Opera to generate the five unique pages.



BOOK MODE

When the system receives a seed and a valid page number, the system enters into 'book mode.' 'Book mode' was completely programmed from scratch. A new U.I.X. displays to the user while in 'book mode.' The entire system now draws into a <div> that will be exported after the page population ends.

I conceived each page number with a specific layout in mind. Every page is unique.

CHANGES SINCE SUBMISSION DATE (11/01):

OFFLINE MODE

- All the webpage runs now without an internet connection (offline mode). The system uses the following fire extensions: HTML, CSS, JS, JPG, TXT.
- All web fonts now load from a local server.
- The prototype code executed in-browser object detection using the COCO SSD data set. All the detection results are now saved as a raw text file improving performance and reliability (no memory issues).
- The in-browser comment generator used an R.N.N. Neural Network trained with thousands of comments from the subreddit r/LateStageCapitalism. A version of this software saved over five hundred AI-generated comments into raw text files.
- The pre-trained model using selected works from the late thinker Paul Virilio generated sixty-one different results. These results are now saved as text files.
- The image data set almost double its size. The system nows displays two hundred and fifty images.
- All ASCII readings of the source photographs are now txt files, ready for future use.

SOUND

- Instead of loading any other sound externally, all sounds are synthesized in the browser.
- A Perlin noise now controls the cutoff frequency of a low pass filter applied to the ambient background sound.
- The ‘detection/human found’ sound now is panned according to its position in the canvas. If an object appears on the left, the sound plays on the left channel.
- New sounds now play every time the system outputs data to the HTML canvas. These sounds have an extremely short attack and release to achieve a ‘clipping’ character.

VISUAL UPGRADES
AND OTHER CHANGES

- The system now AutoScrolls after the HTML is big enough.
- New HTML visual outputs are now available.
- The autoscrolling feature can be deactivated by the user with a button on the screen’s top-left corner.
- The About page has been slightly redesigned.
- Font families are now credited on the about page.
- If the system does not see any detection results, a cross mark ‘x’ will appear on the main p5.js canvas.
- I decided not to include further interaction in this version of the piece. The map-generator does not require any user input to create new cartographies.
- The system now has a favicon.
- A Processing code reads all source photographs and detection results to save a new interpretation of these images in PNG, JPG, and PDF format.
- V1.0 of this system addressed multiple bugs and other fixes.

BOOK MODE

- When the system receives a seed and a valid page number, the system enters into ‘book mode.’
- ‘Book mode’ was completely programmed from scratch.
- A new UI displays to the user while in ‘book mode.’ The entire system now draws into a <div> that will be exported after the page population ends.
- I conceived each page number with a specific layout in mind.
- Every page is unique.