Fed Submit™ in Action

Carrollton Police Employ Mentalix's Fed Submit To Send Electronic Fingerprints To Texas DPS And FBI

Fed Submit Reduces Criminal ID Confirmation Turnaround from Months to Minutes

Mentalix, Inc. announces the successful deployment of its latest biometric fingerprint product, **Fed Submit**, at the Carrollton, Texas, police department -- effectively reducing the department's turnaround time on criminal fingerprint records sent to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) from a few months to a matter of minutes. The Carrollton PD's first electronic transaction resulted in a response within a few minutes of submission, making it one of the only stations in Texas with the means to send encrypted fingerprint records over the Internet to the DPS.

Fed Submit provides two affordable ways for the police to acquire electronic fingerprints: scan ten-print fingerprint cards with a flatbed scanner or roll live fingerprints with a live scan device. The software is one of the first solutions to allow the police to submit encrypted fingerprint records, along with associated subject biographical data and arrest information, to the Texas DPS electronically for identification comparisons against the state's AFIS (Automated Fingerprint Identification System) database and to track the received responses. If a match is found, the results are sent back to the police department. If there is no "hit" on a record in the state AFIS, the DPS may then forward the record to the FBI for a check against the national IAFIS (Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System) database before the results are returned.

"We've been looking forward to getting a live scan system, and it has been a big plus for us to be able to try out the system and have our people get familiar with it before buying," Monty Stanley, Assistant Chief at the Carrollton PD, says.

"These are expensive systems, and most companies don't allow you to get the hands-on experience first. We've had a good relationship with Mentalix, and it's been very beneficial for us to work with them."

Previously, the Carrollton PD sent inked, ten-print cards to the Texas DPS by mail. This meant that results of the state's AFIS comparison were usually not received until two to three months later. The Carrollton PD, in a Dallas suburb of 115,000, acts as a holding facility and usually transfers suspects 24 hours after they are apprehended.

Because they did not receive confirmation of a suspect's identity from the DPS within that time frame, the paperwork frequently had to be revised once the results arrived. By submitting its records with Fed Submit, the Carrollton PD now receives results much more quickly -- as fast as within an hour of sending the initial transaction. An additional benefit of faster submission and response is that data-entry mistakes and fingerprint image issues can be resolved immediately, while it is still feasible to take the fingerprints again. Mentalix's Fed Submit software detects image quality problems during acquisition and verifies certain data field requirements as the information is entered, so most errors can be handled prior to submission.

"We are very enthusiastic about providing a dual-use system for police departments," Paul Siegert, Mentalix CEO and president, says. "Mentalix's Fed Submit gives customers the choice of scanning cards, rolling prints on a live scanner or using both methods to acquire fingerprints. As a result, our solution is affordable for smaller police departments, and it also allows larger police departments to use a card scanner as a backup for their live scanner, so they do not have to spend money on 24/7 support contracts. Everyone saves."

Siegert continues: "Ben Armstrong, manager of the crime scene investigation unit at the Plano PD and a former Dallas police detective, was instrumental in connecting us with Carrollton. We work with agencies all over the country, but dealing with police departments in our own backyard has been very enlightening as far as finding out exactly what issues police officers confront with fingerprint systems on a day-to-day basis. It is a pleasure to provide the technology that makes law enforcement's job easier, and working so closely with the Carrollton police has helped us to fine-tune our products both for them and for our other law enforcement customers."

In addition to offering the flexibility of using card scanning, live scanning or a combination of the two, the software runs on Windows® and works with off-the-shelf hardware; these factors make Fed Submit a cost-effective solution for police departments. The Carrollton PD found that buying a comparable system with both card and live scan functionality that can communicate with the Texas DPS, along with the required equipment, would have cost tens of thousands of dollars more than Mentalix's solution.
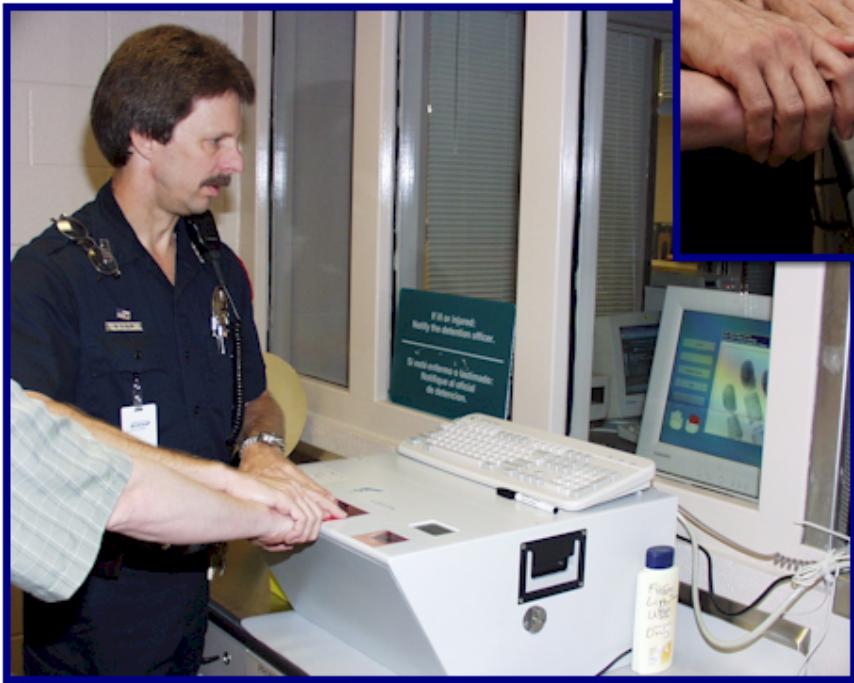
Crime Scene Investigator David Taylor, of the Carrollton Police Department in Texas, uses Mentalix's Fed Submit Live Scan system as well as the Fed Submit (TX) card scan system at the Carrollton police station.

Identity Management Solutions