



Ontario Police Technology Information Cooperative

NICHE RMS FORMS FOUNDATION FOR THE LARGEST POLICE DATA-SHARING SYSTEM IN NORTH AMERICA

The Ontario Police Technology Information Cooperative (OPTIC) includes 8,287 officers: 2,894 from 43 municipal Ontario, Canada police agencies and 5,393 from the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), all sharing a single Niche RMS installation. OPTIC is the largest data-sharing cooperative in North America.

OPTIC AND NICHE RMS

Accommodating member agencies' widely varying business practices was a key challenge in the delivery of OPTIC's RMS, which has successfully achieved multi-jurisdictional data sharing to an unprecedented degree. Differences are especially marked between municipal agencies and the OPP; Niche RMS meets this challenge through configuration options controlled at the agency level, providing all OPTIC's members with control over their own data within the shared system, and allowing confidential materials to be restricted as necessary. All general police domain data – such as incidents, police reports, property, and digital mug shots – is shared.

THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

OPTIC was formed in the late 1980s, partly in response to Justice Archie Campbell's recommendation for data sharing between agencies in the wake of the Bernardo case. The cooperative developed a requirement for a single system that

would support the sharing of key information about people, locations, vehicles and incidents between its member agencies. In 2000, the OPP selected Niche RMS, as it was not only the ideal choice to replace their aging legacy system, but was also able to handle OPTIC's specific, demanding business requirements for widespread, complex data sharing. The cooperative agreed with the selection, and the OPTIC installation was rolled out to the OPP within 12 months, and to all 43 municipal agencies within 18 months.

BUSINESS BENEFITS

- Successful rollout of a single system to 43 agencies and 10,000 personnel in two years.
- OPTIC's Niche RMS has been judged a success by its members and is now proven in a number of operational situations.
- The capacity for agencies to configure business processes independently at the domain level while still being able to share information at the cooperative level.
- Protection of confidential information that allows member agencies to control data sharing at a granular level without compromising the wider data-sharing needs which support the system's primary objective.

ABOUT NICHE TECHNOLOGY AND NICHE RMS

Niche Technology is a privately owned company incorporated in Canada and the UK, specializing in law enforcement software. Niche Records Management System (Niche RMS) is used by more than 75,000 sworn officers worldwide, and current implementation projects will see that number rise to over 100,000. The system is being used to create efficiencies and improve performance across a range of operational policing functions. Niche RMS is currently used by over 50% of Canadian police officers; 27% of UK police officers in 12 forces; 20% of Australia's police officers; and is now in production use in the US. Eight of the 25 largest police services in the English-speaking world have selected Niche RMS as their core operational police system. For more information, go to www.nicherms.com.