

# Digitizing the Prison: The Light and Dark Future



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Knight, Victoria

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Abstract

This article takes a rather unusual form blending an interview with my own reflections on the digitization of our prisons. Its focus is based on an interview with Steven van de Steene<sup>1</sup> who is a corrections technology expert. He previously led the design, development and implementation of Belgium's PrisonCloud2 for the Federal Public Services Justice as IT Director. Heralded as innovative, PrisonCloud has received much attention from other countries, especially those aspiring to develop their own prisons' digital capability. To date the Belgium's PrisonCloud implementation still remains one of the only catch all digital provision that prisoners can access, other examples are closely following and different technologies are ready to support this intergrated approach. In this interview Steven draws our attention to important features of digitization identifying the successes and challenges for making this valuable transition within the context of the prison. Steven's insights provide us with some thoughts on prisons of the future.

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Cardboard Prison: Dark breaks out of prison quite easily with the help of his Royal Death Note. Charles Atlas Superpower: Like much of the story's craziness, this trope is not evident in earlier chapters; however, nearly all of the primary and secondary characters perform ridiculously superhuman feats at some point or another. Chronic Backstabbing Disorder: An endemic disease in the Light and Dark universe. Blud manages to quintuple-cross Dark, before Dark double-crosses him back. Cluster F-Bomb. Dark is his own father. He had sex with his mother/wife from the future who went to the past (with his amnesiac self). Or something. When Dark kills L, Blud (seemingly) betrays him by using his Life Note to bring L back to life. Dark is arrested and sent to prison. Digitizing the Hanging Court. The Proceedings of the Old Bailey is an epic chronicle of crime and vice in early London. Now anyone can search all 52 million words. The Old Bailey (in 1809) was the venue for more than 100,000 criminal trials between 1674 and 1834, including all death penalty cases. (Mary Evans Picture Library). By Guy Gugliotta. Built in 1539 next to Newgate Prison, the justice hall was nicknamed after its address on Old Bailey Street, where London's "bailey," or wall, once marked the city's Roman boundaries. Meanwhile, the team has obtained enough new grant money to digitize the proceedings of the Old Bailey's successor, the Central Criminal Court, whose 100,000 trial records begin in 1834 and go to 1913. These should come on-line in 2008. Psalm 107:10 Some sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, prisoners in misery and chains, Isaiah 29:18 On that day the deaf will hear the words of the scroll, and out of the deep darkness the eyes of the blind will see. Isaiah 35:5 Then the eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Isaiah 49:9 to say to the prisoners, 'Come out,' and to those in darkness, 'Show yourselves.' Isaiah 49:9 That thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Shew yourselves. They shall feed in the ways, and their pastures shall be in all high places. Lexicon. to open [לִפְתּוֹחַ](#) (liḵ-qō-aḥ) Preposition-l | Verb - Qal - Infinitive construct Strong's Hebrew 6491: To open, to be observant. the eyes [עֵינַיִם](#) ('ê-na-yim) Noun - cd Strong's Hebrew 5869: An eye, a fountain.