

WebEnforcer: a web-enabled law enforcement GIS

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Abstract

Traditional law enforcement in the North American context is governed by artificial geo-administrative boundaries that are not recognized by criminals. However, multi-agency data/information sharing is often restricted and sporadic due to different systems, formats, and specifications. This paper examines the development of a modern customized web-enabled GIS software application, entitled WebEnforcer, for the purposes managing, analyzing, and delivering crime mapping information to various user groups within multiple law enforcement departments.

The project involved the creation of a web-enabled user interface and query engine for a police based crime-fighting GIS system currently deployed for a US County. The system enables local police authorities to monitor dangerous offenders within their geographic region as well as advanced statistical crime analysis and mapping. By using this updated WebEnforcer application, the County is realizing cost savings and efficiencies by having fast user tailored access to huge volumes of crime information. WebEnforcer provides freedom for the crime analyst to do advanced crime mapping and analysis while providing a simple and easy-to-use interface that enables the patrol officer to gather information about their specific area of interest prior to their patrol. This has shown to lead to more effective resource allocation and proactive patrolling.