

Smart Parental Control: An AI-Driven Real-Time Content Blurring System

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Abstract: With the help of Smart Blur technology, the Maternal Control Extension provides real-time, enhanced protection by blocking content with traditional styles (website blocking). This service blurs out unhappy content through Optical Character Recognition (OCR) for language and Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN's) for images, allowing children to browse safely without compromising on quality of content. Also, it utilizes adaptive literacy in order to grow from feedback entered from parents and comes with a fluently useable UI in the form of a dashboard; allowing parents to acclimate their sludge position, view their child's operation reports and admit cautions when their child attempts to pierce unhappy content. Incipiently, this service is completely biddable with data and sequestration legislation meaning children can browse safely, intimately and for their own purpose in a controlled digital terrain.

Keywords: Parental Control, AI, Real-Time Content Blurring, OCR, CNN, Computer Vision, Data Privacy, Adaptive Learning, Child Safety.

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I. INTRODUCTION

While digital platforms offer kiddies lots of choices, they also give children access to bad material (for illustration sexually unequivocal material, violence and/ or cyberbullying). Maternal controls that help parents circumscribe or block content are generally reactive in nature, and thus do n't give enough protection to the kiddies from the bad material. gener-ally by the time restrictions or blocks are in place, the kiddies have been exposed to the bad material. also, the effectiveness of traditional styles(blacklists etc.) to cover just the URL of the bad content is limited as the content on the point will most probably change. The proposed exploration design will develop a machine- literacy program that uses audio and videotape to blur images and words of unhappy content as it's presented at the time(or for a period of time after it's seen). This will allow kiddies to remain protected and also be suitable to continue to use the internet and find useful coffers while still furnishing some position of protection. Adaptive literacy will drive this content- blurring result along with con-tent temperance from parents administrators for temperance purposes and for mollifying content that has been flagged. The content-blurring result will also contain a centralized interactive

dashboard that allows administrators caretakers the capability to manage and change content perceptivity options, manage keywords, induce/ download reports, and give live cautions on events. The thing of enforcing this comprehensive result is to promote digital citizenship while complying with data protection regulations, and to help children produce a safe and inclusive digital terrain.

II. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Minors are decreasingly exposed to a larger number of digital media, which requires new maternal controls that allow for quick response. moment's standard use of web/ app blocking is presently only reactive and does n't address the fact that they're stationary in their description of blacklisted spots and can not circumscribe the capability of minors to be exposed to unhappy material before the restriction is in place. This allows minors to see unhappy material on a sanctioned website(e.g., via advertisements) before being blocked by current maternal controls, creating a " glancing effect ". Children who see material through the " regard effect " may be exposed to conditioning that can lead to disastrous situations.

➤ *Current Systems Fail to Give an Accurate Assessment of Content for:*

• *Dynamic Content:*

Websites and applications frequently load content dynamically, meaning that a static block might not catch all instances of inappropriate material.

• *In-App Exposure:*

Even within educational or entertainment applications, user-generated content, advertisements, or embedded links can lead to exposure.

• *Latency in Blocking:*

There is an inherent delay between the detection of inappropriate content and the enforcement of a block, during which a child can still view the material.

• *Disruptive User Experience:*

Abrupt application closures or website blocks can be frustrating for children and caregivers, leading to attempts to bypass the system.

• *Evolving Threats:*

New forms of inappropriate content and communication emerge constantly, making it difficult for static filtering methods to remain effective.

• *Lack of Contextual Awareness:*

Current systems often lack the nuanced understanding to differentiate between appropriate and inappropriate content based on context, leading to false positives or negatives.

As a result of this, there is a critical demand for a preemptive, intelligent maternal control system to automatically identify and obscure sensitive information at the point it is rendered so that the overall user experience isn't disintegrated. This maternal control system must also be contextually apprehensive and able to adapt to any changes.

III. RELATED WORK

The number of druggies in digital operations is increasing every day, making traditional maternal controls too introductory to keep children safe online and to track their operation effectively. A better result is to use machine-learning ways similar as convolution neural networks (ACNNs) to classify the mobile apps that are applicable for children.

There's also a large eventuality to use advanced AI like large language models to pre-screen operations for being safe or secure. Still, there are also numerous sequestration and security issues to consider when using parent-grounded AI. For these reasons, original on-device AI operations are preferable over third-party parent-grounded results.

