The Evolution and Current State of the Florida Integrated Network for Data Exchange and Retrieval (FINDER) Information Sharing System

Dr. K. Michael Reynolds
University of Central Florida

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Abstract:

Pre-9/11, a University of Central Florida (UCF) faculty member and an Orange County Sheriff's Office commander pursued the creation of inter-agency law enforcement information sharing to facilitate regional crime analysis. The initial vision was to connect agencies across the Central Florida I-4 Corridor that reaches from Daytona Beach to St. Petersburg; however, it has subsequently proliferated throughout Florida. Currently, 123 Florida agencies are actively sharing all RMS data and more than thirty additional agencies access the system. There are about 4,000 system-wide daily users. FINDER is in its fourth version and is a Microsoft.Net application using the Global Justice XML Data Model (NIEM).

FINDER has been recognized by the Brookings Institute, DHS, the U.S. Department of Justice, numerous U.S. Congressional entities, the Florida Legislature, and the Follow-up 9/11 Commission Public Discourse Project as an exemplary public-public grass-root practitioner designed and managed model to facilitate wide area information sharing. It is low-cost, has practitioner buy-in and support, effective, and widely used by local, state, and federal agencies.

Biography:

Dr. K. Michael Reynolds initiated the Florida Data Sharing Consortium in 1999 to provide Central Florida law enforcement agencies the ability to share information in real-time for tactical and strategic crime analysis. The collaborative project grew into a wide-area federated data-base network that now serves 98% of the Florida population. The application was eventually designated as the Florida Integrated Network for Data Exchange and Retrieval (FINDER). Dr. Reynolds continues to participate in FINDER enhancements and research related to the application of data-mining techniques designed to support practitioners. He has also created an on-going ten year partnership with several Russian universities to pursue educational exchanges, research collaborations, and funded projects. During a six month Fulbright Scholarship, Dr. Reynolds introduced and taught crime mapping and analysis at a major Russian police university. He developed the course curriculum that was adopted and currently in use. He continues to conduct empirical research in Russia related to corruption, police satisfaction, the rule-of-law, policing, and civil society.