

Faster, More Accurate Documentation of Buy Money



Pennsylvania Attorney General Bureau of Narcotics Investigation:

The Problem: Accurate currency documentation requires time and resources

The Pennsylvania Attorney General Bureau of Narcotics Investigation identifies and prosecutes drug dealers and traffickers. The statewide agency is made up of eight regional offices from which more than 300 dedicated agents perform the work of shutting down and arresting criminal organizations that profit from the illegal drug trade.

Infiltration of drug trafficking organizations often requires agents to purchase drugs or pay informants with cash provided by the Bureau. The responsibility for counting the currency, capturing an image of every serial number and recording the text value of those serial numbers falls on agents as well. Hence, agency personnel faced a tedious, multi-step process to inventory cash used in these activities, as well as money collected in seizures - often tying up hours of their valuable time.

"An agent had to physically stand at the copy machine and copy every bill; then the copies were given to a secretary who entered each denomination, each serial number, and each series into a central database" said John Soprano, Northeast regional director of the Bureau of Narcotics Investigation. "It was very time consuming."

Tedious, multi-step process leaves room for human error

In addition to the hours required to effectively document currency, the agency was concerned with the accuracy of the serial numbers that were manually entered into their database.

"You always have the human error factor. You're reading all these individual numbers on thousands of bills and sooner or later you're bound to make a mistake," says Soprano, "And that could be problematic for the prosecution because we're relying on the serial numbers to be accurate -

so we can match the money we seized versus the money we used to purchase drugs."

Bureau identifies a cost-effective solution

Frustrated with their existing currency documentation process, the Bureau of Narcotics Investigation turned to their IT department to identify a better currency processing solution. According to Chad Kuhn, senior software application developer for the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General, it didn't take long to identify a currency scanner capable of tackling all the items on their wish list.

"We had some specific requirements," says Kuhn. We wanted to put the currency scanner on our network, we wanted counterfeit detection, and we wanted an image of the serial number - and the machine I kept coming back to was the JetScan iFX™."

Buy Money and Seized Money Tracked Statewide

(Continued from page 1.)

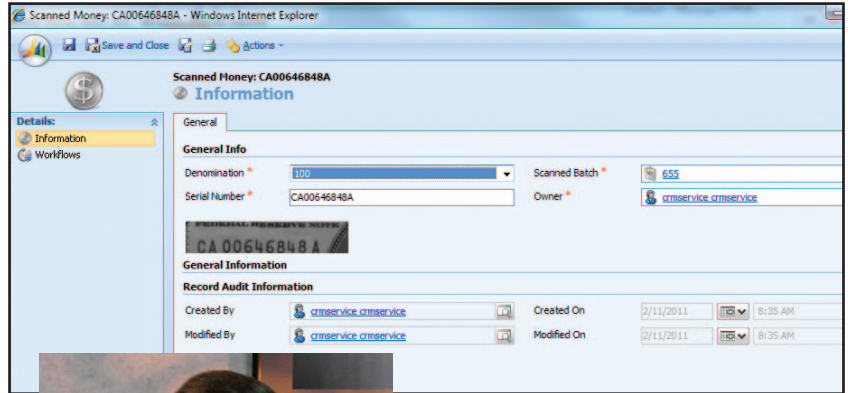
9 machines connected to one central data base

The Office of Attorney General rolled out nine JetScan iFX currency scanners to support the Bureau of Narcotics Investigation offices throughout the state. Not only did the new equipment meet the IT department's list of requirements, it also brought speed and accuracy to their operations. At 1,200 bills per minute these machines identify the denomination of each note, record the serial number and identify counterfeit bills. The agents quickly realized the time savings associated with the JetScan iFX.

"With the new money scanner - the agent acquires the money, sets it in the machine, scans it in a matter of seconds and it's done," remarked Soprano.

All nine machines are connected to the agency's Case Expense Tracking System, a web-based tool that allows agents to instantly compare buy money with seized money statewide. When an agent uses the JetScan iFX to scan currency, an image of every serial number is automatically sent to the database along with their name, case number and the currency total. All seized currency is automatically compared by serial number to the bills in the database - allowing agents to track the movement of currency and drugs throughout the state.

An instant web-based tracking system allows agents to track the movement of currency and drugs throughout the state.



"It saves us valuable time, it gives us more time to spend going after the drug dealers rather than sitting in the office counting and photocopying money".

John Soprano, Northeast Regional Director Bureau of Narcotics Investigation.

Improve accuracy and eliminate human error

As for the accuracy concerns the agency had prior to implementing the JetScans, Kuhn says these concerns are a thing of the past. "The fact that the iFX scanner takes a snapshot of the serial number and also has a text value of the serial number we could import right into our case expense tracking system... the human error is eliminated."

Kuhn was also impressed with how quickly the new currency scanners were adopted by the agents because

implementing new technology which affects more than 300 people can prove challenging. Kuhn adds: "Anytime we roll something new out to the field some people resist change, but after using the new equipment for a couple weeks they love it. They realize how much time it saves them and it makes their lives easier."

Combined with the existing case expense tracking system, the JetScan iFX has saved hours of valuable labor and brought improved accuracy, counterfeit detection and more reliable evidence documentation to the Bureau of Narcotics Investigation.

To learn more or to set-up a free demonstration, please visit us at cumminsallison.com/ifx