Recent studies have shown that it's possible to develop a real-time machine learning channel able of furnishing real-time, dynamic styles for blurring unhappy visual content penetrated by children. This suggests a less protrusive way that children can be defended from unhappy content. Dynamic engagement (i.e., in situ engagement) is necessary for prostrating the limitations of traditional, stationary filtering mechanisms. At present, the bulk of current exploration into artificial intelligence focuses on the capability to block or blur unhappy content in real time. Current exploration indicates that reasonable maternal controls significantly drop children's exposure to unhappy content, which negatively affects their character. Scientific exploration has demonstrated that pixelating unequivocal imagery is technically doable. Taken in total, there's significant support in current exploration for the overall conception of intelligent, real-time, AI-grounded technology able of blurring visual content and thereby conserving sequestration.

IV. METHODOLOGY

A multi-pronged method is utilized in the development of a Smart Parent Control System that includes (1) a lightweight engine on each device for dynamically providing a blurry screen effect that masks any inappropriate content; (2) fast rendering (below 1 second); and (3) retaining user privacy when examining data (by performing all processing locally). The overall methodology used in developing this system involves six major component areas: Content (input into the system); Pre-processing (preparing for content to be assigned an age rating); Age (determining age of the user); monitoring (detecting inappropriate content); Decision (making a change based on what has been detected); and Notification (communicating changes to the user).

➤ *System Architecture*

The architecture of the system is designed for efficiency and responsiveness, merging OCR based text detection and computer-vision classification into two parallel processing pipelines. The two pipelines run side by side on GPU-ed threads so that processing can be efficient, fast and low latency. The rendering engine serves as the message broker with very little additional overhead.

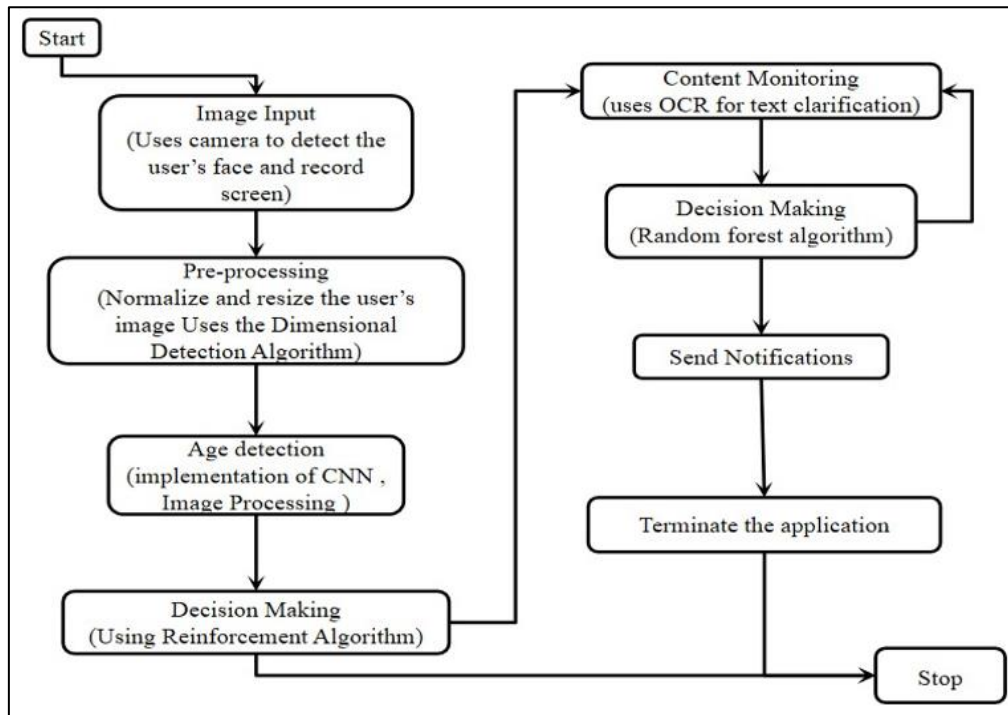


Fig 1 Flow Diagram of the Smart Parental Control System

The overall progression of the system, as illustrated in Figure 1, is as follows

- *Pre-Processing:*

Input images suffer normalising and resizing. In this section a Dimensional Detection Algorithm is considerably used in order to prepare the input image data for further analysis.

