Proposed Study: Body Worn Cameras and other Video Asset Storage

NC Criminal Justice Information Network



Study a Uniform and Lower Cost Option for Agency Video Storage and Sharing

- Study, propose and provide guidance for Police Agency storage, organization, retrieval and management of Video Media Assets
 - Understand current Agency contracts, obligations, issues and costs
 - Identify better lower cost alternatives
 - Improve access and organization media assets
 - Improve security and audit access
 - Uniformly comply with CJIS Security Requirements
 - Understand agency unique requirements
 - Eliminate insecure physical media like DVD-R
- Detter and more secure uniform cost effective solutions are possible

Understand What Agencies Need

- Statewide, agency requirements for working with Video Media are not well understood
 - Body Worn Camera footage
 - Vehicular camera systems
 - FLIR and other thermal / night vision imaging devices
 - Surveillance cameras and devices
- Determine media access, sharing, redaction, archival and export requirements for:
 - Officers
 - Officer management
 - Agency management
 - District Attorneys
 - Courts
 - Public review and access



Typical BWC Deployment and Work Process Considerations

- Hardware Device Costs: BWC and Docks
- In Field Review Devices
- Device Operation Training
- Video Data Storage: Short Term, Long Term, Archival
- File location and access needs
- Video and Evidence Management Software
- Network Infrastructure and Load
- Power and Security for BWC Docks
- Video Redaction Costs
 - Officer Labor spent Uploading and Classifying Video
- Recovering Accidentally Deleted Video
- New Officer and Staff System Training
- Ongoing Training for Policy Updates
- Ongoing System Support, Maintenance and Device
 - Replacement
- Third Party Video Access

Today's Deployment

- Multiple vendors already have contracts established with agencies
 - Not all agencies have incorporated Video technologies
 - Vendor solutions are generally unique, proprietary and incompatible
 - Proprietary modified versions of media file standards
 - Differing organization and workflow
 - Unique training and operations
 - Vendor business plans vary considerably
 - Multiple Pricing models
 - Device provision and maintenance
 - Media import and transfer
 - Local and Remote Storage Solutions
 - Media Export and Access Interfaces
 - The cost of long term storage and access is value priced and excessive

Task: Understand Video File Storage, Access, Management, Sharing and Archival Needs

- Determine the Process and Tasks involved in:
- Managing daily video recording, downloading, device recharging and maintenance
- Classifying video media, adding descriptive information, recording access and usage
- Retrieving and searching video media, including location, personnel, incident classification
- Accessing and reviewing video media
- Redacting video prior to release and reuse between agencies, courts and public entities
- Transferring media to short term and archival storage systems
- Understand and plan for cost effective archival storage solutions

Task: Cost Analysis

- Understand and provide Guidelines for Total Cost of Ownership of Vendor Body Worn Cameras
 - Costs are often hidden in media storage and software licensing fees
 - Incremental costs have been tailored to impact ongoing operational budgets
 - Capital device acquisition costs and maintenance costs are often bundled in leases
- Media storage is value priced
 - Vendors own and license import, storage organization, management and access / display software
- Some media elements are "locked" with vendor file structure extensions
- Common file storage prices are grossly inflated

Example: Data Cloud Cost Analysis

- Generic Cloud Storage Example:
 - Google Cloud Storage
 - Multi-Regional Data Access \$.026 / Gigabyte / Month
 - Nearline Storage \$.01 / Gigabyte / Month
 - Coldline Storage \$0.007 / Gigabyte / Month
 - Amazon Cloud Front resold by Warpcache
 - \$.060 / Gigabyte Transferred
 - Akamai Media Delivery Solutions
 - Over 2,200 host distribution points
 - Microsoft Azure Cloud
- "Utility" Body Worn Camera Support
- Storage, transfer and administration \$900 / officer / month
- Generic solutions have already been piloted within agencies

Overview: Characteristics of Video Media

- Digital Video Media is just a special type of computer file
 Video files are very large Binary Objects (BLOBs)
 - Specialized browser clients and applications retrieve, organize and display these data files
 - Multiple file structures exist often identified by a file's extension
 - Sound and Picture Essence is contained within that structure
 - All sound elements are encoded in terms of loudness
 All picture elements are encoded in terms of brightness and
 color
 - All digital media must be compressed
 - Uncompressed 24 bit HD Video occupies 3 gigabits/second "Codecs" Encode, compress, decompress and decode video images into file data
 - There are a huge number of competing encoding standards and implementations of those standards
 - The goal is to imperceptibility reduce data transmission and storage size
 - Vendors sometimes make files proprietary

Characteristics of Video Media (continued)

- Original Recorded Video Files Have Evidentiary Value
 So original recordings must sometimes be retained
 - and protected
 - But, they don't have to be widely transferred, manipulated and managed throughout the system
 - Users routinely work with "proxy" media files that have been more intensely compressed to make them manageable and usable
 - Later, full resolution copies are available when needed Media Storage and Distribution Approaches can be Layered
 - High usage and fast access
 - Long term storage and slower access
 - Minimize transport impact across communications links
 - Improve access and usability
 - Minimize steps that impact quality and usability of the media

Next Steps of Action

- Study Current Agency Deployment of BWC systems
 - Understand business models and costs
 - Understand storage capacity and access requirements
- Understand proprietary characteristics of the systems
- Study Available Vendor Cloud Video Storage Solutions
 - Generic video file storage, access and management
 - Identify open and generic solutions already used by
 - Law Enforcement Agencies
 - Determine and Estimate Alternative Costs
- Identify Impact on Existing NC Information Assets
 - Identify storage infrastructures already available
- Identify connectivity assets already available
- Study efficient geographic distribution of data
- Consider interfaces and extensions to current BWC
 - systems
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 - Agencies use