



Ohio Office of the Attorney General

Ohio Attorney General Jim Petro completed an ambitious project to integrate many of the disparate law enforcement databases statewide. With a Novell® Security and Identity solution, 44,000 users now have fast and secure online access to 70 million records.

Overview

The Ohio Office of the Attorney General is the chief law enforcement office for the State of Ohio. With 1,300 employees, one of the office's primary responsibilities is to provide support to 44,000 law enforcement employees in 900+ agencies throughout the state of Ohio.

Challenge

After a string of crimes spanning different jurisdictions, several Ohio law enforcement agencies discovered that they had been investigating similar crimes. Because each agency was working independently, there was no way to link the cases. The Ohio Office of the Attorney General wanted to provide a way for its 900+ law enforcement agencies to share information statewide and improve their ability to solve and prevent crime.

The Office wanted to integrate a variety of applications and databases including driver's license data, court records and criminal investigation tools. To share a large amount of confidential information, the Office needed a security and identity solution that would give users secure access, but not require additional IT staff for ongoing maintenance.

Solution

Ohio Attorney General Jim Petro had a vision of putting all law enforcement information at the fingertips of every law enforcement officer—making everything easily accessible and searchable from a Web browser. The Office of the Attorney General selected a Novell Security and Identity solution consisting of Novell Identity Manager, Novell iChain® and Novell eDirectory™ to provide secure user authentication for a Web-based gateway developed with Microsoft® .NET technology.

"Basically, we wanted to create a 'Google' for law enforcement and security was our number one priority," said Jim Jacob, Assistant CIO for the Ohio Office of the Attorney General. "The Novell solution allowed us to integrate multiple applications and give our users secure single sign-on access to tools that will help them solve and prevent crimes."

The Office integrated 10 Oracle® databases into its Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway, including criminal history information, prison-related records, driver's license information and its sophisticated sex offender database. Users can easily search information by person, location or vehicle.

Ohio Attorney General at a glance:

Ohio's chief legal counsel and chief law enforcement officer

■ Industry:

Government

■ Location:

United States

■ Solutions:

Novell Identity Manager

Novell iChain

Novell eDirectory

■ Results:

- *Integrated law enforcement databases statewide into Web-based gateway*
- *Provided 44,000 users with secure, online access to data from any location*
- *Avoided cost of hiring additional IT staff for user management*

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Jim Jacob

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Ohio Office of the Attorney General



“We look at other states spending millions of dollars to do something similar, but not coming close to what we have. The real return benefit to us is the increased responsiveness of our law enforcement agencies around the state. Just saving one life or solving one crime gives us a 100 percent return on our investment.”

Mary Queen Cool

CIO

Ohio Office of the Attorney General

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“Now we can give our smaller agencies access to the same data as our larger agencies,” said Mary Queen Cool, CIO for the Ohio Office of the Attorney General. “Providing all of our information securely over the Internet helps us serve the smallest, most rural departments in the state at no extra cost.”

Novell eDirectory is the central repository for the user identity information of the state’s 44,000 law enforcement employees. Novell Identity Manager automatically synchronizes changes to this user information across all databases, eliminating the need for manual updating. With such synchronization, the IT staff can provision new users in minutes, giving them access to all relevant resources for their jobs.

“Novell Identity Manager does all the work of updating users across our systems so there was no need to hire additional IT resources,” said Bryce Tuohy, enterprise architect for the Ohio Office of the Attorney General. “We could not have taken on this project if we had to spend all our time maintaining user information.”

With a single user ID and password, law enforcement employees can access information from any standard Web browser whether in an office, a patrol car or at home. Novell iChain provides secure user authentication to the Web-based gateway based on a user’s name, password and identification number, as well as encryption to safeguard confidential information.

“Without Novell Identity Manager, users would have had multiple passwords to access all of the data sources,” said Jacob. “Now everyone has single sign-on access to information. Novell eDirectory is also scalable for us to easily add new users and data sources.”

Results

With a Novell Security and Identity solution, the Ohio Office of the Attorney General fulfilled its vision to give each of its 44,000 users secure, online access to law enforcement information—regardless of agency size or location. The state’s Web-based gateway is already receiving an average of 600,000 visits each month and 120,000 search requests.

Users now have single sign-on access to 70 million records and can search information statewide in a matter of seconds. Police officers can perform searches from their patrol cars, which reduces the amount of time spent calling an office for help. Best of all, the Office completed the project without hiring additional IT resources to maintain it.

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Contact your local Novell Solutions Provider, or call Novell at:

1 888 321 4272 U.S./Canada
1 801 861 4272 Worldwide
1 801 861 8473 Facsimile

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Novell, Inc.

404 Wyman Street
Waltham, MA 02451 USA