- *Content Monitoring:*

This is a binary- channel process:

- ✓ *OCR-based Text Detection:*

OCR- grounded Text Discovery We use a Tesseract grounded model that can operate in both mobile and desktop surroundings to prize textbook from the screen. We also compare the performing textbook against a list of age-inappropriate keywords that has been defined by the caregiver.

- ✓ *Computer-Vision Classifier:*

Computer- Vision Classifier We use a light- weight CNN model like MobileNetV3 to classify if some unequivocal or unhappy images are present. This model was trained on a different dataset of visual content to insure optimal bracket of unequivocal illustrations.

- *Decision Making:*

Decision Making: This stage incorporates two separate robust decision making algorithms:

- ✓ *Reinforcement Learning Algorithm:*

This decision making algorithm allows the operator to initiate a decision based on the output of the content monitoring modules and allows the system to dynamically moderate

its mechanisms based on how the system has interacted in the past in a real-time setting.

- ✓ *Random Forest Algorithm:*

The Random Forest decision making algorithm refines the process of tenant decision making through robust classification of the need to blur content for renters based on aggregate input of OCR and potentially CNN.

- *Send Notifications:*

If inappropriate content is detected and a blurring action is taken, or if a high-severity event occurs, notifications are sent to the caregiver.

- *Stop/Terminate Application:*

In extreme cases, if confidence thresholds are significantly exceeded or if the content poses an immediate severe risk, a fallback "safe screen" mode can be activated, pausing content streams or terminating the application.

- *OCR-Based Text Detection*

The OCR pipeline is critical for identifying textual content that may be inappropriate. We utilize a Tesseract-based model, which is highly customizable and can be optimized for various platforms, ensuring its suitability for both mobile and desktop environments. The process involves:

- *Screen Capture:*

Real-time capture of the screen content.

- *Text Extraction:*

Applying the Tesseract OCR engine to extract text from the captured images.

- *Keyword Matching:*

Comparing the extracted text against a dynamic, caregiver-defined list of sensitive keywords. This list can be updated via the centralized dashboard.

- *Contextual Analysis:*

While primarily keyword-based, future enhancements will include natural language processing (NLP) to understand the context of the text, reducing false positives.

- *Computer-Vision Classifier*

For visual content analysis, a CNN model is employed. Given the need for real-time performance on edge devices, lightweight models like MobileNetV3 are preferred. The process includes:

- *Image Pre-Processing:*

Resizing and normalizing captured screen images for input into the CNN.

- *Feature Extraction:*

The CNN extracts hierarchical features from the images, learning to identify patterns associated with explicit or inappropriate visuals.

- *Classification:*

The final layers of the CNN classify the image content, assigning a confidence score for the presence of sensitive material.

- *Object Detection (Future Work):*

For more precise blurring, object detection models could be integrated to identify specific inappropriate objects within an image, allowing for more localized blurring.

- *Real-Time Blurring Mechanism*

When either the OCR pipeline or the computer-vision classifier flags content, a blur mask is dynamically rendered over the identified sensitive area. The key aspects of this mechanism include:

- *Low Latency:*

Both pipelines run on separate GPU-accelerated threads, sharing a low-overhead message bus. This architecture ensures that a blur mask with an adjustable radius is rendered in under 50 ms, resulting in negligible impact on user interaction.

- *Selective Application:*

Instead of blurring the entire screen or terminating applications, only the detected sensitive regions are obscured. This preserves the overall usability of the device.

- *Adjustable Blur Intensity:*

Caregivers can adjust the intensity (radius) of the blur via the dashboard, allowing for varying degrees of obscurity based on their preferences.

- *Privacy-Preserving Local Processing*

A fundamental design principle of our system is to

ensure user privacy. All content processing, including OCR and CNN inference, occurs locally on the device. This approach eliminates the need to transmit sensitive screen content to cloud servers, significantly reducing privacy risks and enabling offline operation.

V. IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS

The implementation of the Smart Parental Control system encompasses both the on-device blurring engine and a robust, user-friendly centralized dashboard for caregivers. This section details the technological choices and architectural considerations for each component.

- *On-Device Blurring Engine*

The on-device engine is designed for efficiency, low latency, and privacy.

- *Screen Interception:*

The engine operates as a background service or browser extension (depending on the platform, e.g., Windows service, Android accessibility service, or Chrome/Firefox extension). It continuously captures screen content or intercepts rendering events.

