

Government looks at EyeDetectors

By [Bavita Gopaulchan](#)

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Reporter [Bavita Gopaulchan](#) undergoes the EyeDetect exam as administered by chief executive officer of Converus, [Todd Mickelson](#). Also in the picture is cameraman [Kevin Maharaj](#).

[Brent Pinhero](#)

There is a new technology that uses your eyes to detect when you are lying.

It is something the government is said to be looking to incorporate in the law enforcement system.

EyeDetect has been around for almost six years however, it was only launched in this country on Tuesday.

Chief Executive Officer of Converus, [Todd Mickelson](#) said more companies and governments are moving towards EyeDetect, a technology that uses a person's eye behaviour to determine whether or not they are lying.

During an interview with Guardian Media, [Mickelsen](#) said, "Some of our clients, particularly our Government clients are running tens of thousands of tests because they use it as a pre-employment screening tool".

He said it is also used for "things such as ties to organized crime and drug cartels, history of drug use, maybe a history of other related crimes to stealing or accepting bribes".

T&T is the third country in the Caribbean region to begin using EyeDetect.

[Mickelsen](#) noted agencies in Jamaica and Barbados have been utilizing this method of testing in their employment process for just over a year.

Already he, said, many local private companies have expressed interest in the technology.

In fact, he told us government agencies are also looking to invest.

[Mickelsen](#) said, "There are a couple of groups within the government that have expressed interest and will be meeting with them later this week to get more into the details of that".

He added, "both from a screening standpoint of vetting employees but, also from a standpoint of having a more effective tool for doing investigations".

According to [Della Harripaul-Ganesh](#), Converus's local service partner, she was told legislation is expected to go before Cabinet soon to allow technologies like EyeDetect to be incorporated into the public sector.

But how does EyeDetect work?

EyeDetect measures changes in pupil diameter, eye movement, reading behaviour among other things as participants answer several questions.

Using an infrared camera and algorithm, the participant's credibility score is calculated. The results are then uploaded to a web server for immediate scoring. Only those authorized, can see if the person has lied or not.

The CEO of Converus admitted there have been instances where EyeDetect gave an inaccurate result. He suggested that the device be used in conjunction with polygraph testing.

[Mickelsen](#) said, "If you give someone a test on the same topic for polygraph and EyeDetect and you get the same result, there is a 99% probability that you got it right".

He noted that people have also tried to cheat the test.

According to him, "The more common approach to try to beat it is persons will take drugs beforehand to cause their eyes to not respond and we have done hundreds of thousands of these tests so we have a bank of data".