



Digital Evidence Management

Supporting Police in aiding Courts to reach a verdict

The effective management and presentation of video, audio and mobile evidence is key to supporting performance improvement in digital evidence gathering, analysis and case preparation and presentation.

The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) has issued guidelines to Police Forces on their priorities when using digital images. The core priority is to support the criminal justice process and assist courts in reaching a verdict. Behind this guiding principle is the need to ensure that forces have a long term strategy in place to manage the capture, analysis, storage and disposal of images which ensures public confidence in the validity of images presented at court.

In addition, the Simple Speedy Summary Justice (CJSSS) programme is promoting new ways of joint working between the Criminal Justice Agencies in order to help better presentation of cases with the aim of speeding up court proceedings and increasing the likelihood of successful outcomes.

These initiatives are inextricably linked by the need for Police Forces to increase the efficiency and effectiveness in the way they deal with and process the ever growing abundance of digital information from an array of sources and partner agencies as well as the general public.

Current methods of analysis and preparation of digital evidence for presentation at court consume many man hours of valuable officer time. For complex cases it can prove difficult to deliver digital evidence in an easily understood fashion that the jury and officers of the court can follow. In the case of volume crime, if this evidence cannot also be processed cost-effectively it puts in question the viability of the case proceeding to court.



Digital Evidence Management

Digital Evidence Management services from Steria and Scyron are the first to cover the entire digital evidence lifecycle – from capture and transmission to management, analysis and presentation, incorporating new business processes and changing people’s way of working. They bring together Scyron’s expertise in intelligent video surveillance and evidence management technology with Steria’s expertise in the management of major policing projects. Steria works with its clients to determine how best to deploy these technologies to deliver improved performance and more efficient and effective ways to present courtroom evidence. The technologies and services deliver the following:

- Integration of surveillance and digital evidence systems with other information systems to create a single information platform for increased information accessibility and collaboration within the organisation and beyond.
- Robust, secure, audit trail that provides full details of any process applied to a digital image and limits editing and processing techniques to only those which make images viewable.
- Ability to align image review, retention and disposal with force MoPI policies
- Intelligent analysis of video and audio evidence that reduces weeks of manual reviewing to hours, increasing the quality of the results while lowering the chance of fatigued operators missing key events.

- The creation of a unified access solution for all digital evidence – video, audio, multimedia, computer file – for ease and effectiveness of sharing and presentation.
- Fast and effective preparation of evidence for use in the custody room or for early and full disclosure to other organisations in the criminal justice system, increasingly the likelihood of a positive outcome prior to trial
- Evidence delivery can be managed ‘on the fly’ while in court – with evidential integrity maintained so reducing the need for adjournment and delay.
- A unified management tool for court presentation eliminates the opportunity for cases to be abandoned due to the court’s inability to accept digital evidence.

As Police Services increasingly seek to release the value of criminal and intelligence information they have currently locked in disparate systems, Steria and Scyron can help deliver a strategic view of ICT systems that increases the sharing of operational information and digital evidence both internally and with other criminal justice bodies. The cost savings and productivity gains of this approach have been impressive in the recent CJSSS project. There was a 70% reduction in interim hearings while there was a 30% increase in guilty pleas.



A major technology step forward

The core of Steria and Scyron's services is an advanced, adaptable data management and intelligent archive and retrieval system that allows evidence information to be securely reviewed and shared. An encrypted audit trail ensures complete integrity of all evidence captured.

Beyond this, both companies have been working closely with Police Services in the UK to add functionality to the system and tailor it for a wide range of operational applications. This enables forces to maximise their use of digital evidence while increasing user productivity and reducing staffing costs. A key element of this has been the delivery of comprehensive solutions that are easy to deploy and operate – requiring minimal training – to provide a viable alternative to the use of expensive video operators and professional video labs.

"A system that produces efficiencies through all parts of an investigation"

This is how DS Andrew Townsend of West Midlands Police describes Scyron's DEMON evidence management technology. West Midlands used DEMON throughout one of the most complex investigations it has ever undertaken. The Aston Riots in Birmingham during 2005 led to 271 crimes and two murders. The software allowed the service to intelligently view and analyse over 5000 hours of CCTV

and, as importantly, prepare evidence for court. Prosecutors were able to reconfigure how this footage was managed and presented while in the courtroom. "If we weren't able to show an individual's movements and reduce that down to a couple of minutes footage, we wouldn't have been able to secure the convictions," says Una Cooke, Head of Major Investigations Unit at West Midlands Police.

The Scyron and Steria approach

Steria and Scyron work in partnership with Police Forces to deliver outcome based solutions that address customer challenges in the areas of officer effectiveness and productivity, meeting performance targets, assisting the CPS in support of the CJSSS initiative and aligning the management of Digital Images within the guidelines recommended by NPIA. Both organisations have a long track record of success in delivering technology based solutions and services to the Police market. Steria has brought together a group of highly experienced sector specialists and skilled technicians with expertise in frontline policing and police information management. Scyron's intelligent surveillance technology is already in daily operation for over 40 of the UK's Police Services. Together, the companies deliver unique and innovative Digital Evidence Management services that improve the ability of a Police Force to make best use of the information it holds in support of crime reduction initiatives, public protection and court prosecutions.





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