



Digital Evidence Management

Secure storage, management and sharing of digital evidence specifically developed for the UK police environment. Saves officer time collecting images, reduces court case adjournments, ensures security of digital evidence, provides a pay back within two years of deployment.

In recent years there has been a huge increase in public, business and personal CCTV use. This combined with the mass adoption of smartphones, dash cams, growth of social media and the adoption of body worn cameras by frontline officers presents both opportunity and challenge for UK police forces. These broad ranging sources of digital evidence, photographs, images and video offer better investigative opportunities for law enforcement.

However, the challenge this proliferation of digital evidence presents is how to manage and share these huge volumes of data in an efficient and secure manner? This is set against the context of significant budget cuts, legacy IT systems and the increasing demands for frontline policing.

A recently published report from CoPaCC/Police ICT User Perspectives, based on a survey across UK police forces, highlighted the following concerns regarding the management of digital evidence:

'Urgent action is required to manage the proliferation of digital evidence and replace current time consuming and insecure processes.'

'Duplication of data entry into as many as six different systems'

'Data quality at risk from duplication and no one system.'

'Poor provision of Digital Evidence Management.'

Working with UK based specialist policing software application provider Innaxys and in consultation with UK police forces, telent have brought together a digital evidence management solution that has been designed specifically for the needs of UK police forces. The solution is available as a managed service from telent and provides functionality to securely collect, store, analyse, manage and share digital evidence. The solution provides 100% UK sovereignty of the storage of digital evidence with all data encrypted and held securely on telent's PSN accredited and UK-based cloud platform.

Cost Savings

The cost savings provided will be proportional to the size of the police force using it. This is because larger forces need to deal with more incidents which means larger volumes of digital evidence so the opportunity to save both time and money is greater. However, because the solution is a managed service all police forces irrespective of the force size can expect a payback period of under two years. The solution is easily available to all forces via a national police procurement framework.

A study by a medium sized force estimates the reduction in officer time spent collecting CCTV images on DVDs, will save 2,100 officer shifts per annum. The same force also believes a 50% reduction in court case adjournments can be achieved through digital evidence not being misplaced, unavailable when required or even lost.

Collect

Designed to replace current time consuming and insecure processes, the solution will avoid the need for officers to visit businesses and members of the public to collect CCTV and similar evidence on memory sticks and DVDs. When collecting evidence from members of the public, the force can email a link which lets people securely upload their footage from anywhere with an Internet connection.

The solution can hold a database of registered CCTV locations around the force area, providing a targeted and efficient process for the request of relevant material during an investigation.

Store

Assets are securely stored in an evidential format in the system database, indexed according to case, crime or incident references. The original data file cannot be overwritten by subsequent analysis or editing.

Analyse

Specialist features provide advanced analytic capability of the images and videos, including motion detection, object and facial recognition, areas of interest, image enhancement and many more.

Manage

Cases and collections of assets can be organised by investigating officers and displayed as bundles, network diagrams and storyboards. The solutions allow faster processing and sharing of digital evidence with suspects and will reduce "no comment" initial interviews to ensure criminals are more quickly brought to justice.

Share

The solution integrates directly with the Digital Evidence Transfer System (DETS) which will link police forces to the criminal justice system. DETS was also developed by Innaxys and is currently being trialled by the Home Office in conjunction with five police forces across the UK. It is expected to be mandated by the Home Office for use by all police forces in 2020.

Flexible & Future Proof

Within the system the workflows and user profiles/roles can be configured to meet the specific requirements of individual forces, allowing different operational processes and systems across UK police forces to be easily accommodated providing a customisable solution for individual forces. This includes integration with a broad range of other police systems and databases including Athena, Storm and Socrates.

Future proofing the collection and management of evidence with capability for new and innovative media file types and support for the Internet of Things.

Summary

Providing an efficient and secure solution for the collection, storage, management, analysis and sharing of digital evidence delivers forces tangible cost and operational benefits. Saving officer time spent collecting digital assets and re-keying information across multiple systems. Reducing court case adjournments and protecting force reputations through secure and effective management of digital assets, eliminating the risk of digital evidence being destroyed, tampered with, lost or left in public places.