

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Using federal money appropriated through the efforts of Senators Thad Cochran (R-MS) and Trent Lott (R-MS) the State of Mississippi is upgrading its public-safety information and communications infrastructure to create an integrated system in three Southern Mississippi counties—Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson. These counties have begun to unify communications and public-safety records collected by law enforcement, fire departments, EMT responders and will ultimately link up to the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) and Joint Regional Information Exchange System (JRIES).

THE CHALLENGE

The state of Mississippi wanted to substantially enhance public safety and increase productivity among law enforcement, fire and EMT agencies. Officials realized that their public safety information and communication infrastructure needed significant upgrades to provide the timely information sharing abilities the agencies required.

THE SOLUTION

The Mississippi Automated System Project (ASP) provides secure access to critical data. First responders can now easily and securely access the needed applications such as Jail Management, Records Management or Computer Aided Dispatch. The Mississippi ASP created two redundant centralized data centers, each consisting of one IBM eServer iSeries 825 running IBM DB2 and two eServer xSeries 445 systems, running Tarantella Secure Global Desktop Enterprise Edition remote access software and Novell's SUSE LINUX.

"It is critical that all of our first responders have instant access to the critical information that can save lives, speed arrests and ensure public safety."

Major Julian Allen, Ph.D., director of the Automated System Project



WHEN SECONDS COUNT

First responders require instant access to critical public-safety information such as arrest warrants, mug shots, criminal data, HAZMAT data and medical emergency protocols. Understanding the importance of data access, Senators Thad Cochran (R-MS) and Trent Lott (R-MS) helped appropriate \$14 million in federal grants for the Mississippi ASP, a program designed to enhance data information sharing among all local first responders in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties, Mississippi.

The Mississippi ASP links 30 public-safety agencies together, including the Harrison County District Attorney's Office, local offices of the Drug Enforcement Agency and the U.S. Customs Service. The system will also allow users to access Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) and Joint Regional Information Exchange System (JRIES).

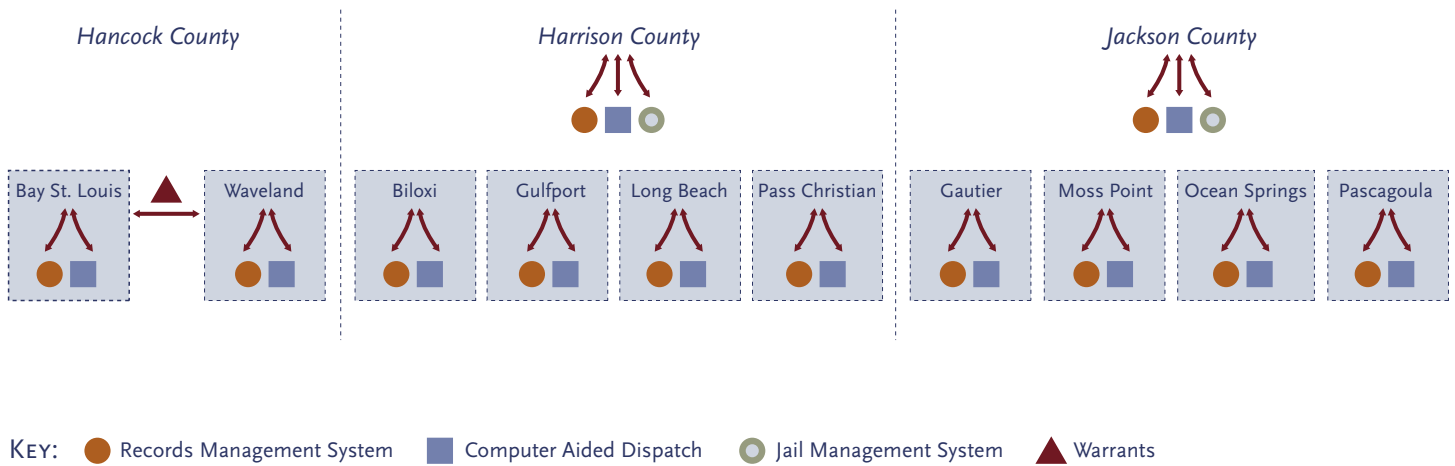


Figure 1: Tri-County “as is” technology inventory.

COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION

The Mississippi Automated System Project has two identical data centers—one in Pascagoula and the other in Hattiesburg. Pascagoula is a coastal city, so in the event of hurricane, Hattiesburg is the backup site. Lakeview MIMIX is used to replicate data between the two sites to guarantee that there is no single point of failure. As the ASP system expands, these networks will be linked together to join multiple jurisdictions into a single, centralized information source.

