

The Influence War

Two machines. One room.

THE CONVERGENCE
commercial + civic
the first shared room

For a century, two data machines grew side by side. One was built to MOVE you — advertising, brokers, the commercial attention market. The other was built to FIX you in place — records, rolls, the administrative state. They never shared a room. The hyperscale-AI era is the first time they can: collected by one, joined by a model, acting at machine speed.

THE COMMERCIAL MACHINE

built to move you

ad-tech, data brokers, the attention market — optimizing what you'll click, buy, and feel.

THE CIVIC MACHINE

built to fix you in place

IDs, rolls, benefits, records — the slow administrative state that says who you officially are.

HOW THEY ENDED UP IN THE SAME ROOM



FIELD EVIDENCE — AUTOMATED & PREDICTIVE POLICING

where it runs · where it's already restricted

US	United States	Predictive policing (PredPol/Geolitica) at ~40 agencies since 2012;	deployed
CN	China	ALPR networks nationwide, facial-recognition patrols & integrated police data platforms at national scale.	deployed
UK	United Kingdom	Police piloted algorithmic risk-scoring tools (e.g. Durham HART) before charge.	piloted
IN	India	Hyderabad & others ran facial-recognition / predictive-surveillance pilots.	piloted
NL	Netherlands	Risk systems deployed, then partly halted after the 2020 SyRI court ruling.	restricted
EU	European Union	AI Act Art. 5 (in force Feb 2025) bans predicting crime from profiling alone.	restricted

Two facts hold at once: the capability is real and already running in some places — and elsewhere it is already written into law as a line not to cross. The future here is not fixed. It is being chosen, jurisdiction by jurisdiction.

THE OPEN QUESTION

When both machines finally share one room — can the government control what it has built? Does it want to? Or is it, like the rest of us, still only trying to understand it?

This is your receipt.

infera.live · the receipt the other thousand systems never give you

Sources: AP, Reuters, Wired, ProPublica, MIT Technology Review, Human Rights Watch, Internet Freedom Foundation, District Court of The Hague (SyRI, 2020), Regulation (EU) 2024/1689. Editorial; sourced where claimed, labeled where modeled. © Infera 2026.