



DenverDA

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NEWS RELEASE –

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DENVER DA AND DPD TAKE MAJOR STEP TO PAPERLESS CASES

The Denver District Attorney's Office, in collaboration with the Denver Police Department and other city agencies, has officially launched a new way to present, review and file criminal cases in Denver.

It requires no paper, detectives no longer travel to the District Attorney's Office to present their case, and there is no manual data entry by the DA's Office. It could save up to \$1-million dollars in staff time and printing costs in its first year alone.



Prosecutors in the DA's Office now video conference with Denver Police detectives as they present their cases electronically. The prosecutor is able to simultaneously review reports, witness statements and other evidence. If the case is accepted for criminal charges, the prosecutor is able to automatically load the entire case file into the DA's case management system.



Case information on disks (video interviews, crime scene photos) is automagically* copied by high speed machines affectionately known in the office as Optimus Prime and Megatron.



Misdemeanor cases in Denver have been paperless for two years. With felony cases now being reviewed and accepted electronically, old paper files that required large amounts of storage will be eliminated. Shelves that were once full of files are becoming empty.

The most amazing thing about this is that the police department and the DA's Office are each using the same case management systems already in place – they are now linked by specially created collaboration-ware that connects the systems and makes it possible to transfer very large amounts of data.

BACKGROUND

The challenge –

Denver Police Department can present as many as 9000 felony cases to the Denver District Attorney's Office each year. Until now, case details and documents have been manually entered at least twice - once into DPD's system and again into the District Attorney case filing system. A felony case may actually require hundreds of time-intensive personnel hours manually entering information, conducting multiple meetings between investigating police and the DA's office, copying and scanning evidence, crime scene photos, witness statements and finally reviewing and determining appropriate charges.

The solution –

Information Services Unit of the Denver District Attorney's Office has worked closely with the Denver Police Department for several years to reach this milestone. It was accomplished by enhancing the technology that was already in place. Specifically –

- A computer programmer created the one-of-a-kind program that links the police department's computer system to the district attorney's system
- A computer programmer created a special way to break up huge data files for transfer and then reassemble the data
- A video conferencing program was added
- Two high speed automatic DVD burners were added

The result -

Police detectives present their case to a deputy district attorney through a state-of-the-art computer connection (collaboration-ware), using video conferencing and the ability to electronically transfer an entire case to the District Attorney's Office.

This system updates the police department's records management system and then automatically enters all data into the District Attorney's case management system. It also automatically downloads body-worn camera video, DMV records and other data that used to be done manually. There will be a dramatic reduction in staff time that was previously required for data entry, copying files for discovery, scanning and duplication of CDs and DVDs, and travel time for detectives from all over the city to present their case at the DA's Office. It also greatly reduces the possibility of human error.