

6 Ways to Justify Records Management Software for Your Department

A GUIDE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Technology and software have become so deeply ingrained in our society, they affect nearly every aspect of day-to-day activities in any organization—including law enforcement agencies. Advances in technology help streamline the reporting process, so officers can focus on keeping their communities safe.

Modern records management systems (RMS) not only reduce the time officers spend creating reports but also minimize reporting errors and provide analysis tools to help investigators identify trends and make connections between cases. However, justifying the need for this software can sometimes be difficult.

With more and more law enforcement agencies coming under scrutiny, municipal officials aren't only looking at how agencies and departments do their jobs but are also assessing how much money they spend and how they are spending it.

With this guide, you can help municipality stakeholders understand your department's need for a comprehensive, fully integrated RMS platform.

STREAMLINED REPORTING

Not long ago, many law enforcement agencies still relied on pen and paper for taking notes and reporting incident details. Manually writing reports took a considerable amount of time, often keeping officers out of the field for hours at a time.

The evolution of computer-based records management systems has reduced the amount of time required for writing reports; however, solutions that lack integration require duplicate efforts to enter data into multiple disparate systems.

In recent years, RMS functionality has increased exponentially, and available solutions are more user-friendly than ever. The best systems offer numerous modules that interact seamlessly with one other to streamline records management.

By simplifying the reporting process and reducing the effort required to complete reports, officers are able to spend more time in the field where they are needed and less time at their desks.

IMPROVED ACCURACY OF REPORTS

Prior to computer-based report writing and records management systems, it was possible for officers to miss recording important details that had the potential of determining whether a suspect would be charged or convicted of a crime. Handwritten notes and reports, if written illegibly, also had the potential to cause confusion.

With the use of modern RMS software, officers are required to populate mandatory fields prior to submission, reducing the likelihood of reports being filed with incomplete or missing information. Illegible reports are no longer a concern as the leading RMS solutions come equipped with spell- and grammar-check features.

Well-formatted, professional reports provide evidence for cases and help protect the department or agency against lawsuits.

MOBILE ACCESSIBILITY

It's a given that law enforcement officers are always "on the go" during their shifts, with little time for breaks. Because of that, it's important that the department's RMS software is equally mobile. Leading RMS platforms offer mobile functionality for laptops, tablets, and even smartphones.

Mobile accessibility allows officers to remain in the field for longer periods of time before returning to the office to

finalize and submit their reports. Additional time spent in the field can help make a difference in the community by increasing the presence of officers and deterring crime.

NO NEED FOR SERVERS & COSTLY HARDWARE

Due to the large number of records law enforcement agencies must store, many departments purchase their own servers and costly hardware to host data on their premises—and, in the past, it was necessary. However, with recent advances in RMS software technology, agencies can now host their data in secure, cloud-based servers without the worry of security breaches or equipment failures. Eliminating the need to continuously update costly hardware also saves money that can be used for more important departmental expenses.

AUTOMATED DATA ANALYSIS

While recording case details accurately is extremely important, being able to swiftly analyze individual records and compile large amounts of data into one easy-to-understand report, including imagery and graphs, can also be an important asset. Gaining deeper insight into data can help law enforcement agencies identify trends such as what, when, and where crimes are happening the most frequently. Armed with this information, officers can

work proactively rather than reactively, and potentially prevent crimes from being committed.

VALUABLE INTEGRATIONS

As government entities, law enforcement agencies need to be able to connect and share information with other agencies and departments across the nation and ensure data is being recorded and reported consistently.

The best RMS software offers interfaces with local, regional, and national criminal databases, such as NIBRS, UCR, and NCIC, to guarantee information on cases and persons of interest can easily be shared and complies with mandated policies and procedures. Fully integrated solutions ensure a seamless RMS experience with information flowing throughout every aspect of the software without risk of being lost or transferred incorrectly.

ABOUT OMNIGO

Omnigo Software is the leading provider of public safety, incident reporting, and security management solutions for law enforcement, education, healthcare, and other enterprises, offering easy-to-use and flexible applications that provide actionable insight for making more informed decisions.

Omnigo solutions have helped law enforcement and security professionals increase staff productivity by up to 25%, reduce compliance risk, and show measured improvements in safety and security.

Omnigo can be found online at omnigo.com. For more information or to schedule a demo, call 1.800.814.4843 or email info@omnigo.com.



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omnigo SOFTWARE

1.800.814.4843
info@omnigo.com

omnigo.com