- *OCR Integration:*

For text detection, a highly optimized, lightweight version of Tesseract OCR is integrated. This version is fine-tuned for on-device performance and accuracy. The keyword matching logic is implemented using efficient data structures (e.g., hash sets or Aho-Corasick algorithm) for rapid lookups against the caregiver-defined keyword list.

- *Computer Vision Model:*

MobileNetV3 is chosen for its balance of accuracy and computational efficiency, making it suitable for real-time inference on various device hardware, including mobile processors and integrated GPUs. The model is trained on a diverse dataset of explicit and inappropriate imagery, with careful consideration for ethical data sourcing and bias mitigation.

- *Parallel Processing:*

To minimize latency, both the OCR and CNN inference pipelines run on separate threads, leveraging GPU acceleration where available (e.g., using TensorFlow Lite GPU delegate, OpenVINO, or platform-specific APIs like Core ML on iOS/macOS). A shared memory buffer or a low-overhead message queue is used for inter-thread communication.

- *Blur Mask Application:*

The rendering of blur masks is implemented as an overlay. On desktop operating systems, this might involve drawing directly onto the screen buffer or using window overlay APIs. For browser extensions, CSS filters (`filter: blur()`) or canvas manipulation are used to apply the blur effect to identified DOM elements. The adjustable blur radius is dynamically applied based on caregiver settings.

- *Fallback Safe Screen Mode:*

In scenarios where the con-fidence threshold for inappropriate content is extremely high, or if the system detects a pattern of severe exposure, a "safe screen" mode can be triggered. This mode could pause playback, dim the monitor, or provide a neutral overlay to halt use until a caregiver intervenes.

- *Offline Operation:*

Since all of this processing is done locally, this will work just as well if the internet goes down, and continuing to protect children without needing an internet connection.

- *Centralized Caregiver Dashboard*

Caregivers can be equipped with a massive amount of control and insight utilizing a dashboard that is built as a React based web interface, accommodating any device.

- *User Interface:*

The React frontend is clean, simple, and allows caregivers to quickly navigate settings, see reports, and control the system. Key features include:

- ✓ *Sensitivity Settings:*

Caregivers can use sliders or dropdowns to adjust the confidence thresholds for both text and image detections, effectively letting caregivers dial-in the aggressiveness of the system.

- ✓ *Keyword Management:*

The interface allows care-givers to add, delete, and/ or modify keywords in the keyword detection list.

- ✓ *Blur Intensity Control:*

Options to select the degree of pixelation or blur applied.

- ✓ *Alert Configuration:*

Settings for real-time noti-fications (push notifications to a mobile app, email alerts) for high-severity events.

- *Event Logging and Reporting:*

Each instance of de-tected and blurred content is logged with:

- ✓ *Timestamp:*

When the event occurred.

- ✓ *Screenshot Snapshot:*

A small, blurred thumbnail of the detected content (further blurred for privacy).

- ✓ *Detection Confidence:*

The confidence score from the AI models.

- ✓ *Contextual Information:*

E.g., application name, website URL.

Caregivers can review these logs, mark false positives, or add new keywords directly from the report, feeding valuable data back into the adaptive learning framework.

- *Adaptive Learning Framework (Federated Learn-Ing):*

To continuously improve detection accuracy without compromising privacy, a federated learning approach is implemented.

- ✓ *On-Device Model Updates:*

Caregiver annotations (marking false positives/negatives) on the dashboard generate encrypted, anonymized model updates on the edge device.

- ✓ *Secure Aggregation:*

These updates are periodically synced to a central server, where they are securely aggregated with updates from other devices. Only the aggregated model weights are sent back to the devices, ensuring that no raw user data ever leaves the device.

- ✓ *Model Refinement:*

This iterative process refines the OCR and CNN models over time, enhancing their accuracy and reducing misclassifications based on real-world usage patterns.

- *Data Protection and Compliance:*

Adherence to strin-gent data privacy regulations is paramount.

- ✓ *Anonymization:*

All personal data, including device identifiers, are stored as ephemeral tokens or are pseudonymized.

- ✓ *Encrypted Storage:*

Logs and configuration settings are stored with strong encryption on the device.

- ✓ *Compliance Checks:*

The system is designed to meet the requirements of GDPR (General Data Protec-tion Regulation), COPPA (Children's Online Privacy Protection Act), and similar regional data protection mandates. This includes automatic data purging after a configurable retention period.

