



Keeping communities safer with video evidence in the cloud

"For Memphis Police Department we delivered the fast and scalable Getac Veretos Evidence Management System that supports CJIS security policies. In many cases, data moves seamlessly from the officer and the vehicle directly to the Azure Government Cloud. This streamlined, secure hosted model eliminates many of the hidden costs and processes associated with running an internal network infrastructure."

Scott Shainman, President – North America, Getac



Video evidence solution provider IRSA wanted to help police departments scale to store more video data in a cost-effective way. To do that, IRSA developed Veretos Cloud, an evidence management solution based on the Microsoft Azure Government cloud. Now, police departments can support petabytes of video data, get instant access to digital evidence, and significantly cut infrastructure costs.



"Law Enforcement's main task is to serve and protect the public – not worry about servers. As video becomes mainstream, the management of vast amounts of data is a huge burden on the police department's infrastructure, staff and processes. Coordination between the department and the City also has associated hidden costs. The Azure Government Cloud empowers the Memphis PD to focus on its core competencies and worry less about infrastructure."

Tom Guzik, CEO, IRSA

Business Challenge

These days, video technology allows police officers to capture many aspects of crimes as they happen. Whether it's wearing a body camera that records an assault or other crime, or checking an in-car video camera that identifies a criminal's license plate, police officers are increasingly reliant on video to do their jobs. Analytics to support proactive law enforcement also requires new techniques for managing and mining vast amounts of information, including access to highly elastic, on-demand data processing resources.

But while these cutting-edge technologies are helping to curb criminal activity, they're also responsible for a massive growth in data that's overwhelming datacenters. Just ask James Murphy, Director of Field Operations, IRSA, a solution provider that offers a platform for acquiring and managing digital evidence. "As police video data grows exponentially, it's getting costlier and more challenging to support it," he says. "To scale our solutions to meet the demand, we didn't want to build and maintain our own datacenters."

IRSA's customers face the same challenges. "Most of our deployments are done by local police departments in their own facilities, and they have the same issues," Murphy says. An example is the Memphis Police Department, which uses IRSA's new Veretos Evidence Management solution. The solution is a browser-based asset management system that allows users to securely browse, view, tag, and share evidence

and provide real-time live video streams, crime maps, and vehicle locations. "The Memphis Police Department will need to store a petabyte of video data using our solution, without the burden of managing that massive infrastructure," says Murphy.

Many of IRSA's customers also require geo-redundancy to support their disaster recovery efforts. "If they wanted to implement that locally and put a replica datacenter a few hundred miles away, that would mean managing both facilities and replicating data, which can be difficult and expensive," says Tom Guzik, CEO, IRSA.

For IRSA, it became increasingly clear that the cloud was the solution to these challenges. "We saw the cloud as a way to reduce some of our operating costs while giving our customers data storage and disaster recovery capabilities," Guzik says. "We wanted to offer a cloud version of Veretos."

Solution

Because the IRSA Veretos solution already relies heavily on Microsoft technologies including SQL Server and Windows Server, IRSA was interested in exploring the Microsoft cloud as an option. Specifically, IRSA evaluated Microsoft Azure Government, a government-only cloud solution that has physical and logical isolation at all layers. After learning more about the technology, IRSA knew it would be the best platform for the Veretos cloud solution. "It was clear that Microsoft put a tremendous effort into designing a cloud specifically for government, unlike

Customer Name: IRSA
Industry: Public Safety
Country or Region: United States
Customer Website: <http://www.irsavideo.com>
<http://www.getac.com>

Employees: 200

Customer Profile: Founded in Charleston, South Carolina, in 2006, IRSA is provider of in-car, body worn and interview room video recording systems, and cloud-based evidence management. IRSA offers solutions that help law enforcement and other industries acquire and manage video and other digital evidence and is the creator of Getac Veretos software.





