Laying Down the Law with Stonefield Query

Company Name

The Crimestar Corporation

Established

1997

City

San Jose, CA USA

Website

www.crimestar.com

Contact

Alec Gagne

Title

Lead Developer

Industry

Law Enforcement

Query Version

Software Developers Kit

Dealer

Stonefield Software Inc.

City

Regina, SK Canada

Website

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Contact

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Notable Quotes

"Stonefield Query is powerful reporting tool that allows you to be innovative with your report requests. If you are looking to improve the profitability of your business then this is the best investment that you will ever make."

Alec Gagne

Crimestar in the Spotlight

The Crimestar Corporation located in San Jose, California specializes in law enforcement and public safety technology solutions. Established in 1999 they provide communication and information management systems to agencies around the United States. Their customers include all divisions of law enforcement and public safety from the Private Investigator to Federal Law Enforcement Agencies.

Alec Gagne is the Owner and Lead Developer for the Crimestar Corporation. In 1997, he created Crimestar's Records Management System (RMS), which was the first in a series of high quality, easy to use, affordable software solutions. Alec was the person responsible for introducing Stonefield Query as the report writer for Crimestar products.

CrimeStar's RMS is the flagship product for the company and there are two editions of the software. The Enterprise edition is for medium to large agencies with several facilities that store large amounts of data. The Professional edition is for small to medium size agencies with a single facility that store a moderate amount of data.

The Crimestar Problem

Since its creation in 1997, CrimeStar RMS has undergone numerous revisions to reflect changing laws and advancements in technology. The original program, now the Professional Edition, was developed on a LAN architecture in Microsoft Visual FoxPro® and featured Query Maker as the report writer.

When large agencies with multiple user groups and several facilities began to adopt Crimestar's RMS, Alec saw the need to take a client-server approach and the program underwent its first major revision. The Enterprise Edition incorporated Microsoft SQL Server®, and provided clients with a more reliable system to run on a WAN architecture.

They encountered a major developmental issue when they tested the beta version of the new CrimeStar RMS. Query Maker could report against Visual FoxPro but was incompatible with the new SQL Server. They now faced a dilemma on how to deal with the ad-hoc query reports. As they searched for a solution, they encountered another major issue. The program uses codified fields and most third party report writers are incapable of linking codified tables.

Crimestar delayed the release of the new Enterprise Edition because of the limited ad-hoc query capabilities of Query Maker. Alec needed a data mining and reporting solution with ad-hoc query capabilities that could link codified fields and work against Visual FoxPro and SQL Server.

Alec looked at a several alternatives but none of the other reporting tools met his standards. Developing an in-house application was not a cost effective alternative. "I needed to find a data mining and reporting tool that met my standards of quality, ease of use, and efficiency," said Alec. "Finding an affordable solution seemed impossible."

The Stonefield Solution

Doug Hennig is the Lead Developer for Stonefield Software Inc. Alec first met Doug through a FoxPro users group in the mid 1990's. After discussing the compatibility issues between the Query Maker and the SQL Server database plus Alec's need for an easy-to-use report writer, Doug recommended Stonefield Query Software Developers Kit (SDK).

Stonefield Query was the perfect solution to Crimestar's developmental issues. It uses a data dictionary and works against databases including SQL Server and Visual FoxPro. Stonefield Query was the only third party application they could find that could properly link codified tables.

The Result

Alec signed an Original Equipment Manufacturers agreement with Stonefield. Stonefield Query is now the official reporting tool for all Crimestar software and is packaged as a private labeled solution called CrimeStar RMS Report Creator. "Stonefield Query is an affordable solution that meets my standards of quality ease of use and efficiency," said Alec.

Stonefield Query has been the official data mining and reporting tool in Crimestar's RMS since November 2005. CrimeStar RMS featuring Stonefield Query is the technology of choice for today's progressive law enforcement officials and is the standard by which all other law enforcement software is measured.

"If you are looking for an affordable easy-to-use ad-hoc query tool that expands the ability of your software and gives your end-users the ability to generate their own reports," said Alec, "you need to invest in Stonefield Query. It will certainly improve the profitability of your business."

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