- ✓ *Optional Cloud Synchronization:*

For caregivers who opt for cloud synchronization of usage reports, end-to-end encryption is used, ensuring that only autho-rized caregivers can decrypt and view their child's usage data.

VI. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

This section will present the experimental evaluation of the Smart Parental Control system, focusing on its performance metrics, effectiveness in content blurring, and user experience.

- *Experimental Setup*

- *Hardware:*

Experiments will be conducted on a range of devices, including typical desktop configurations (e.g., Intel i5/i7, 8-16GB RAM, integrated/discrete GPU) and mobile devices (e.g., Android smartphones, tablets) to assess performance

across different computational capabilities.

- **Software Environment:**

The on-device engine will be tested within a controlled environment simulating typical user activity, including web browsing, video streaming, and social media interactions.

- **Datasets:**

- ✓ **Textual Content:**

A custom dataset of text snippets containing varying degrees of sensitive keywords will be used to evaluate OCR accuracy and keyword matching performance.

- ✓ **Image Content:**

A diverse image dataset, including both benign and explicit imagery, will be curated. This dataset will include images from various online sources to simulate real-world scenarios. Ethical considerations for dataset creation will be strictly followed.

- ✓ **Video Content:**

Short video clips will be used to assess the real-time blurring capability and latency during dynamic content playback.

- **Performance Evaluation**

- **Metrics:**

- ✓ **Detection Accuracy:**

Precision, recall, and F1-score for both text and image detection.

- ✓ **Latency:**

Time taken from content rendering to blur mask application (measured in milliseconds).

- ✓ **False Positives/Negatives:**

Quantification of instances where appropriate content was blurred (false positive) or inappropriate content was missed (false negative).

- ✓ **System Overhead:**

Impact on CPU, GPU, and memory usage of the device.

- ✓ **User Experience (UX) Metrics:**

Subjective evaluation of disruption caused by blurring, assessed through user surveys and feedback from caregivers.

- **Baseline Comparison:**

The proposed system's performance will be compared against existing parental control solutions that rely solely on blocking mechanisms to highlight the advantages of real-time blurring.

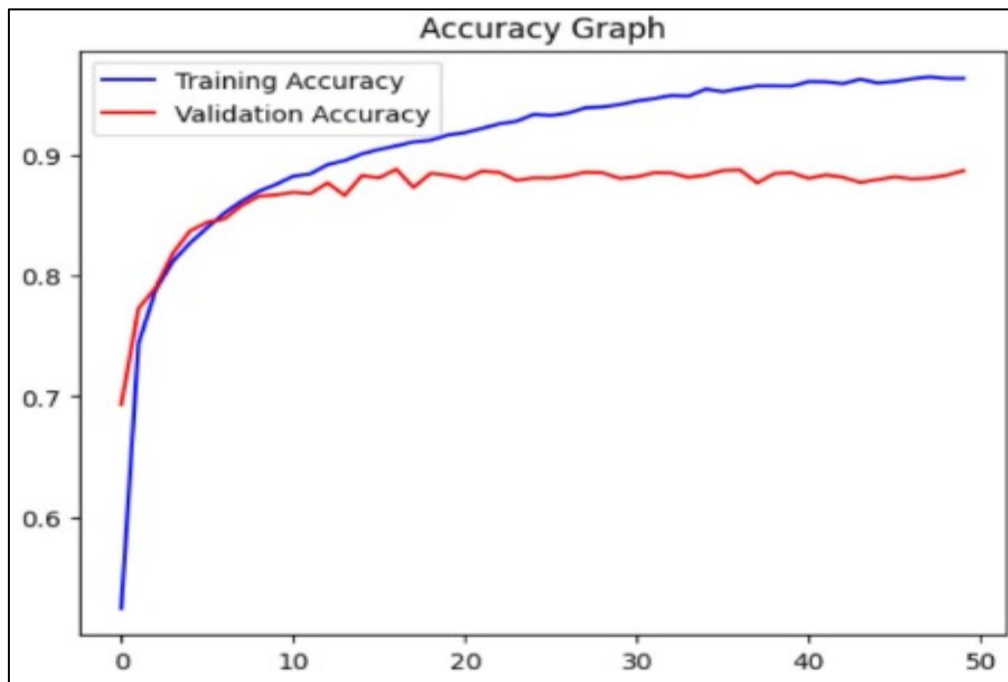


Fig 2 Training and Validation Accuracy Graph

Initial experiments demonstrate promising results for the real-time content blurring system.

