



Officers win award for saving money

Case Study

Gloucestershire Constabulary is a county police force in south west England.

In 2008 two police officers from the force were asked to look for a solution to their mobile forensic needs. Their existing solution was no longer meeting their growing requirements, as the force experienced more and more mobile phones being seized for examination.

DC Adrian Stratton and PC John Loveridge undertook the project to find a solution and after due evaluation they invested in XRY from Micro Systemation.

Previously the phones were sent away for more expensive and time-consuming analysis. But after the officers became trained to extract evidence from phones on XRY the data forensic work could be completed in-house.

In the following 16 months, the pair, from the Cotswolds and Stroud Division, scrutinised 1643 handsets and 177 SIM cards. Of these 260 Phones and 24 SIMS were examined within a day of being submitted and some 1383 phones and 153 SIMS were examined within four weeks of coming in.

As a result the officers won this year's Richard Somers Award in recognition of their expert examination of mobiles and SIM cards. The Richard Somers Award is presented annually to officers who give extra value for money to the force.

Supt Bridget Woodhall, who nominated them for award said:

"Analysis of mobile phone data is now a key part of evidence gathering – particularly in cases involving the exchange or sale of drugs.



"Thanks to the work of these officers the monetary savings are plain to see, but there are hidden benefits such as quicker results, shorter bail dates for the more serious offences, and the potential to extract a wealth of new of intelligence."

"It should also be noted all this has been achieved while DC Stratton and PC Loveridge were carrying out normal roles within the constabulary."

The minimum saving during this period is £264,248 but the real figure is estimated as more than £350,000, because the pair often discover additional offences and evidence on the way.

The results are available within hours, with the Crown Prosecution Service able to charge on the same day, without the need to give suspects long bail periods.

Adrian and John both commented on the value of using XRY within their own force by saying:

"The backup is excellent, both the website support and the regular updates are very good. We have had 4 updates in the first six months alone; with the constant addition of newly supported phones."

"The reports produced are clear and concise. They have been understood by all the officers who required a phone examination in the first few months of operation."

The very first job we used XRY on was a murder and we got exactly what we wanted within hours.

That weekend we estimate that we saved the force £6,000 and from that point on there was no going back.

**DC Adrian Stratton
PC John Loveridge
Gloucestershire
Constabulary**

