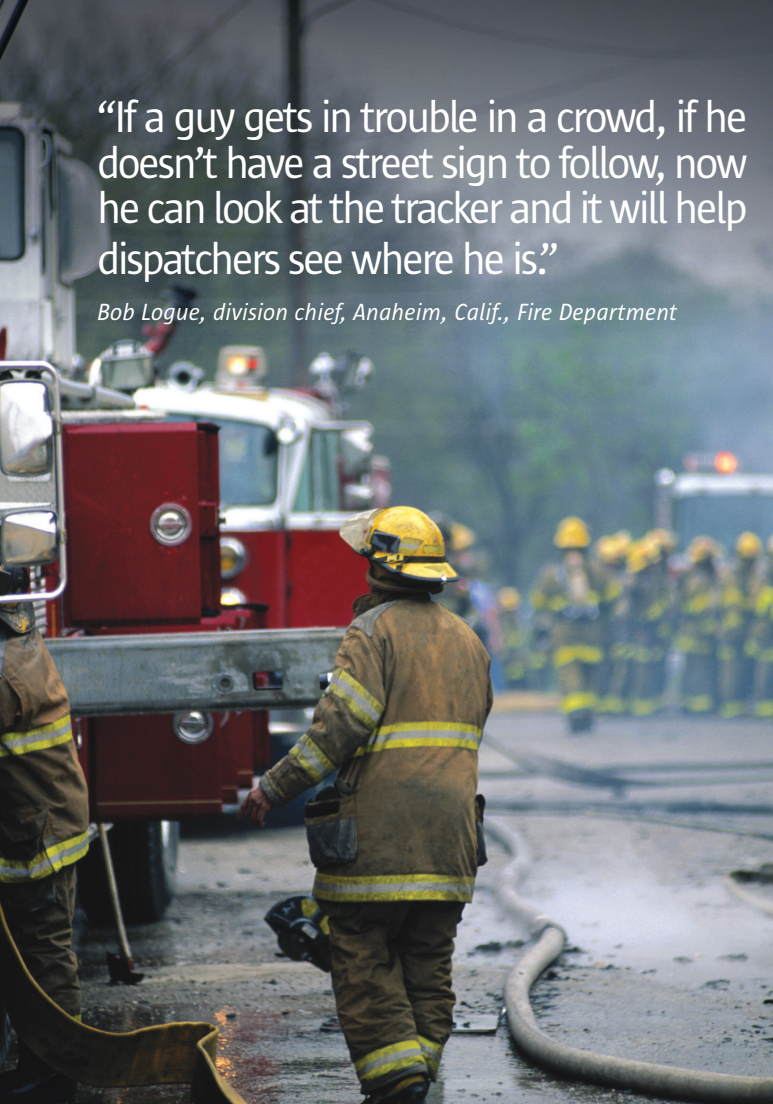




A New Era in Public Safety

BlackBerry® smartphones running on Sprint networks deliver a wide range of applications that are transforming public safety operations.



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Bob Logue, division chief, Anaheim, Calif., Fire Department

Wireless mobility is changing the way the world works. Law enforcement, emergency management and a range of other government functions are being integrated with wireless capabilities that enhance productivity, accuracy and effectiveness.

Even more exciting is the variety of new applications. Third-party developers have teamed with network providers and device manufacturers to design an increasingly broad range of software tools, giving public entities an ever-expanding list of capabilities to justify their investments in wireless technology.

Research In Motion (RIM), maker of BlackBerry® smartphones, has been a partner in many of these ventures, which is hardly surprising. For years, BlackBerry solutions have held a commanding presence in the world of wireless devices. The BlackBerry wireless mobility platform invites developers to push their applications and services in new and exciting directions.

Pairing with RIM to make these services available to law enforcement and other government users, network provider Sprint has brought to the table its wide reach, rock-solid reliability and deep support infrastructure.

Ensuring Responders’ Safety

Anaheim, Calif., Fire Department uses GeoSpatial technology running on BlackBerry smartphones to track emergency personnel on the scene.

The Anaheim, Calif., Fire Department has 290 full-time employees and manages a dispatch center for seven fire departments. It’s hard enough to track vehicles over so wide a territory, and it is far more difficult still to track individual personnel.

Since April 2005, however, the department has had this tracking capability thanks to a combination of BlackBerry smartphones, Sprint connectivity and software from GeoSpatial Technology. The department tracks selected BlackBerry smartphones. The phones it uses for large-scale emergencies are part of its Sprint Emergency Response Team (ERT) program.

Division Chief Bob Logue describes a recent scene of public protest held in Santa Ana in which he armed local police with ERT kits including BlackBerry smartphones that could track their individual positions. It made everyone feel safer.

Incident commanders and dispatchers could see the location of the phones, allowing them to instantly discern the location of any officer needing assistance. “If a guy gets in trouble in a crowd, if he doesn’t have a street sign to follow, now he can look at the tracker and it will help dispatchers see where he is,” Logue said.

The GST Tracker system not only tracks movement, but also pulls together location information for display on a single screen, a feature Logue calls invaluable.

“You need to consolidate it to disseminate it” among all personnel involved in a situation, he said. “To properly use this material, we needed to bring this information together in a single central server so we could break it up again in the appropriate pieces.”

While Logue understood right away the potential for such location tracking capabilities, he admits it took some coaxing to bring the rank and file on board. “The hardest point may be just getting end-users to buy into it,” he said. “For a lot of people, until they have a need for it, they don’t really have an interest in what things can do.”