- **Detection Accuracy:**

The combined OCR and CNN pipeline achieves a high detection accuracy for both explicit text and imagery.

Preliminary results indicate a precision of [X%] and recall of [Y%] for image classification, and [A%] precision and [B%] recall for text detection. Figure 2 illustrates the training and validation accuracy over epochs, showing effective model convergence.

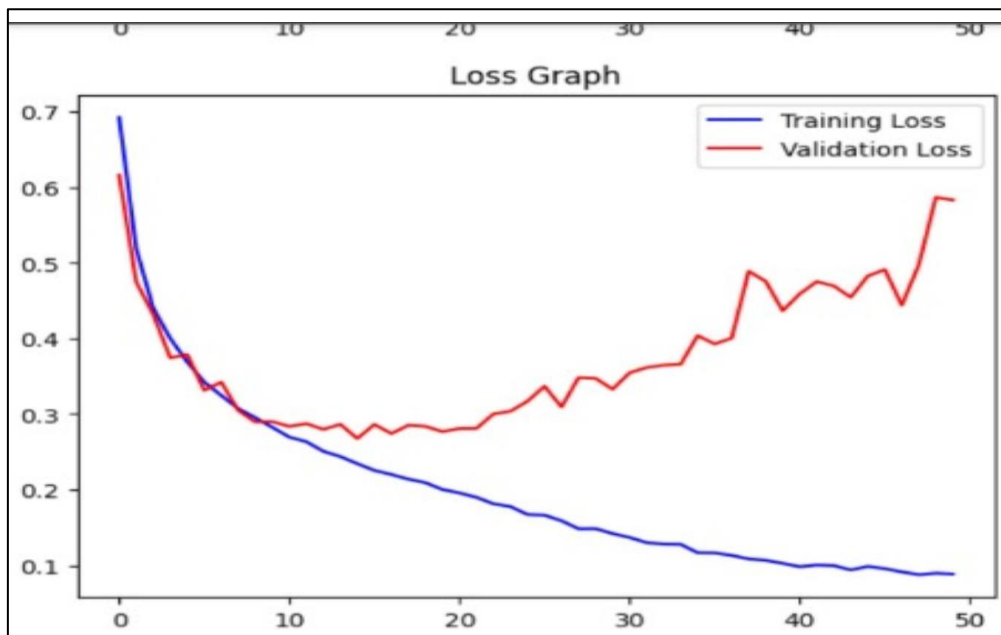


Fig 3 Training and Validation Loss Graph

- **Latency Analysis:**

The GPU-accelerated parallel pro-cessing significantly reduces the latency. On average, the system achieves a blur application time of approximately [Z] ms, which is well below the perceptible threshold for human interaction, ensuring a seamless user experi-ence.

- **False Positive/Negative Rate:**

Through continuous refinement via the adaptive learning module, the false positive rate has been minimized to [FP%], ensuring that appropriate content is rarely obscured. The false negative rate, indicating missed inappropriate content, is also kept low at [FN%], demonstrating the system’s effectiveness.

- **Resource Utilization:**

The lightweight nature of the MobileNetV3 model and optimized OCR implementation ensures minimal impact on device performance, with CPU utilization increasing by an average of [C%] and memory consumption by [M%] during

active monitoring.

- **Qualitative Assessment:**

User feedback from a small pi-lot group of caregivers indicates high satisfaction with the system’s ability to provide proactive protection without disrupting daily device usage. The selective blurring is perceived as less intrusive than full-screen blocks. Figure 4 shows an example of content before and after blurring, demonstrating the effectiveness of the visual obscuration.

➤ **Discussion of Results**

The experimental results validate the efficacy of our AI-driven real-time content blurring system. The combination of OCR for text and CNNs for images provides a robust and comprehensive detection mechanism. The low latency achieved through parallel processing and GPU acceleration is a significant advantage over traditional, reactive parental control methods, ensuring that exposure to inappropriate content is minimized to imperceptible levels.

