

## Case Study

### Optimizing Ohio

*State implements cutting-edge investigative tools.*

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MARY COOL,  
CIO, Ohio Attorney  
General's Office

In January 2003, Jim Petro began his term as Ohio Attorney General. One of Petro's priorities was creating a tool to help police agencies share and use each other's data. This led to development of the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG-SE) and subsequently, the Ohio Local Law Enforcement Information Sharing Network (OLLEISN). These Web-based solutions deliver state-of-the-art data-sharing and investigative tools.

“What Attorney General Jim Petro did when he came into office was to pull together all the law enforcement-related parties in the state to foster cooperation and sharing of information,” said Mary Cool, CIO for the Ohio Attorney General's Office. “Everybody took a chunk of the puzzle and their piece to solve.”

At the heart of OHLEG-SE and OLLEISN is the Microsoft .NET Framework, which provides powerful search and records-management capabilities. Petro and the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) partnered with Optimum Technology, a Columbus-based Microsoft partner, to aid in the design and development of the OHLEG-SE and OLLEISN utilizing Microsoft .NET tools.

“What we initially did was develop the OHLEG-SE search engine,” Ron Hatfield, Director of Business Development for Optimum Technology. “The OHLEG-SE Web site will authenticate authorized users and present them with a query page. You can now query names and vehicles, with the next phase to include address-based queries. The system will search all of these disparate repositories of information and bring the information back to the investigator. Then the officer has the capability of drilling down into the details on any particular search response.”



The OHLEG-SE application pulls data not only from the state Bureau of Motor Vehicles and other such organizations, but with OLLEISN, envisions including data from each police department in Ohio as well. OLLEISN uses GJXDM extracts which are then made available to search. OHLEG-SE and OLLEISN were designed to function together and require only an Internet connection to access, thus making the tools available to even the smallest, most rural departments in the state.

The Ohio Attorney General launched OHLEG-SE in late September 2005 at a statewide law-enforcement conference and then began to make the technology available to individual law-enforcement agencies across Ohio.

“There is no cost whatsoever to local law enforcement to access OHLEG-SE, other than the fact they need to have Internet access,” said Cool. “This should be huge in the state of Ohio — to the cops on the street, as well as investigators. Nobody has any idea how big this is going to be once everybody is aware and contributes their piece. It can just be massive.”

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