

In brief . . .

Local government authorities are increasingly turning to location intelligence solutions for emergency contingency planning, public health initiatives and compliance directives, according to Pitney Bowes Business Insight (PBBI). These were the conclusions of more than 70 delegates from local government authorities attending the meeting of the independent MapInfo® User Group UK & Ireland (MUGUKI), which gathered in Bristol recently. Guest speakers presented real world insight, with presentations on swine flu mapping from Avon IM&T Consortium and flood risk management from Mouchel, among others.

www.pbinsight.com

For the last 12 months IMServ has been working with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) to implement a roll out of smart meters to remotely and accurately capture energy data from over 500 of its sites across Britain. Once complete the agency will benefit from far greater visibility and control over its energy costs, helping it to better manage budgets. The data will also prove invaluable in negotiating more competitive quotes from energy suppliers in the future.

www.IMServ.com

Health & Social Care in Northern Ireland (HSCNI) has reported significant cost savings through moving to CRYPTOCard for protection against unauthorised network access. With its affordable, high security solutions, CRYPTOCard became the new provider of two factor authentication (2FA) hardware tokens to HSCNI enabling its six trusts to benefit from secure authentication for remote access via the internet and PSTN. Since the switch, HSCNI has expanded the use of CRYPTO-Shield from remote and third party access to web based applications, such as hospital waiting lists and applications that track and monitor trends in certain illnesses.

www.CRYPTOCard.com

Digital mapping and geographic information systems (GIS) software developer Cadcorp has announced the release of a new application for GIS users in the fire and rescue service sector. The Cadcorp Workload Modeller extends the range of applications available to fire and rescue services that are based on the Cadcorp SIS – Spatial Information System product suite and has already been deployed at a number of UK fire and rescue services.

www.cadcorp.com

Savings and security for Cambridge Constabulary

Recent government requirements, to improve confidentiality and security of data transfer by mid 2010, have resulted in a rise in the necessary encryption levels for information shared with and between police forces. The Government's Communications Electronics Security Group (CESG) standards demand that specific encryption levels of all internal police force networks adhere to the Government Protective Marking Scheme (GPMS) caveat of RESTRICTED or higher; Impact Level 3 or above.

In the light of this, Cambridgeshire Constabulary took the opportunity to review its entire network. With over 70 sites across the region, the service recognised that a transition programme would be necessary if they were to meet the required classification levels.

Led by Tracey Hipperson, Director of ICT, the constabulary commissioned CNS and started with an audit of the existing infrastructure. This process led to the creation of a new CONFIDENTIAL network which will also meet the strategic requirements of the constabulary for the next 10 years.

The new requirements demanded that a certain standard be met; networks would have to be accredited as both RESTRICTED and CONFIDENTIAL. For many police forces the concern is that meeting the standard will involve replacing or outsourcing their entire networks.

At CNS the aim was to meet the encryption requirements, without having to start from scratch with a completely new network and the accompanying high costs. It was also important to work with the various bodies involved to create a workable and compliant network blueprint

Tracey Hipperson said, "Our whole system was in need of a refresh so we called in CNS to start with a network audit; this resulted in significant savings on our circuitry alone, through converting a piecemeal approach to one single and effective agreement. Our in house team then worked with CNS to identify the issues within the network and we decided upon a complete revamp which would ensure the Cambridgeshire network was up to the challenges of 21st century policing."

CNS and the constabulary's own internal police force IT teams designed a solution which is also being considered by other forces nationwide. Using a combination of new Cisco software and upgrading existing technology, CNS was able to deploy FIPS encryption to manage risk, without the need for additional and costly architecture.

Paul Rose, Director of Strategic Development at CNS, explains, "We like a straightforward solution to a problem at CNS. It is apparent to us that CESG guidelines can be followed through judicious use of firewalls and existing encryption software, such as that provided by Cisco's ASA range. It's about adhering to best practice and using levels of encryption that are already part of existing packages."

For Cambridgeshire Constabulary it was reassuring to be able to use tried and tested technology to improve the network. Not only was this a budget friendly approach, but it also meant the integration was less problematic and time consuming. Ian Bell, Head of Service Delivery at Cambridgeshire Constabulary, explains, "We were very pleased to be able to use existing Cisco software for this project. Their Proac-



Tracey Hipperson, Director of ICT, Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

tive Confidential Architecture gave us the confidence to deploy applications using Cisco Commercial off the shelf products."

This project has enabled Cambridgeshire Constabulary to meet the CONFIDENTIAL and RESTRICTED networks standards. Tracey Hipperson says, "We wanted to revamp our network, but through sensible project management we've actually managed to meet regulatory requirements and the strategic needs of the force for the next 10 years."

The experience of Cambridgeshire Constabulary is one that is likely to be replicated across the country. There is concern that the new guidelines from CESG will be costly and time consuming at a time when police forces want to focus energy and resourcing on core police work. By leading the way, Cambridgeshire Constabulary and CNS have proved that a simple, intelligent use of existing technology can resolve the issue efficiently.

www.convnet.co.uk

Symphony of address management solutions

Building on its vast experience of working within the FireControl project, in addition to its work with the British Transport Police (BTP) and more recently with Kent Fire and Rescue Service, gazetteer specialist Aligned Assets has created three new address management solutions, designed specifically for use by the emergency services.

Collectively known as Symphony Bluelight, there are three distinct options available, each addressing the varying needs of the emergency ser-



vices: Symphony Bluelight Enterprise is the complete corporate gazetteer system, which will support frontline response, while all the while aiding in cost cutting and efficiency gains; Sym-

phony Bluelight Professional is an industry leading BS7666 compliant gazetteer management system used in both local government and the emergency services and backed up by over 12 years of address management and GIS expertise; and Symphony Bluelight Search is a flexible, web enabled search engine that allows the user to search their address database (NLPG, ADDRESS-POINT®, OS MasterMap® Address Layer 2) and return results in sub second time. www.aligned-assets.co.uk/bluelight