CASE STUDY: Gloucestershire Constabulary

Using XRY enables faster results, shorter bail periods and cost savings for police force

Key achievement
By setting up an in-house mobile forensic team instead of contracting for the service, the Gloucestershire Constabulary is now often able to get mobile forensic results within hours, with the Crown Prosecution Service able to charge suspects on the same day without the need to give suspects long bail periods. Estimated cost savings of more than €350,000 also strengthened the case for selecting XRY.

“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

The problem/challenge
Gloucestershire Constabulary is a county police force in southwest England. In 2008, two police officers from the Cotswolds and Stroud Divisions initiated a search for a new mobile forensic solution that could meet their needs.

Prior to this evaluation, the force sent mobile phones to an outside service provider for extraction and analysis, but the provider was not able to keep up with the growing number of phones acquired by the police.

During this evaluation, the officers received forensic investigator training in extracting evidence from phones on XRY. This meant that they now had the option to conduct mobile forensic work in-house with their own forensics tool.
In the 16 months following the rollout of XRY, the police successfully examined 15% of all mobile devices and SIM cards within a day of submission, and the remaining backlog – consisting of 1,383 phones and 153 SIMS – was eliminated within four weeks.

“Analysis of mobile phone data is now a key part of evidence gathering – particularly in cases involving the exchange or sale of drugs,” said Supt Bridget Woodhall.

“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 £6000 and from that point on, there was no going back,” said DC Adrian Stratton and PC John Loveridge, Gloucestershire Constabulary.

In recognition of their expert examination of mobiles and SIM cards, the officers were awarded the Richard Somers Award, which is given annually to officers who give extra value for money to the force.

“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 intelligence,” Supt Woodhall said.

Other factors cited by the two evaluating officers in recommending XRY included: The quality of support and the frequent product updates. They also found the reports generated post-extraction to be very clear and concise.

“The reports have been understood by all the officers who required a phone examination in the first few months of operation,” said DC Adrian Stratton and PC John Loveridge.