

# Spanish Ministry: Locks out terrorism with analytical insight

## Controls threats and saves lives with HPE IDOL and Vertica

### Objective

Mitigate terror attacks and organized crime risks by enabling passenger transit analyses

### Approach

Combine state law enforcement databases and massive data inputs into a scalable, big data solution that dispatches relevant knowledge to law enforcement in real time

### IT matters

- Combines all dispersed state law enforcement agency databases into a single search engine for faster search results
- Gathers millions of pieces of non-structured information from social network feeds, making analysis more comprehensive
- Reduces the lengthy time in searching millions of records and social network feeds for specific details, enabling police to glean behavioral patterns quickly for crime prevention

### Business matters

- Enables security teams to find specific data for use in analyzing threats in time
- Affords traveler surveillance via all modes of transportation to control threats and apprehend perpetrators
- Minimizes terror/organized crime risks by easing corroboration and information sharing with European Union security agencies
- Helps security analysts create terror-/crime-fighting solutions
- Illustrates a successful big data model to accelerate

Spain's Ministry of the Interior protects the fundamental rights to safety and security of its populace. Their mission includes thwarting terrorism, crime and harmful risks. Playing a huge role in the effort are state police, national security, immigration, prison and road traffic officials. HPE Big Data Platform—powered by IDOL and Vertica—enables monitoring, access, processing and analyzing of huge amounts of real-time data that security analysts depend upon to detect possible threats and save lives.

“HPE IDOL and Vertica have eliminated our past barriers to discovering specific intelligence critical to our operations within an enormous volume of structured and non-structured data,” says Antonio Garcia de Alamo, Head of IT Projects in the General Security Information and Communications Office for the Ministry of the Interior.

Not only does the Ministry want to give law enforcement personnel fast access to highly relevant and specific details to elevate their effectiveness and efficiency, Spanish security teams also want to corroborate intelligence with their European Union counterparts using of-the-moment details to strengthen overall security across the continent.

“The European Union is working with its members to reach a solution that allows us to analyze the entire volume of data that moves daily on the networks, inside the countries, and be able to share it,” de Alamo notes. “The only way to do that in a sensible time is with HPE's Big Data tools.”

### Mobilizing ‘right-now’ data

Spain's HPE Big Data Platform fuses all dispersed state law enforcement agency databases into a single search engine and aggregates multiple types of data for comprehensive analysis. The fully integrated platform will enable security analysts to interpret behavior and improve surveillance of travelers to and inside Spain via all modes of transportation.

“HPE IDOL was the only possible solution that permits us to analyze data in real time and allow analysts to establish a solution to fight against Jihadism,” de Alamo explains.

Diverse technologies in the state police offices posed some concerns about the complexity of creating a big data platform and whether it would scale powerfully to accommodate exploding data stockpiles, including text, images, audio and video. The HPE Big Data Platform resolved those concerns.

## Customer at a glance

### Industry

Government/Public Sector

### Primary application

- Monitor, access, process and analyze real-time data to detect possible threats

### Primary hardware

- HPE 147 HP EliteDisplay E221c 21.5-inch Webcam LED Backlit Monitor

### Primary software

- HPE Vertica (structured data analytics platform)
- HPE IDOL (unstructured data analytics platform)
- Apache Hadoop

### HPE services

- Specialist maintenance and support services

“Thanks to the HPE Big Data Platform architecture and the development that we have been doing, we can now, via HPE connectors, interact with the other databases and other projects in the law enforcement agencies. HPE IDOL is a powerful tool with rich functionality. It’s very easy to use. We can add storage quickly, without impacting the system, which scales with growth while data capture continues without disruptions.”

## Magnifying in-time analytics

Although in the early stages of its implementation and use, the platform has been well received. As a result, the IT staff has taken on new projects that are progressing well, and other European countries have asked the staff to assist them with their big data efforts.

“We have a good project in which we invested many personnel hours and weekends. It’s worth it when you see the results,” de Alamo says.

Even with successful results and technological advantages, people may fear that big data enhancements could intrude on citizens’ privacy. To address that concern, de Alamo responds: “When we do a project of this magnitude, we always think it is for citizen protection. We’ve established an audit system so that any data control authority can see the data that’s utilized online, to ensure full legal compliance.”

With those issues covered, the Spanish Ministry of the Interior is pleased that the HPE Big Data platform is helping them achieve the ultimate goal: saving human lives.

“Hewlett Packard Enterprise is way ahead of the rest with the development and advanced technology of HPE IDOL and Vertica. Others in the market haven’t been capable of addressing the challenge, and a year after we acquired the technology, they still haven’t caught up.”

- Antonio Garcia de Alamo, Head of IT Projects, Spain’s Ministry of the Interior

“We can never say that the terror threat will be eliminated completely, but we can minimize it, by studying behaviors to uncover intelligence for making acts of terror more difficult to accomplish. We’re sure that once the tool is fully implemented, many attacks will be avoided,” de Alamo concludes.

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