



Digital Pen and Paper cut through red tape in pre-trial interviews

FACTS

Customer: Lake County 19th Judicial Circuit Court, Illinois, US.

Challenge: To speed up the process of collecting and sharing information from pre-trial interviews whilst at the same time improving accuracy.

Solution: Rover INK Solution provided by Rover Technology Fusions (RTF), based on Anoto Digital Pen and Paper technology.

Benefits:

- Note taking procedure is familiar to pre-trial officers, so there is no need for training and high user acceptance.
- Information is automatically stored and can be sent to the judge in real time.
- There is no need for additional paperwork for record-keeping.
- The digital process saves staff time and mountains of paper, as well as reduces errors.

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Winnie Webber, Judicial Information Systems IT Manager, Lake County

Rover Technology Fusions (RTF) provided the 19th Judicial Circuit Court in Lake County, Illinois, US, with an innovative digital data collection procedure that has made the pre-trial interview process much faster and more efficient. The court's administrative personnel welcomed the new system which is at once simple to use, accurate and speedy. With RTF's application, information regarding eligibility for bail is electronically recorded, verified and quickly sent on to the appropriate judge, using a digital pen and special pre-printed digital forms.

“Based on the success of Rover INK in the 19th Judicial Circuit Court, Lake County is actively exploring expanded use of Rover INK technology in additional court departments”, says Winnie Webber, Judicial Information Systems IT Manager, Lake County.

The traditional way of gathering information

At the Lake County 19th Judicial Circuit Court, pre-trial officers and administrative staff prepare information for judges who determine whether or not someone may be released on bail. Officers interview inmates in small 3 by 3 foot booths, with no desks. Until recently, they had to record information during these interviews by hand on a pre-trial paper bond report, then return to their work areas, quickly verify as much information as possible and assemble handwritten notes into a report to be delivered to the judge. This process was both awkward and time-consuming, as well as leaving a wide margin for error in transcribing, copying and storing the data gathered.

The search for a new, more efficient method

Lake County made the decision to look for a more streamlined and reliable system than the traditional use of hand-written paper bond reports, which require checking, copying and physically sending to the judge responsible for the trial. They wanted to reduce the time, volume of paperwork and potential for error involved in recording, storing and transferring pre-trial information, with minimal disruption to the working habits of administrative staff.

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The chosen solution

After researching their options, Lake County decided to implement the digital pen and paper solution provided by RTF. The solution consists of a digital pen and forms custom-printed on paper with Anoto's unique dot pattern.

Nowadays, pre-trial officers take their digital pen and form into the interview. They select options from boxes or simply check an entry, instead of laboriously handwriting each one. Information stored in the pen is automatically transformed into a digital image that can be verified, printed and sent to the appropriate judge.

How it works, step by step:

- The forms are filled out with the digital pen. The pen looks and feels like a normal ballpoint pen, but contains a tiny infrared camera and processor which enables it to read and digitise words as they are written down.
- After the interview, the information is transferred from pen to computer via Bluetooth®, or by docking the pen to the computer via a USB-cable.
- The completed form is stored in Rover INK's SQL database, where the information can be made available either as raw data or as an identical image of the original paper document.
- Reports can be sent electronically to the appropriate judges in a consistent format, without the need for copies or transcriptions.

The advantages

The new system eliminates the laborious task of copying and transcribing information from the interviews into a report before it is sent on to the judge. It means a reduction in the hours spent by staff on these tasks, a reduction in the potential for errors in data collection, and a reduction in the volume of paper to be managed and stored in the court. In addition, the court's officers find the digital pen and paper easy and intuitive to use, while the judges responsible for granting or denying bail receive the relevant information quickly, so the court's proceedings become more efficient.

All Lake County pre-trial officers now have access to any verified report stored in the centralized Rover INK database, by inquiring

with the case number.

Although ROI is hard to quantify in a federal court, this application brings a big improvement in the efficiency and speed of the court's pre-trial procedures. The quality and accuracy of court records are also favourably affected.

According to Simon Morgan, Rover Technology Fusions' General Manager, "The Circuit Court was looking for a centralised model to streamline their workflow and they looked to us for a solution that's working even better than expected."

At the moment, the digital pens do not integrate into a back-office system, but the integration of data stored in the Rover INK database into the court's electronic judicial system is planned for the future. Lake County is now actively looking into the use of Digital Pen and Paper technology in other departments too.

Partner profile:

RoverTechnology Fusions (RTF) is a full-service technology solution provider offering a robust portfolio of products and services to both small and large businesses. RTF develops and integrates affordable enterprise technologies that connect business partners and protect valuable business data. With a strong focus on mobile data capture and workflow improvement, RTF's web based solutions deliver "on the edge" communication with quick implementation of backup and remote access systems. RTF's headquarters are in Tampa, Florida, US.

www.rovertechfusions.com