Digitizing the Prison: The Light and Dark Future

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 who is a corrections technology expert. He previously led the design, development and implementation of Belgium’s PrisonCloud 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 integrated 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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