



## Louisiana Secures Justice Using 3Com® TippingPoint Enterprise Solution

*The Challenge: In today's complex world of record keeping and data sharing, it takes more than a gavel to call a court to order. Recognizing this fact, the State of Louisiana uses best-of-breed technology to assist 485 attorneys, agents and 22 judges to adjudicate more than 45,000 civil and criminal cases and investigations per year. The State of Louisiana's Criminal Justice System requires fast access to multiple criminal justice agencies, including the F.B.I, State Police, local police, Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court. The justice vertical must also quickly access data such as court dates, drug tests subpoenas, warrants, and defendant criminal histories.*

Moreover, because these records often contain medical or criminal information protected by federal guidelines such as the Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), they must be kept secure and confidential at all times.

Previously, however, the criminal justice system operated three independent judicial data structures. These repositories were inconsistent and outdated, impeding judges' and investigators' ability to track and exchange critical information. Moreover, the judicial vertical's criminal, civil, and investigative sections had to manually enter the same case and criminal history data into standalone databases and hand-deliver case files from one department to another. This repetitive, error-prone process compromised data and quality assurance, leaving defendants sitting idly in jail at the taxpayer's expense.

To gain the networking power it required, the criminal justice system combined into a single

source data infrastructure in 2004 and deployed a 3Com Gigabit LAN driven by the 3Com Switch 7700. While the Switch 7700 provided access control lists (ACLs), preventing unauthorized users from accessing inappropriate and or secure resources and with federal regulations strengthening the infrastructure needed a higher level of security.

As a result, Louisiana sought a comprehensive security solution to safeguard its core data components from attackers, worms, spyware, etc.

### **Why\_3Com\_and\_TippingPoint**

The justice vertical wanted a broad-based security system from a proven provider at an affordable price. Louisiana and its justice community carefully evaluated intrusion prevention systems (IPS) from leading vendors, including Cisco, Juniper Networks, and the TippingPoint division of 3Com. They found the only solution able to meet its total needs was from TippingPoint. Awarded Best Security Solution 2005 from SC Magazine, the

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**Doug Welborn**  
**Louisiana Criminal Justice System**

TippingPoint IPS blocks malicious and unwanted traffic, while allowing legitimate traffic to pass.

“Secure technology is paramount to our mission of delivering justice,” said Doug Welborn, an executive level official with the Louisiana Criminal Justice System. “With the protection of the TippingPoint IPS and the power of our 3Com enterprise network, we now have a security infrastructure that is second to none.”

### The\_Benefits

Powered by the 3Com Switch 7700 and protected by the TippingPoint IPS, the State of Louisiana and its criminal justice partners now have the secure infrastructure they require. In addition to saving \$250,000 per year by consolidating hardware and management resources, the system can fully comply with HIPAA and FIPS requirements.

“We acquired an immediate return on our 3Com investment,” confirmed Freddie Manint, CIO/F.B.I.-T.A.C, State of Louisiana Criminal Justice System. “In addition, we dramatically improved data sharing, investigations, criminal processing, and employee morale.”

A powerful sentinel at the highly secure core, the TippingPoint solution delivers pervasive security capabilities. Regardless of the number of filters utilized, packet flows enter the IPS at wirespeed with an imperceptible latency of less than 215 microseconds, guaranteeing uninterrupted, immediate access to mission-critical databases.

The TippingPoint IPS also prevents Denial of Service (DoS) floods, worms, spyware, buffer overflows, viruses, plus a host of other potentially devastating attacks, virtually eliminating the possibility of costly disruptions. To guarantee evergreen protection against the latest vulnerabilities, TippingPoint solutions offer the Digital Vaccine® real-time inoculation service. Requiring no intervention by the Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS) staff, the Digital Vaccine service automatically updates filters as-needed to protect the infrastructure’s operating systems and applications from emerging threats. The TippingPoint IPS also performs bandwidth

management, enabling the court system to reclaim bandwidth by cleansing the network of malicious traffic and throttling non-critical traffic such as Peer-to-Peer file sharing.

The justice vertical also benefits from the TippingPoint Security Management System (SMS), a hardened appliance that allows CJIS staff to obtain comprehensive reports and real-time graphs on traffic statistics, blocked attacks, and information on network hosts and services. The SMS can manage multiple TippingPoint devices to ensure scalability. It can also automatically distribute Digital Vaccine filters and optimizes the TippingPoint solution’s effectiveness. “By simplifying management, the SMS reduces the cost of ownership,” added Manint.

The TippingPoint solution’s intuitive graphical user interface further enhances the court system’s ease of management. Unlike competing systems that have complex installation and require users to choose filters to block or detect, TippingPoint systems come with a suggested configuration that allows for plug and play protection. The TippingPoint solution also features comprehensive reporting for all security related events. The agency monitors its entire infrastructure on two 42-inch plasma monitors and records baselines for its perimeter infrastructure three times a day.

Shortly after deploying the TippingPoint IPS, the security solution saved the criminal justice system from what could have been a serious security breach. One of the government’s service providers inadvertently transmitted malicious code that sought to change the settings of the agencies border gateway protocol (BGP) routers, potentially bringing much of the system to a halt. The TippingPoint IPS immediately pinpointed the threat, thwarted it, and traced it back to the IP address of the service provider’s offending device. “The TippingPoint IPS averted a potential disaster,” recounted Manint.

Anchored by the Switch 7700, the criminal justice vertical has a 10-Gigabit capable network core

with advanced Layer 3 switching and security features that allow it to segment federal, state, and local criminal records into virtual LANs (VLANs). In addition, the Switch 7700's port-level traffic management capability allows CJIS staff to monitor, direct, and predict core traffic patterns and allocate bandwidth as needed, further guaranteeing mandated performance from day to day.

Four SuperStack 3 Switch 4924s linked by 3Com XRN technology provide speed and redundancy without the cost and complexity of adding more switches. Even if one port or an entire switch fails, XRN technology sustains network operations, ensuring the judicial management system is always available. The justice vertical agency is using another 25 Switch 4900s and 4924s to distribute Gigabit Ethernet connections to nearly 1,000 local users. Moreover, with 3Com's "pay-as-you-grow" strategy, the judicial agencies can easily deploy additional XRN fabrics to increase the aggregated bandwidth of existing switches to support new users and achieve a greater return on their investment.

Leveraging the SuperStack 3 Switch 4900s/4924s' delivery of Gigabit Ethernet connectivity over both fiber and copper cabling, the criminal justice system also dramatically reduced its implementation costs by using existing copper wire to link the switches to servers and SuperStack 3 Switch 4400s. With 3Com Network Supervisor providing a complete view of every network node and their interconnect speeds, CJIS staff proactively manage the infrastructure, lowering the total cost of ownership of the solution.

Using its 3Com enterprise solution, the State of Louisiana Criminal Justice System is now a model of communications efficiency. Judges and investigators for example, use the network-based judicial system to quickly investigate offenders' histories, enabling them to set bail terms that protect their communities. The Quality of Service (QoS) capabilities of the 3Com solution will even enable judges, prosecutors, and agents to hold video conference with inmates awaiting trial, saving significant travel time and other associated costs. Law clerks and investigators use the infrastructure to rapidly open crosscheck, update, and verify criminal histories including arrest dates, assigned judges, and associated charges.

"Our secure, converged infrastructure allows federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to work together more effectively," said Manint. "With 3Com's help, we've created the standard for criminal justice agencies nationwide."

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