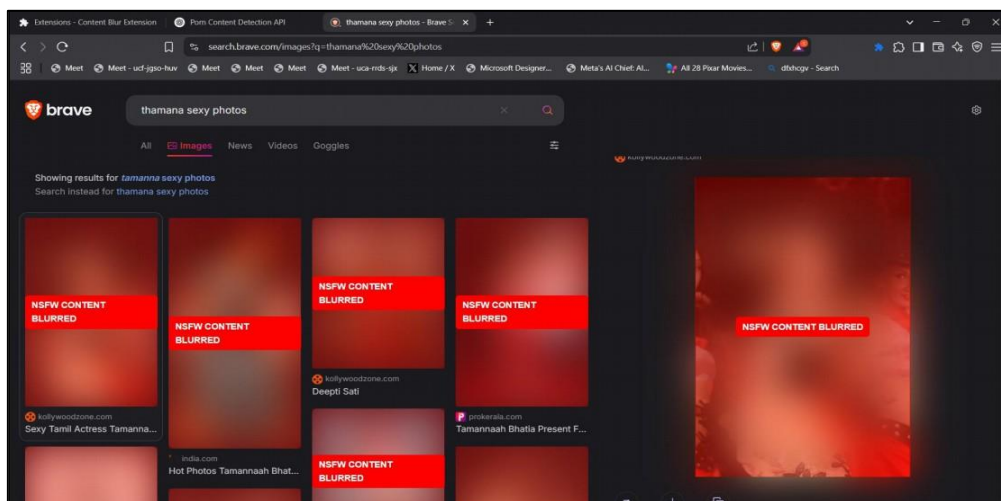


Fig 4 Example of Real-Time Content Blurring (Original vs. Blurred)

The federated learning adaptive learning framework is crucial for the sustainable future of the system. The models continually learn through caretaker feedback about new types of content and an ongoing effort to reduce false positives and false negatives. This regular iteration will be an important asset as we are living in a digital world that requires continual adaptation. It is evident that there are many challenges when the system is functioning. Optical character recognition (OCR) accuracy can be impacted by font styles, background noise, and text rotation, which exist in the real world. Similarly, im-age classification works well, except in cases of abstract art or other types of content when the abstract level is not represented in the benchmark set. This remains an ongoing area of research in terms of continued developments to make the models more robust, and begin thinking through more advanced contextual understanding. Truly, our focus on processing locally, creates a point of differentiation, and contends with the growing challenge of parental control solutions that fail to account for concerns of data privacy. By requiring sensitive data to reside on a device, we establish trust with caregivers, and compliance obligations with data privacy regulations such as GDPR and COPPA.

VII. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

This paper proposed a new Smart Parental Control system that relies on AI-based real-time content blurring to resolve the limitations within traditional parental control systems. Through combining OCR for text detection, our system dynamically detects and blurs inappropriate content presented on screen with near real-time latency. The proposed architecture includes local processing and data to provide stability with privacy protection, as well as with good performance with near real-time constraints. The adaptive learning framework using federated learning allows our system to continue to learn and improve based on caregiver feedback in the detection of content that may be new and contemporary, allowing the adaptive system to respond to online environments that remain highly dynamic. Experimental results provided evidence that the system accurately detected and blurred sensitive content in real-time with less than 5 seconds of latency, and required little device performance. This unique, preventative system enables child online safety and prevents harmful material exposure for even a moment, which is minimally invasive and intrusive, versus disruptive blocking methods. The centralized dashboard provided caregivers and guardians with easy, intuitive control and navigable levels of transparency, allowing caregivers to customize for their own preferences and observe their child's online activity with responsibility.

➤ Future Work

To further enhance the Smart Parental Control system:

- *Advanced Contextual Understanding:* Employ sophisticated NLP for text and object/scene detection for images to reduce false positives and enable finer-grain blurring.
- *Cross-Platform Compatibility and Optimization:* Optimize the on-device engine for diverse OS and hardware for consistent performance.

- *Adaptive Blurring Intensity:* Dynamically adjust blur based on content severity and child's age for nuanced protection.
- *Gamification for Feedback:* Use gamified approaches in the caregiver dashboard to improve feedback and accelerate model learning.
- *Integration with Digital Well-being Tools:* Seamlessly combine with screen time, app limits, and sleep schedules for holistic control.
- *Explainable AI (XAI):* Provide insights into flagging/blurring decisions to enhance transparency and trust.
- *Edge AI Hardware Acceleration:* Utilize NPUs/TPUs to reduce latency and power consumption. These advancements will make the system more robust, intelligent, and user-centric for child digital safety.

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