NIJ's In Process Review

Regional Pawn Data Sharing System (RPDSS)

May 23, 2005

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Pawn?

Definition: 1. Something given as security for a loan; pledge; guaranty. 2. The condition of being held as a pledge against the payment of a loan.

"Pawn" is <u>not</u> an acronym for Police Authority Wireless Network!

Pawn data?

By law (in most jurisdictions) pawnshops are required to report complete and accurate descriptions of the persons pawning property including their name, address, and identifications numbers from their driver's license, etc.

They must also report information on each item pawned including a detailed description and any identifying numbers or markings.

Failure to accurately report can result in arrest, fines and loss of licenses.

Methods of submission

1. Copies of pawn tickets
   - paper based requires re-entry of the data
   - manual entry by volunteers or investigators
2. Exports from electronic cash registers (POS)
   - Floppy disk
   - email
3. Electronic – real time connections

Data’s value

1. Search by serial number for stolen property
2. Search by description (i.e.; Dell laptop, etc,)
3. Search by suspect’s name, description, etc.
4. Aggregate queries
   - Highest dollar amount pawned
   - Mostly frequent pawner
5. Abnormal behavior (significant increase in laptops being pawned, etc.)

Value of regional system

1. Search against larger database – before the regional system jurisdictions with automated pawn databases could search their data but not their neighbors.
   - Many jurisdictions do have not a database
2. Search across jurisdictions
   - Search for persons who live in your jurisdiction but pawn elsewhere.
   - Find property stolen in one jurisdiction and pawned in another.Search by description (i.e.; Dell laptop, etc.)
3. Aggregate queries with true reflection of activity not just one jurisdiction.

The Project

1. Name: Regional Pawn Data Sharing System (RPDSS)
2. Funding Source: Earmark grant from Congressman Jim Moran
3. Funding Amount: One million dollars
4. Scope: Nineteen jurisdictions (MWCOG members) in and around Washington, DC
5. Contractor: Business Watch International (BWI)
6. COG Committee Chair: Commander Mitch Cunningham
7. Lead technician: Bob Moseley
8. Server host: CapWIN

Regional Pawn Data Sharing System

1. District of Columbia *

Maryland:

2. City of Bowie
3. City of Gaithersburg
4. Prince George's County *
5. City of College Park
6. City of Greenbelt
7. City of Rockville
8. Montgomery County *
9. City of Takoma Park
10. Frederick County

Virginia:

11. City of Alexandria *
12. Fairfax County *
13. Loudoun County
14. Arlington County
15. City of Falls Church
16. Prince William County
17. City of Fairfax
18. City of Manassas
19. City of Manassas Park

* original pilot sites

Other areas actively interested

MD - Baltimore COG (BMC – 6 Counties)

VA - Spotsylvania, Frederick, etc.

Delaware; Tennessee, Florida, Georgia

Regional Pawn Data Sharing System
Implementation Status

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Virginia:

11. City of Alexandria *
12. Fairfax County *
13. Loudoun County
14. Arlington County
15. City of Falls Church
16. Prince William County
17. City of Fairfax
18. City of Manassas
19. City of Manassas Park

* original pilot sites

Blue = currently active (15)

Red = Pending implementation (4)

The Project Spec's

- Web based servers – housed at the CapWIN facility
- Secured Socket Layer (SSL) security
- SQL – data platform
- Independent data regions (one partition for each jurisdiction)
- Electronic import of data using XML and CSS
- Browser based, Windows-like user interface
- Available to users 24/7 from office, home or on the road

The Project's Success

- Success = Cases closures \ arrests being made
- More than 450 users including local investigators as well as regional/federal law enforcement such as FBI, USPP, Metro transit, etc.)
- Glowing reports of satisfaction from the users
- Neighboring jurisdictions pleading to get on the system
- LIEM Technology award runner up (2nd place)

The Project's Special Features

- Automated checking of property serial numbers against NCIC
- Alerts can be set to cause the system to call investigators on their cell phones when a certain action takes place
- Wildcard searching capabilities – search on any field in the database.
- Associate records based on same ID numbers, addresses or phone numbers.
- Investigators can set a manual association for gangs, etc.

The next steps

- June 2 – Governance committee meeting
  - Security – new user agreement
  - Sustainability – legislation needed?
  - Statistics – gathering data
- June 3 – train investigators in Baltimore region.
- Implement the remaining four jurisdictions
- Additional funding for data exchange among servers
- Virginia Tech University evaluation