

How to reduce the cost of policing

Police Chiefs ask themselves some very important questions. Most of those queries focus on whether their police agency is providing the best community service and if they are accomplishing this duty by making the best use out of their officers' time.

The question that is asked daily is what consumes the majority of an officer's time? Not surprising, it is not the serious types of cases that you may believe such as homicides or major occurrences, but rather, the culprits largely consist of investigating minor assaults, impaired drivers, domestic violence, breaches of court conditions and minor drug possession. eJust Systems refers to these types of cases as bulk business and although they are not high profile, they are by far the most common source of time consumers.

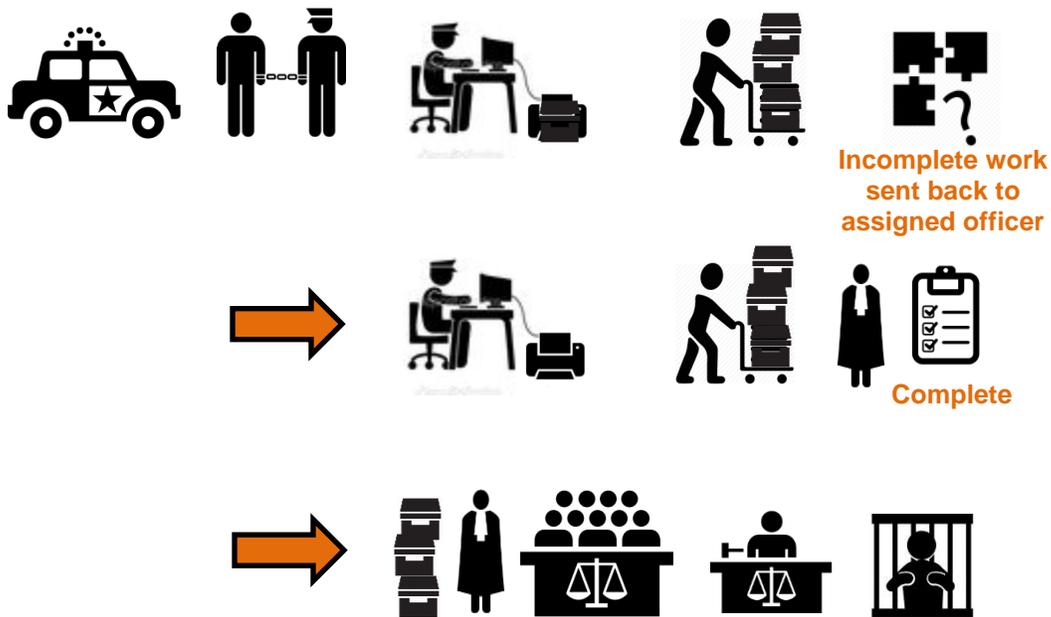
Approximately eighty percent of cases rest with the arresting officer to prepare for court. Compounding this fact is that of the eighty percent charged with an offence, it is estimated that less than twenty percent end up in court. The unknown factor for police, however, is that they are required to prepare each case assuming all matters will be going to trial. With this in mind, efficiency improvements should be directed upon the eighty rather than the twenty percent.

The current situation

Presently, the pace of assembly and exchange is sluggish as police use "drag and drop" file management practices with a combination of paper, hard drives, DVD's and USB's as their source of sharing. Compounding this inefficiency, police services have become overloaded with the ever-increasing need to include a myriad of digital assets.

Having experience in the inefficient manner of preparing cases for court, eJust Systems understands what officers encounter. Although the rationale of pride of work is necessary, it does not have to be excluded in today's digital world.

If we consider the current method used for preparing cases, it would resemble the illustration below. The problem is that by having each officer prepare their own cases, the result is a non-standardized product which is magnified in variation by the number of officers a police service has and the amount of rework generated in producing each case.



A better approach

One of the key benefits that eJust-CMS has is the ability to electronically recognize the key pieces of information stored in police records management systems for a case when a charge has been laid. Secondly, automated information identifiers configured within our software afford the capacity to centralize the assembly process to a highly trained group of civilians with a limited number of sworn officers overseeing the operation.

With our current customers, this transformational way of work has greatly improved the production of case information and provides:

1. Trained experts that identify at the earliest segment of the business cycle what is required, missing, and if necessary needs to be corrected before delivery to the prosecutor
2. Standardized case information provided to the prosecutor including all associated digital assets
3. Reduced time to prepare disclosure by 55%

More cases will result in increased time and cost savings

Agency size and level of annual case production does matter as not all police services fit the same mold. What works well for one of our police customers that produce over 65,000 criminal cases annually does not reflect the needs of a smaller agency. The main point however is by configuring the workflow based on police and prosecutor requirements, the more cases that are produced, the larger the overall savings in cost and time.

The illustration below illustrates what automation and centralization of disclosure assembly can accomplish for your police service.



Police can still be owners of their cases but by relinquishing the manufacturing of cases to a qualified processing team, they will be assured that the content of their investigations is complete, standardized and provided to the prosecutor in a set period of time.

To learn more about our products and services visit us at www.ejustsystems.com or call toll free at 85550.2937