

Japan's NEC rolls out counterfeit-spotting technology

TOKYO, JAPAN: Japan's NEC on Monday unveiled a technology that sniffs out even the most convincing counterfeits by reading microscopic patterns on everything from a luxury purse to a metal bolt...



Fake CDs being destroyed in Brazil. NEC claims its new technology will make identifying fake goods a lot easier. (Image: Agencia Brasil, via Wikimedia Commons)

The technology can be also be used to trace the origin of mass-produced offerings by reading so-called "object fingerprints", or three-dimensional surface irregularities, the firm said.

"You can identify offspring that come from the same parental mould," said Toshihiko Hiroaki, assistant general manager at NEC's Information and Media Processing Laboratories.

"If you take a close look, you can tell one child from another."

The technology could let a customs official, for example, snap a smartphone picture of a specific spot on an object which is then instantly matched - or not - to a manufacturers' pre-registered image.

A genuine article can be matched with the time and location where it was produced, NEC said.

Hiroaki noted that the trade in counterfeit goods is estimated to reach into the hundreds of billions of dollars a year, and that a fake or defective part could have serious consequences for finished products.

The technology is currently in the testing phase and the firm plans to release a commercial version next year.

Source: AFP, via I-Net Bridge

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