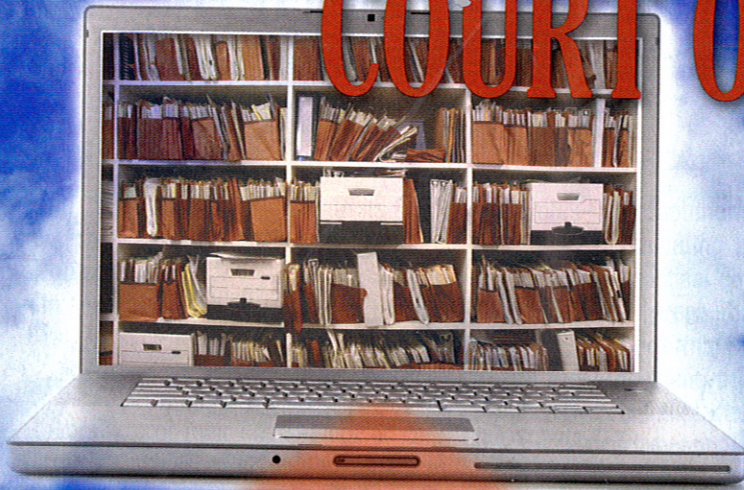




# DEPUTY AND COURT OFFICER

2011 • VOLUME 3 • NUMBER 2



# CLOUD

HOW CLOUD COMPUTING WORKS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

# COMPUTING

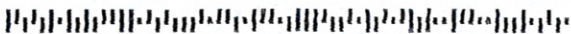
## Inside:

- Technology Updates
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S6 P4

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# Efficiency Factor Ramped-Up with Technology

By Lt. Kathleen Carey, Public Information Officer;  
Newport News Sheriff's Office, Virginia

The corrections industry is borrowing from the library system. For years, libraries have archived materials using microfiche. Books, magazines, and newspapers are often archived this way. That advent of microfiche technology allows libraries to carry printed resources they would otherwise never have the floor or storage space to hold.

In early 2011, the Newport News Sheriff's Office went online with the technology to better manage its shrinking storage.

If your facility is anything like that in Newport News, Virginia, you are strapped for storage. The Newport News City Jail opened in 1976. Since then, it has undergone several renovations, most of which involved converting storage, classroom, and office space into inmate housing units.

The new Laserfiche system allows deputies to scan an entire inmate record -- court documents, transportation orders, classification information, etc. -- onto microfiche. This allows improved accessibility to records, saves office space, and saves money. Captain Robert Coleman, Inmate Services Administrator, says approximately \$12,000 will be saved annually on paper folders alone. He also explained that the microfiche system helps with audits, both internal audits and those conducted externally by the Department of Corrections. "Auditors come in and request certain inmate files. Instead of having to climb over a mountain of banker boxes filled with files from the previous three years, we just bring Laserfiche up and print the requested information." Capt. Coleman further explained "we can prepare for an audit within a matter of hours" whereas in the past it could take up to a week to get ready.

In the first few months of use, the Newport News Sheriff's Office has already seen the space saving benefits of the system. Filing cabinets have been eliminated. The rolling filing system that is used for inactive files will be next to go. Classification and Records was the first area of the agency to go online with Laserfiche. The medical unit will follow. Paper files will still be used for those individuals currently incarcerated. Once they



Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) save time and money.

are released from jail, however, their entire file will be scanned. The contents will be shred for recycling and the folder reused for those entering the facility.

There are a few advantages to microfiche besides the obvious space saving benefit. The format is stable and no special knowledge is needed to read it. The only equipment needed is the system software and a desktop scanner which is about the size of a toaster.

Not only is the corrections' side of the house embracing technology, the Newport News Sheriff's Office has equipped its motor units with mobile data terminals or MDTs. Deputies assigned to the Civil Enforcement division can more efficiently

enter data by doing so from their infield computer deck. This means more time is spent serving court ordered papers because they do not have to return to the office to make entries into a desktop computer.

It is not very compelling to read about the installation of computer technology. But when coupled with tales of putting criminals behind bars, all of a sudden technology gets pretty interesting.

Late 2009, the Newport News Sheriff's Office and the city's Police Department began to make their software systems more compatible thereby upping efficiencies and improving information sharing. The Sheriff's Office primarily uses the Jail Management System (JMS). The police department uses the Records Management System (RMS). There is, however, overlap of the RMS with Civil Enforcement deputies using it in the course of their day to day responsibilities.

## Embracing technology has had a marked benefit in public safety.

The intended benefit to the JMS/RMS was to improve communications between the city's two law enforcement agencies.

The unintended benefit was realized immediately when deputies started making arrests. How is that related to technology upgrades? Prior to the RMS, they were never hooked into police business and never knew who was wanted on an outstanding arrest warrant. Now with RMS, deputies serving court ordered papers learn who is on the lam. While performing the function of serving court documents, deputies are coming into contact with these wanted individuals. As that happens, they make the arrest.

Deputies are placed in danger on a daily basis. RMS and radio communication with 911 dispatchers offers a safety net that for years was unavailable to the Newport News Sheriff's Office.

A poignant example of how dangerous the job can be was in the execution of an eviction on July 1, 2010. The deputy made an interesting discovery upon entering the apartment to be evicted. A sawed-off shotgun and marijuana packaged for resale was in plain view. And the tenant was at the residence, which upped the danger of the eviction. More evidence was seized when other deputies arrived, including sniffer dogs: shotgun shells, pistol ammunition, a smoking device, a digital scale, and packaging materials. The shotgun turned out to have had its serial number scratched off. The tenant found himself not only evicted, but in the backseat of a squad car headed to jail.

Up and running since November of 2009 and through January 31, 2011, there have been 660 Arrest Alerts on the RMS. From those, Sheriff's deputies made a total of 50 arrests.

These arrests were of those who were home at the time the deputy served the court ordered paper. There are various explanations as to what happened with the other 610 alerts. Some individuals may have already been picked up by police before deputies arrived, and there could be duplicate alerts for the same individual. Bottom line though, if the person wanted on an arrest warrant was home at the time the deputy arrived to serve a paper, that person was arrested.

Embracing technology has had a marked benefit in public safety. Technologies adopted by the Newport News Sheriff's Office are helping to reduce crime rates, apprehend criminals, and improve safety for deputies, suspects, and the public. Additionally, the Newport News Sheriff's Office is being a better steward of tax dollars by finding more cost effective ways of doing business. ☺

## RIDE AND RUN TO REMEMBER OCTOBER 16 • WASHINGTON DC

Three beautiful cycling routes and a scenic 5K runners route for the Law Enforcement Ride & Run to Remember on Sunday, October 16th, are now posted at [www.RideandRunToRemember.org](http://www.RideandRunToRemember.org).

Cyclists will start at National Harbor, riding the picturesque back roads of Maryland and passing by military forts and National Parks. Catch some spectacular views of our nation's capital as you pedal along the water, then cross into Virginia at the Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge. The final miles will take you through historic neighborhoods and past some of DC's most awesome sights, ending with a celebration at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Site in Judiciary Square.

**Register today at [www.RideAndRunToRemember.org](http://www.RideAndRunToRemember.org).** Help us celebrate and raise awareness about the role of law enforcement in our communities while raising funds to support the Memorial Fund.

Whether you are a law enforcement officer, know someone who is or simply respect the work law enforcement officers do — this event is for you.

