

Video Interviews

Like most police agencies, the London Police started doing video interviews on VHS tapes in the early 1990's. This served us well for a number of years but recording to VHS tapes did have its problems. Some of these problems are:

- The tapes have to be stored in some location in an organized manner.
- Each tape needs to be properly labeled in order to retrieve it.
- When an officer wants to view an interview the tape must be brought out of storage, a TV with a VCR must be found, then after viewing the tape must be put back in storage.
- The quality of the tape is usually less than ideal.
- When an officer is reading the investigation and realizes that a video interview was taken, they may not take time to view it because of the inconvenience.
- The life span of VHS tapes is really undetermined but we know that "drop out" can occur after just a few years, degrading the quality of an important statement.

In 2008 the London Police decided to upgrade the technology used for taking video interviews. We did not want to switch to DVDs from VHS tapes because we would still have the identical problems of storing and retrieving physical media. We wanted a network server solution that was easy for officers to use, and wanted the ability to view the video interview on any PC, directly from the General Occurrence (GO) in our Records Management System (RMS).

We began a lengthy pilot project in 2008 with a company called For the Record (FTR). After a successful pilot, we installed a number of interview rooms with the FTR software in June of 2009. In January of 2010 we began recording impaired bookings and impaired breath readings on FTR. In March of 2010 we purchased a portable unit so detectives could conduct an interview in the comfort of a victim's home.

CaseNumber	10-80479	Location	LPS-HDUINT1
Interviewee	John SMITH	Begins	2010-07-26 05:01:55
Investigator	John Porter (360625)	Concludes	2010-07-26 05:06:18

Time	Note
2010-07-26 05:01:55	Recording Started
2010-07-26 05:02:40	Spoke to lawyer
2010-07-26 05:02:51	Cautioned
2010-07-26 05:03:03	Facts reviewed
2010-07-26 05:05:59	Interview ended
2010-07-26 05:06:18	Recording Stopped

Produced by FTR Interrogator
<http://www.fortherecord.com>

TheRecord
July 26 2010 5:02:00 AM

5:01:55 AM 5:06:18 AM

LPS-HDUINT1 00:04:23

26-Jul-10 05:02:01 (13) @ LPS-HDUINT1

Sample of an HTML file and an FTR video player

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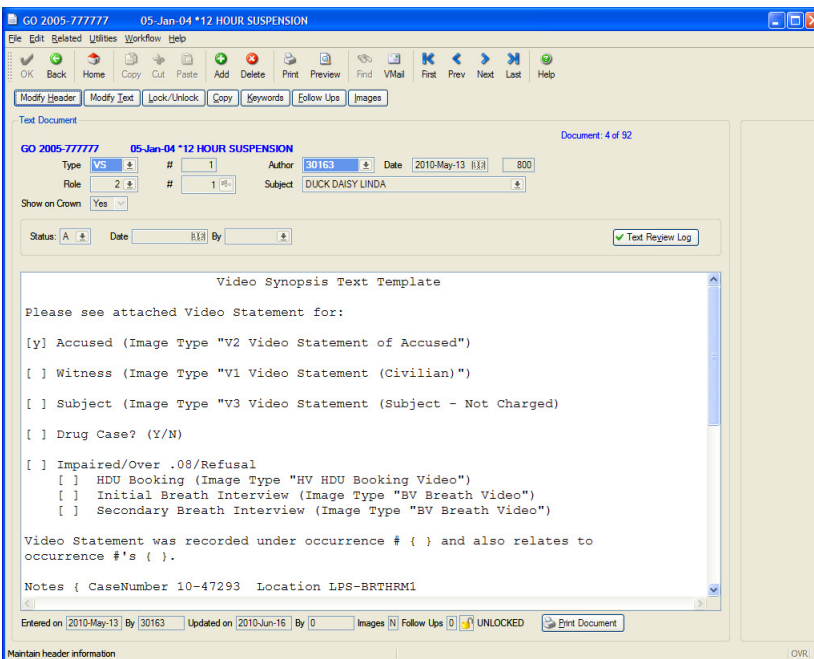


Sample of CSV file – HTML needs to be attached as an image to the occurrence

Occur No	VS Text Need FTR File Attached - Subject	Author	Text Date	Time	Notes (Run-2010-08-16 04:30)
.2008-65284	SMITH JOHN	176269	8/13/2010	1856	
.2009-135400	JONES MARY	314697	8/14/2010	831	
.2010-17852	DOE JOHN	314697	8/14/2010	830	

Sample of CSV file – video needs to be disclosed to the Crown

Folder No	Occur No	VS Text Need FTR Video Disclosure - Subject	INV	Book No	1st Disclosed	Crt Date
2009-12676	.09-121238	BLACK JOHN	WIT	75805-WOODS JOE	8/4/2010	10/5/2010
2010-5741	.10-52388	SMITH JOHN	WIT	82792-BAKER STEVE	8/5/2010	2/25/2011
2010-5945	.10-54338	PATERSON DAVID	ACC	82979-PATERSON DAVID	6/21/2010	8/19/2010



Sample of a VS text page

The London Police have also provided the Crown Attorney's Office with electronic disclosure for a number of years. Initially we burned CD's containing the video for disclosure to the Crown, but in the fall of 2009 we started giving batches of interviews on a thumb drive to the Crown.

