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TRUST THE CLOUD: SAFEGUARD YOUR DATA & STREAMLINE PROCESSES

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In the law enforcement sector, maintaining confidentiality of sensitive information is of the utmost importance. Because law enforcement agencies need to frequently access records to conduct investigations as well as share information with other departments, maintaining data security becomes challenging. To protect against data breaches while allowing data to be accessed and shared with other departments, law enforcement agencies must carefully consider the software and processes used to save and share their data.

So, what is the best solution? In the past, skepticism surrounded the safety and security of cloud-hosted solutions; however, over time, many law enforcement agencies have experienced the peace of mind and increased efficiency provided by cloud-based public safety software. Consequently, many departments now view cloud solutions as the industry standard.

As the head of your agency, you no longer need to lose sleep worrying about potential data leaks or breaches and how they would impact your department. In this guide, we'll discuss cloud-based public safety software solutions and explain how they can provide peace of mind for you, your agency, and your officers.

First, let's examine the key security issues facing your department's data today.

THE RISK OF MODERN SECURITY BREACHES

Your current database houses the law enforcement data your officers collect every day. Over time, this daily accumulation of sensitive information, including incident report and pedigree information, amounts to massive volumes of data that your department must keep both secure and confidential.

Investigative collaboration presents an inherent challenge: it requires departments to share their collected data with one another. However, not all data is necessary to share with other agencies—or even store, for that matter. In the event confidential information were released to the public, your

department would be exposed to a range of consequences. From compromised investigations to libel suits, your department could experience blows to its reputation, safety, and financial soundness.

First and foremost, defending against data breaches requires the implementation of strict data permissions to help prevent unauthorized access. Restrictive data controls are vital to deterring data breaches and potential leaks without inhibiting access by those with permission. Ideally, any records management solution you choose will not only allow you to assign custom sharing agreements for each partner agency but also define the exact fields of data for sharing to enhance security.

Limiting the physical transfer of information is also crucial for safeguarding your data. Cloud solutions that offer strict permission-based access to shared information without requiring any data to leave the system will help ensure your database remains secure.

SELF-HOSTED DATA CONCERNS

Departments not utilizing cloud solutions must manually manage, host, and secure their data. Often, large agencies in major cities can afford their own dedicated IT teams to manage and optimize the servers that host their sensitive information. While most agencies do not have the same breadth of resources, even those serving smaller communities require the ability to access and share data securely.

Regardless of size, digital security must be a top priority for any department. If your department currently hosts its own data, consider the following questions:

- *Who are you designating to take on this task, and is she/he properly trained to handle the changing landscape of cyber security?*
- *Is your anti-virus software up to date?*
- *Does your server have a firewall?*
- *Are backups performed on a regular basis and stored in a secure location?*
- *Are you educating everyone within your agency about best practices for avoiding data breaches?*

Often, without realizing it, many departments expose their data to threats due to a general lack of awareness about proper protocols and procedures or even basic human error.

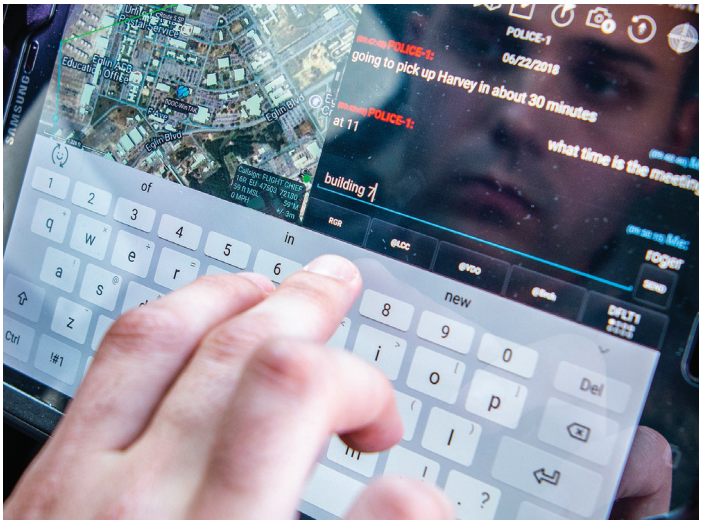
TRUSTING THE CLOUD

Cloud software solutions are the best way for both large and small law enforcement departments to address these security issues. Selecting a software vendor you trust to host your most sensitive information in the cloud will help you do more with your data and worry less about who has access to it. A trusted, cloud-based records management system (RMS) enables you to collect, access, and share crime data in a highly secure manner—a level of security most smaller departments with outdated systems or security measures cannot otherwise achieve.

BETTER SECURITY & OFFICER SAFETY

The ultimate concern for any law enforcement department is protecting their officers and the communities they serve. When managed correctly and communicated quickly and accurately, data can help improve both officer and community safety. Therefore, solutions meant to ensure data security should never hinder an officer's ability to access necessary data, whether in the office or in the field. Rather, the software should provide officers with reliable, instantaneous access to vital information.

A crucial factor for ensuring data accessibility for your officers is the ability of your RMS platform to connect and communicate with the software used by your dispatch center. Selecting integrated records management and computer-aided dispatch (CAD) solutions solves this challenge by streamlining communication between dispatch and your officers. The best options offer tight integration that enables the transmission of all pertinent dispatch details directly into the responsible agency's records management system, making it available for immediate



access by officers. During this process, the CAD software obtains the next sequential report number from the law enforcement agency's RMS and automatically opens and begins populating a new report, simplifying the report writing process for the responding officer.

The use of integrated software also eliminates phone calls and reduces radio traffic, improving security by preventing the use of technology that isn't hosted or supported by a secure server. Integrated public safety solutions facilitate quick, secure sharing of data between agencies to help prevent unauthorized access or accidental exposure of sensitive data.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Data accessibility and sharing help keep officers and their communities safe. But the sheer volume of data and the frequency of its use can place agencies at risk. With the right cloud-hosted solution, your department will be able to securely access and share information as needed to better protect and serve your community. At the end of the day, your main concern is the safety of your officers and how to best enable them to do their jobs. Hosting your department's data in an integrated, secure cloud solution is step one.

Omnigo Software provides fully integrated public safety software offerings that contain everything law enforcement agencies and dispatch centers could need in one easy-to-use system. The software is configurable to each individual agency's needs, no matter the size, and features solutions like records management, computer-aided dispatch, mapping, jail management, report writing, and so much more. To learn about Omnigo's suite of products, visit www.omnigo.com or give us a call at 866.421.2374

ABOUT OMNIGO

Omnigo Software is the leading provider of public safety, incident reporting, and security management solutions for law enforcement, education, healthcare, and other enterprises, offering easy-to-use and flexible applications that provide actionable insight for making more informed decisions.

Omnigo solutions have helped law enforcement and security professionals increase staff productivity by up to 25%, reduce compliance risk, and show measured improvements in safety and security. **To request a free demo, call 1.866.421.2374 or email sales@omnigo.com.**

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