“In-car video system from Getac with Veretos Cloud”

others,” says Guzik. “For example, Azure Government provides a framework to support the CJIS security policy, which is a very important certification for our customers. Adding available video storage on the Azure Government cloud platform means that law enforcement agencies can leverage the cloud with government-validated support for CJIS compliance.”

IRSA created Veretos Cloud, an Azure Government cloud version of Veretos Evidence Management, which processes digital assets obtained from body-worn cameras, in-car video solutions, interview rooms, and other digital devices. Any digital video, image, or document may be securely uploaded, browsed, viewed, classified, and shared using only a web browser. IRSA also deployed an Azure Government-based version of its new Getac Veretos Mobile Video System (MVS), co-developed and sold with Getac. The Veretos MVS is an in-car video recording system used to capture all activities in and

around a law enforcement vehicle as they occur. Police departments can use both solutions to capture live video in their cars, with the data automatically streamed to the Azure Government cloud.

Benefits

Using Azure Government, IRSA is able to help its customers scale Veretos Cloud to support petabytes of data. In addition, police departments using Veretos Cloud can keep communities safer by having faster access to video data and analytics, and IRSA can take advantage of lower infrastructure costs to focus more on expanding its solution to new customers.

Scaling to support petabytes of video data

Because Azure Government contains a massively scalable architecture, IRSA customers can support petabytes of video data. For example, the Memphis Police Department will be able to easily support the storage of more video evidence as its use of Veretos Cloud grows. “The Memphis Police

Department is one of our largest deployments of the Veretos Evidence Management solution on the Azure Government Cloud,” says Guzik. “The department anticipates storing about 1 petabyte of data, and we can easily scale the system to support that. All we need to do is click a few buttons and we can have those capabilities. That’s extremely powerful for us.”

Enabling police officers to keep communities safer

Using body-worn cameras and in-car video systems, police departments using Veretos Cloud can quickly upload and manage digital video evidence. “When a crime happens, the video data is there immediately for police officers to see,” says Guzik. “Traditionally, a police car would record video footage, and the video wouldn’t be synced with the department’s servers until the car returns to the station, which may not be in the same day. But now, with Veretos Cloud, the data hits the cloud in real time, so officers have more efficiency and productivity.” Additionally, using the solution’s

analytical dashboard, officers can glean immediate insights from the video evidence. "The command staff can use the analytics in Veretos Cloud to quickly see where their vehicles are in proximity to a crime scene, as well as how much video is on the machine and what's been recorded," says Guzik. "They can then take steps to improve their service to the public."

Eliminating infrastructure costs

Customers using Veretos Cloud are also able to reduce operating costs and implement cost-effective disaster recovery capabilities. "For the Memphis Police Department, the data from the police cars moves directly to the Azure Government Cloud. It doesn't even hit their own network," says Scott Shainman, President – North America, Getac. "That means they eliminate a lot of hidden costs, such as data transport, management, security, facilities management, and backup and storage costs."

Adds Guzik, "Law enforcement's main task is to serve and protect the public – not worry about servers. As video becomes mainstream, the management of vast amounts of data is a huge burden on the police department's infrastructure, staff and processes. Coordination between the department and the City also has associated hidden costs. The Azure Government Cloud empowers the Memphis PD to focus on its core competencies and worry less about infrastructure."

Because the solution helps customers cut costs, it is also suitable for smaller police departments with tight budgets. "By being on Azure Government, our solution is also more cost-effective for small customers, like a police department in a small town with only a few cars and a handful of officers," Guzik says. "They can now afford this technology because it's cloud-based. They don't have to invest in infrastructure in their own facilities that they can't afford or manage because they don't have the expertise."

Focusing on building the business

By taking advantage of Azure Government, IRSA can now concentrate more on expanding its business. "We no longer have to worry about managing servers or dealing with security issues," says Guzik. "The Azure Government Cloud empowers us to do a better job at the things we're already good at, like delivering applications and services."

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Software and Services

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