That need became clear at a crucial time. “When the devastating series of wildfires swept across Southern California in 2007, hundreds of firefighters were dispersed across tens of thousands of acres under extremely challenging conditions,” said Logue. “It reinforced the need to stay in contact and track positions.”

For additional information visit www.geospatialtech.com or email GST at info@geospatialtech.com



The BlackBerry solution and Sprint together have attracted developers whose ideas extend beyond the simple exchange of voice, e-mail and other basic data. As this explosion of new applications unfolds, public-sector users continue to discover new ways to better serve the public.

Take for instance BIO-key International®, whose PocketCop® application for the BlackBerry smartphone allows law enforcement to quickly and securely query state and national data sources for crucial criminal information.

Software maker Wallace Wireless' Wallace Information Communicator application for BlackBerry smartphones simplifies communications and facilitates the management and sharing of video feeds and other data in real time, allowing first responders to act quickly in emergency situations.

Another application that protects first responders is GeoSpatial GST Tracker. That helps emergency responders keep track not only of vehicle locations using their BlackBerry smartphones, but also the locations of specific individuals.

All of these applications build upon an existing infrastructure. In the most practical sense, top leadership in many departments already carries BlackBerry smartphones. New innovations in diverse areas offer one more reason to extend that usage departmentwide. This complements the low cost and ease of use for which the BlackBerry smartphone already is renowned.

Even more to the point, the breadth of these applications speaks to further evolutions yet to come. A surge of new applications is building, and the BlackBerry solution, together with Sprint, stands poised to develop a broad and deep diversity of tools, tools that will ensure the public sector is well equipped to face whatever challenges the future may hold.

Better Access to Data

Ocean County, N.J., finds a more efficient way to get criminal data to officers on the street with BIO-key Sprint PocketCop for BlackBerry smartphones.

Here's the scenario Lt. Mike Nevil does not want to see: A cop is on surveillance. A car pulls up. The officer uses his voice radio to call dispatch and has to wait while the dispatcher "runs the plate" through state and federal sources for information on the owner and any stolen vehicle report. Meanwhile, the bad guys pick up the voice exchange on a scanner and flee or take an offensive stance.

"Now if we are out on the road and we are doing a sexual predator case, we can run that person's information and get back a picture from our DMV."

Lt. Mike Nevil, Computer Crimes Unit, Prosecutor's Office, Ocean County, N.J.

As a lead player in the Computer Crimes Unit in the Ocean County, N.J., Prosecutor's Office, Nevil doesn't want covert operations blown by the use of cell phones or radios. And he doesn't want cops waiting for criminal histories and suspects' bios.

Since early spring, Nevil has been tackling the problem with a combination of Sprint connectivity, BlackBerry smartphones and software from BIO-key, whose PocketCop application puts criminal data into officers' hands quickly and securely. BIO-key allows for real-time retrieval of motor vehicle, warrant and criminal history information in a mobile environment.

Officers can use the system to query federal and state sources. They can trace a gun, run a plate or do a background check in a secure environment. With growing gang activity in the area, such capabilities can give police an edge, Nevil said.

"Now if we are out on the road and we are doing a sexual predator case, we can run that person's information and get back a picture from our DMV," he said. "When the person comes on scene, we can recognize right away that this is the guy we are looking for."

The system overcomes some inherent limitations of a phone-based records search. "If you get information over the phone and you are writing it down, our concern is that if you are spending time doing that, you may not be able to pay enough attention to what you are looking at," Nevil said.

Looking ahead, Nevil said he would like to use PocketCop to give users access to the county's own compendium of criminal activity, which includes crucial data such as whether a suspect has been armed and dangerous in the past, and make that available to local law enforcement.

"Their interest, obviously, is in their local area," he said, "but we want everyone to have that bigger countywide view."

For more information on PocketCop on BlackBerry smartphones, go to www.bio-key.com/ps/pocketcop-reg.asp or call BIO-key at: **800.400.6311**

Video in Hand

Officers in Cook County, Ill., use Wallace Information Communicator to view video from countywide network of cameras for crime-fighting.

When Cook County, Ill., began deploying cameras as part of a public safety initiative, the IT managers there were enthusiastic about how much local law enforcement would gain from the effort.

Since 2006, some 90 cameras have come online throughout the county. They record continuously at high-profile public locations, such as train stations, malls and various other spots deemed potential public safety incident risks.

The system also supplies real-time visual data to incident management personnel, thanks to a network assembled by Sprint, BlackBerry smartphones and Wallace Wireless.

The Wallace Information Communicator comes with a suite of helpful communications tools: chat module, access to current county emergency information and a continuously updated emergency management contact list. But it is the video capability that excites Dudley Donelson, the county's director of network infrastructure.

“We put the equipment in at these locations hoping we never have to use it. But in the event of an incident, we want to make sure our first responders know how to do it.”

Dudley Donelson, director of network infrastructure, Cook County, Ill.

He described a recent incident. Officers on the scene contacted control center personnel who had access to the video system. The control center was able to locate a camera within view of the incident that was capable of feeding live video to the manager's BlackBerry smartphone in the field.

“We put the equipment in at these locations hoping we never have to use it,” Donelson said. “But in the event of an incident, we want to make sure our first responders know how to do it. So with the public safety use, our guys are being highly trained on an ongoing basis. We have been using Wallace for seven months, and it has already become invaluable.”

To see these applications live on a BlackBerry smartphone please visit www.wallacewireless.com/wic-public-safety and register for a webinar or 30-day demo.



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