

Kent Police

Data Migration of legacy Police data to Athena Back records conversion (BRC)



Challenge

Kent Police committed to implementing the Athena integrated information management system. The Athena programme brings forces together to connect information, align processes and share costs. Through a shared investment in the CONNECT platform and infrastructure, Athena helps forces to shift resources from the back office to the front line by stripping out time-consuming manual processes, it means forces can work faster and achieve more.

For Kent Police this involved migrating **22 years** of data, **122 million** records including:



Background

Kent Police's geographic location as the main gateway to Europe, means they have a part to play in local, national and international policing. Last year*



*August 2017

Aim

The aim of the project was to migrate all relevant data from the legacy system without any degradation of Kent Police's operational capacity.



Genesis



Approach

Methods is the delivery partner for Kent Police and was responsible for the overall Programme Management of the Athena implementation, providing leadership and guidance to Kent and the wider stakeholder group of 9 Police Forces, suppliers, partner agencies, the Criminal Justice Service and Courts as well as the PNC team.

- Methods provided a multi-skilled team creating high and low-level solution design specifications. We looked at existing mapping of source to target fields and CV lists working with Kent Police to finalise the project.
- We built a staging data warehouse using Microsoft SQL Server 2014 and SSIS as the ETL tool to extract and transform data from the source system (built on an Ingress Database), as well as creating multiple XML output files for input into the Athena Test Harness.
- The development of each XML output file followed an Agile development process.
- We then conducted the build of the environments in conjunction with Kent Police IT Services on Kent Police infrastructure.
- JIRA was used for sprint planning, product backlog, progress tracking and issue management.

Stakeholder management was therefore key and was underpinned by a strong communications strategy, plan and implementation management, incorporating training prior to Go Live.



1. Initiation



2. Development



3. Audit Load



4. Live Load

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Solution

As these systems were complex, involving over 900 individual data objects, some with repeating groups or CV lists with thousands of potential options, the scale of mapping and business logic requiring confirmation was considerable. We addressed this challenge using agile development methodology and bi-weekly sprints to break the volume of data into packages, termed EPICs, based on logical categories of data as defined by an Athena input specification, and then further into user stories which could be assigned to developers for completion during a particular sprint.

Agile Methodology and bi-weekly sprints enabled:

- Progress to be visible to all stakeholders.
- Requirements and outstanding or unclear business logic to be confirmed on a case by case basis.
- Team flexibility to incorporate change, without expensive change control processes.
- Business analysts, developers and business users to progress with the project quickly soon after initiation.
- Methods to meet the ambitious timescales.

KEY TEST AREAS

The BRC testing of the extract, transform, load (ETL) process is thorough and involves a wide audience including:

Test team

Test that the attributes migrate as expected, all records are migrated and are linked.

Business

Is the data migrated correctly and processed without degradation of Kent's Police operational capacity?

Case & Partner Interface experts

Can Case files successfully Interface with Partners systems PNC, CPS (CMS) and Courts (Libra) when required?

PND

Can the migrated data be uploaded into PND and pass the required accreditation?

Key lessons learnt



Don't underestimate the complexity of the mapping. The Business Analysts need to be tenacious and work closely with the business areas



Management of Police Information (MoPI) needs to be carefully considered to ensure GDPR compliance



The Project manager needs to provide the translation between the business and technical requirement and lead on complex issue resolution



Loading of the data into the Target system (Athena /Connect) too longer than expected



Working with Partner needs carefully managing to ensure the scope doesn't creep and timescales can be achieved



Data Quality and Data cleansing needs to be consider early but can we encounter on going issues



Testing needs to be thorough and involve the business



Using Agile methodology has enabled us to flex the team and minimising the need for change control.

Testimonial

Kent Police is one of the first forces to successfully conduct BRC from a legacy system into Athena.

This process is now being replicated for other police forces across the country, using guidance and lessons learned from the work Methods and Kent have delivered.

Office locations:

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