Within each site, there’s an IBM eServer iSeries 825 connected to two redundant IBM eServer xSeries 445 via the IBM High Speed Link (HSL). Storage is on a RAID system attached to the iSeries 825, also used by the xSeries, allowing the latter to be diskless.

Each of the iSeries 825 runs OS/400. It supports two databases: An LDAP database for storing user information, and a DB2 database for storing other data. The various applications residing on the iSeries 825 include:

- Windows Server 2003 running Records Management System application
- Windows Server 2003 running Computer Aided Dispatch application
- OS/400 running Jail Management System

Each data center has a pair of identically configured xSeries 445 servers. Each xSeries system has VMWare ESX installed, which creates virtual servers within each xSeries 445 Server. The SUSE LINUX Virtual Server is running Tarantella Secure Global Desktop Enterprise Edition, Apache Webserver and 5250 emulator to access OS/400 applications on the IBM eServer iSeries 825.

Each virtual server is in its own partition so that if an application goes down, or needs maintenance, or fails for any reason, it can be restarted without affecting the other applications.

Tarantella’s Secure Global Desktop Enterprise Edition software Java applet allow users to securely access data and applications remotely. User sessions are protected with Secure Socket Layer encryption.

After logging in, all users from the various public-safety agencies are then provided with a customized screen, based on rights, that gives them access to the specific applications and data necessary for their jobs. Information available include arrest warrants, criminal intelligence, mug shots, hazardous materials data, missing persons and medical emergency protocols.

THE BENEFITS

- Provides secure single-point access to multiple databases and applications in real time
- Significantly reduces costs and complexity of implementation, maintenance, system upgrades and training
- Enables data ownership and control by each agency
- Facilitates regional information sharing
- Will soon allow connectivity by first responders using wireless laptops



Figure 2: Tri-County inventory using products from InterAct, IBM, Novell, Tarantella and system integration from BCI.

Police officers no longer have to place dozens of calls to check on suspects or inmate records in the surrounding counties.

Targeted to the enterprise with the highest security and flexibility requirements, the Secure Global Desktop Enterprise Edition is the only integrated application management and access solution to span an unprecedented range of server-based applications including Microsoft Windows, Linux, UNIX, Mainframe or Midrange systems. Its three-tiered design is engineered to support open standards, stringent security and encryption requirements, and optimize network performance, using any combination of Internet, intranet or extranet pathways. Enterprise Edition is the ideal platform to enable cost-effective enterprise application migrations and ensure business continuance in disaster scenarios.

Any software changes need only be installed in either of the two data centers whether the task is adding new applications, new users, or upgrades to existing software. The new installation can be easily replicated on the other data center. This architecture has lowered the implementation and maintenance costs.

Tarantella Secure Global Desktop Enterprise Edition is the platform of choice for delivering highly secure remote access to Linux-based applications across any network to virtually any device. The combination of IBM eServer, Tarantella's Enterprise Edition secure remote access software and Novell's SUSE LINUX will offer law enforcement and safety personnel unmatched capabilities to secure the safety of our nation.

NATIONAL MODEL

The ASP's centralized information-sharing design drives the cost of recurring maintenance and support services down as more agencies come onboard. Likewise, the centralized approach makes end user training and system upgrades less expensive and easier to implement. Having this system in place presents the opportunity to allow all public-safety agencies in Mississippi to access one centralized sharing system at a reasonable cost.

Chris Alley, chief information technology architect for ASP, lauds the project's achievements explaining this is the first time in the history of Mississippi that law enforcement in one county has access to information in other counties, such as active warrants.

Thanks to the ASP project, first responders have greatly enhanced their abilities to prevent and/or respond to incidents posing danger to the public.

According to Major Julian Allen, Ph.D., director of the Automated System Project, officials expect the system to prove itself in all types of disasters and could eventually become a national model for linking more states together using a centralized software applications model.

"IBM and Tarantella have delivered a secure and robust server/software solution that provides this secure remote access capability without any single point of failure," said Major Allen.

ABOUT TARANTELLA

Tarantella, Inc. (OTC:TTLA.PK) is a leading provider of secure remote access software to nearly 12,000 customers' sites worldwide. Tarantella enables organizations to access and manage information, data and applications across all platforms, networks and devices. Tarantella bridges the gap between vendors, ensuring that customers have complete access to business-critical information. Using Tarantella's software, customers realize the benefits of secure corporate data, maximizing return on existing IT assets and improved productivity. The company markets its products through the Internet, key industry partnerships, and a worldwide network of consultants and resellers. Tarantella is headquartered in Santa Cruz, California. For more information, please visit the Tarantella web site at www.tarantella.com.

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