



Kinesense

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Northumbria Police Video Investigations for the Frontline

Northumbria wanted to explore how to take video forensics out of the lab and into the frontline. They needed to speed up the evidential chain and get it to court. With the Kinesense solution they were able to give frontline officers 24-hour access to video tools and reduce the turnaround of submissions to the Digital Forensic Unit (DFU) from three months to the same day.

"There were no video evidence capabilities for frontline staff. Everybody did things differently, even in the video unit, it was challenging and problematic. Police officers are brilliant at putting the wheel back on without the right tools, the problem is technology was passing us by and our approach wasn't fit for purpose."

Jerry Hewitt, the Digital Forensic Unit manager

Before using Kinesense the video evidence process was ad hoc and time consuming with officers using a plethora of different and non-compatible systems.

Something as simple as a shoplifter arrested in the evening or weekend would cause issues. Officers would try and view the footage on an old laptop which invariably didn't have the correct player or was otherwise incompatible with the video, so the investigation would halt until a CCTV specialist came on duty and often the suspect would have to be bailed.

Before

- No video capabilities for frontline
- Significant charging delays
- Overburdened Digital Forensic Team
- No standardisation

Result: As part of their Digital Media Repository (DMR) and Digital Evidence Suite (DES) project, Northumbria adopted the Kinesense solution across the force enabling officers to import, search and report on video evidence. Now they have an all in one video editing suite that allows them to produce evidential footage for court, a one stop shop. As a result, the workload in the DFU has reduced from 7000 jobs to 600 per year and staff levels have reduced from 11 to 6.

How do they use it?

Used at two levels across the force, frontline officers and in the Digital Forensic Unit. There's no longer any waiting, if officers have CCTV then they have the tools available to them 24/7 to deal with it.

Officers import video into Kinesense LE enabling previously unplayable formats to be viewed and reduce the virus risks from third party players. The video is analysed using algorithms to find objects in the video. These events are then

searchable by direction, colour and region of interest. This means frontline officers can quickly find the event of interest and export these to Northumbria's Digital Asset Management (DAM) solution for sharing across the force and with the Criminal Prosecution Service (CPS).

The Kinesense solution logs who does what, so there is a disclosure log to verify the chain of evidence.

After

- 24/7 availability for frontline officers
- On the day charging decision
- Reduction in jobs processed by DFU
- Standardised process for ISO 17025

Result: Takes video forensics out of the lab and into the front line and ensures a standard corporate approach to video investigations.

"Standardisation, efficiency, production of credible products, tightening procedures, 24/7 availability for frontline officers are the key benefits we have obtained from deploying the Kinesense system."

Jerry Hewitt

How Kinesense Helped

- Speeds up getting evidence to CPS
- Reduced workload in the Digital Forensic Unit
- Ensuring chain of evidence
- Enabling CCTV to be shared quickly