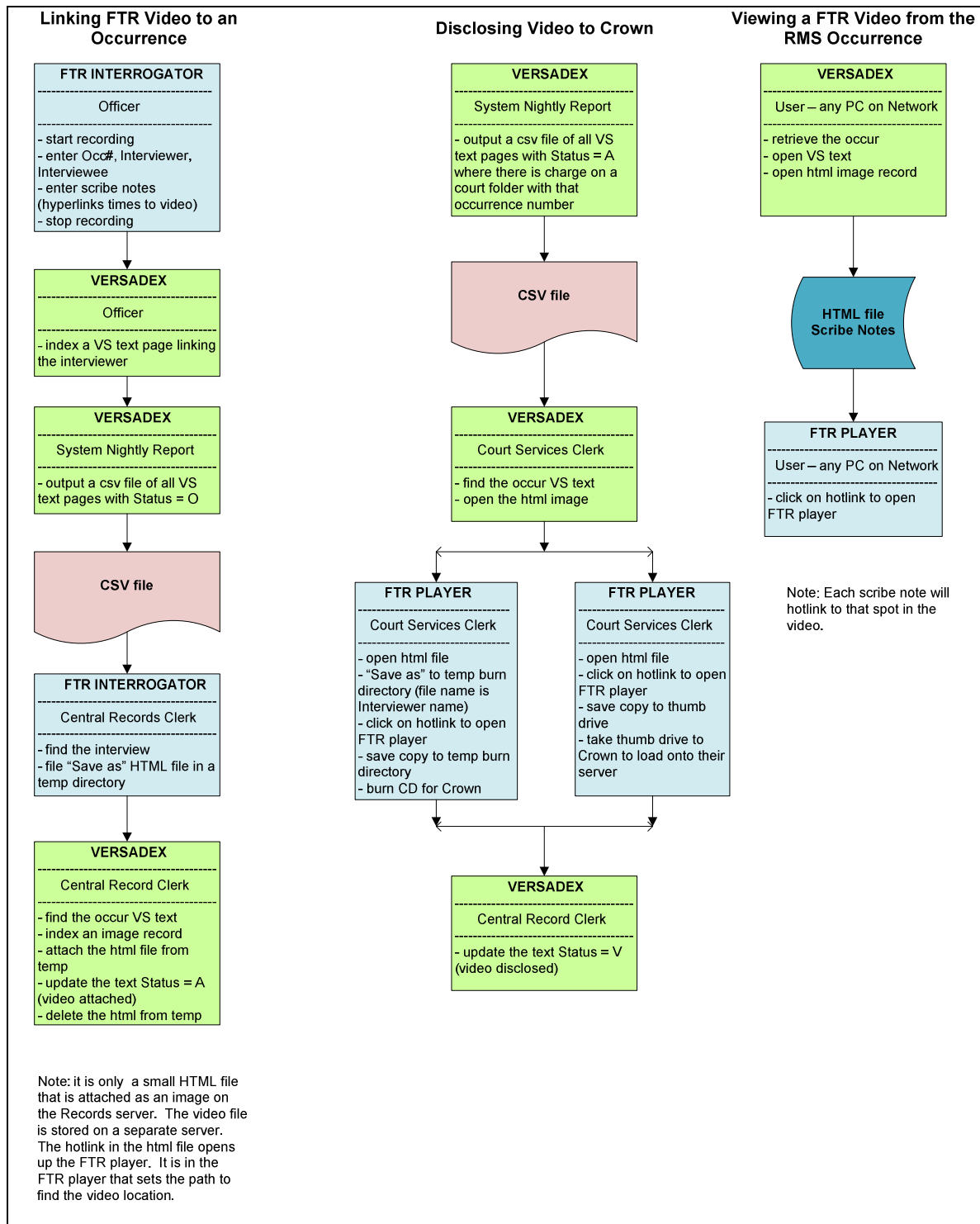
The Crown could then load the videos on their server and have the luxury of viewing them over a network, the way the London Police did. Like the police, the Crown no longer has to store physical media (on new cases) and at any time may electronically view a case on their desktop, then view the related videos.

This following business flow shows the new method of organizing, tracking and viewing videos, which enabled both the PD and the Crown to be more efficient and effective.

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This is the business flow used for “Linking an FTR video to an occurrence”, “Viewing a video from the RMS”, and “Disclosing an FTR video to the crown”.



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