



Law Enforcement

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Leverages Web-Based Biometric and Investigative Technologies to Solve Crime

Agency:

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD)

Industry:

Law Enforcement

Applications:

Biometric, booking and investigative

Challenge:

Enhance and streamline investigative procedures throughout Los Angeles County law enforcement agencies

Solution:

- IWS™ Law Enforcement
- IWS biometric technology
- IWS Web-based investigative capabilities
- Multiple third-party application interfaces
- Oracle RDMS
- Windows-based environment

Results:

Through the use of ImageWare's technologies, Los Angeles County today is recognized as one of the first Counties to implement large-scale, Web-based investigations for use by all of Los Angeles County law enforcement agencies. There are more than 7500 law enforcement users conducting Web-based investigations throughout the County. ImageWare has enabled LASD to:

- Access digitally captured photos for investigative purposes via the Internet and/or wirelessly in the field using a PDA, laptop or MDT (mobile data terminal)
- Utilize IWS biometric technology to conduct Web-based facial recognition searches
- Automatically populate the Cal-Photo database with booking images and data via ImageWare's interface
- Access and search CCHRS application to speed identification of subjects

"IWS biometric technology has become a vital component in assisting our investigators with suspect identification."

- Sgt. Larry Bryant



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Los Angeles County was established on February 18, 1850. Today, Los Angeles County is comprised of 88 cities, 4,084 square miles and a population of approximately 10,103,000 residents. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) is the largest sheriff's department in the world, policing a population of 2.6 million, which covers 37 of the 88 incorporated cities within Los Angeles County and all of the unincorporated County areas. Its mission is to lead the fight to prevent crime and injustice, and enforce the law fairly to defend the rights of all.

Charged with serving and protecting approximately a quarter of the County's population, LASD emphasizes community policing and relies on technology to maximize the effectiveness of its officers.

Challenge:

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department struggles with the same problems plaguing other large cities and counties, such as gang violence, drug trafficking and homeland security. Although LASD was well armed with technology, it was lacking advanced imaging and investigative capabilities that would enhance and streamline investigations. A major area of concern was the availability of digital mug shots. Without this capability, investigators were hampered to search for suspects, create impartial lineups and share data with the County and State electronically. LASD decided it was time to upgrade its investigative capacities and turned to ImageWare Systems (IWS) to provide an integrated solution.

Solution:

ImageWare developed a customized, comprehensive investigative system that enables the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to conduct large-scale or local investigations by leveraging ImageWare's biometric technology and its IWS™ Law Enforcement identification and investigative solution. Through the use of its biometric technology and Web-based investigative capabilities, ImageWare enables LASD to create online mug books and lineups as well as conduct text-based and facial recognition searches via a secure law enforcement

intranet, which includes a wireless network. ImageWare also developed several interconnects that allow LASD to interface with multiple databases that include County records; Cal-Photo, a Statewide network of mug shot and DMV photos; and CCHRS (Consolidated Criminal History Reporting System), a unique application that allows the courts and criminal justice agencies in Los Angeles County to positively identify criminal suspects and defendants, and instantaneously obtain their criminal histories. With these interconnects, LASD is able to share critical information and view specific images directly from the application without accessing different systems separately.

Result:

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"ImageWare's law enforcement and biometric technologies have been invaluable to LASD and the County," states Sgt. Larry Bryant. "It has liberated our investigators from historical, time consuming manual searches and lineup creation. Our investigators now have the ability to conduct real-time searches against Countywide databases including the CCHRS. Additionally, the use of IWS biometric technology has become a vital component in assisting our investigators with suspect identification."