



The Center For

Law Enforcement Technology, Training, & Research

Provider of the Florida Integrated Network for Data Exchange & Retrieval



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Welcome to the new LETTR Newsletter

We here at the Center for Law Enforcement Technology, Training, & Research are excited to introduce the new LETTR newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to bring you updates and interesting articles related to LETTR,

the FINDER application, and current law enforcement information sharing practices. We hope that you enjoy this new feature brought to you by the LETTR team. Throughout this publication, we will be looking to highlight FINDER successes,

spotlight member agencies, and salute FINDER users. If you know of a story that you'd like to see included in a future publication, contact Dr. Jennifer Sumner or Lynn McCullough at 407-882-1590. We look forward to hearing from you!

Tagging for Success

What is Success Tagging:

Success Tagging is an option that allows users to mark information from FINDER that was helpful to them in their investigations. Success Tagging is a form of notification in the FINDER system that indicates when a user thinks that he or she has found the right report that will solve the case. When a user "tags" a report, this aids in the collection of empirical data which tracks how well the FINDER system is working, provides agencies the opportunity to document the number of cases FINDER has assisted them with, and builds data that helps Chiefs and Sheriffs assess the cost/benefit relationship of information sharing. Users from throughout the state

have recently "tagged" over 1400 cases as being successfully assisted by information gathered from FINDER. From

dated witnesses, updated information for an incapacitated patient, found deadbeat dads/moms, and disqualified potential employees.

How to Report a Success:

Once the user thinks that he or she has found the right report that will aid in the case, the user is asked to "tag" that successful find; the FINDER system will then keep a tally of those cases which have been assisted by information from the FINDER system. To log a successful match, use the green report number link to open the agency report. At the top left hand corner of the agency's report, there is a red Success Tagging button. Clicking this button will open the "Success Tagging" screen. *(continued on page 2)*

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Success Tagging". It includes a "Close Success Tagging" link in the top left. The form has several input fields: "Report Number", "Report Date", "User's Phone", "Report Type", "User's Name", and "User's Email". Below these is a large "Comments" text area. At the bottom, there are checkboxes for "Arrests Made" and "Dollar Amount Recovered", along with a "No Of Arrests" input field. A "Submit" button is located at the bottom center.

users tagging their successes, we have found that law enforcement personnel have, among other things, made arrests, recovered stolen property, recovered stolen vehicles, generated investigative leads, lo-

LETTR

3280 Progress Drive
Orlando, Florida 32820
Phone: 407-882-1590

Success Tagging in FINDER



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Upon opening the success tagging screen, some of the fields will be automatically populated, such as the report information and user's information. The remaining fields have been designed to allow the user to quickly input specific information. The user can type comments in the appropriate field to describe how the information in the report was useful to his/her investigation. Finally, there is a check box to indicate if an arrest was made using this information, and additional

fields to indicate the number of arrests made and the dollar amount of recovered property, if applicable. Once the appropriate fields are completed, the user can click the "Submit" button to log the report. (NOTE: in order to cancel the success tagging process, the user can click the Close Success Tagging button located in the upper corner).

The Successes

To search or view the reports that have been "tagged" as being successful, the user can

click the Success Tagging link located at the top left hand corner of the FINDER application's main screen. The Success Tagging screen allows the user to search FINDER for the success tags that have that have been logged by the system. The user can select the appropriate date range and then click on the View button. This unique feature will also display any comments that the investigator/detective added in the comment field when he or she "tagged" the report.

"The creation of the new LETTR website allows the Center to organize all of it's information in one, easy-to-access location"

Visit LETTR on the web

The Center for Law Enforcement Technology, Training, & Research is proud to announce the launch of it's new website. This website was developed to provide the most current information related to LETTR and its data sharing efforts. The LETTR website contains information about the Center, including contact information, notifica-

tions and announcements, upcoming meetings and events, maps and driving directions, minutes from past Consortium meetings, research materials, and details on various other technology projects. The new LETTR site also links to the FINDER homepage, which contains information related to the data sharing application. The

creation of the new LETTR website allows the center to organize all of it's information in one, easy-to-access location and is a convenient source of information for all member agencies, current FINDER users, and any law enforcement agency interested in joining. Please visit the new site at www.lettr.org.

The New FINDER 4.0 User's Manual



With the introduction of the new 4.0 version of FINDER comes the new User's Manual. This newly designed manual for was developed by Tonya Rudolph of the Seminole County Sheriff's Office. Tonya's work on the manual includes updated information and screen shots that pertain to

the FINDER 4.0 version. This new, 36-page manual offers an easy to understand and fully illustrated reference guide for the FINDER 4.0 application. Users of the FINDER 4.0 system will find a wealth of information that will guide them through the application and answer any questions that they

might have, including new account setup, query/distribution group creation, and success tagging. Please visit the LETTR website to download an e-copy of the new FINDER 4.0 User's Manual or please contact the LETTR office at 407-882-1590.

PawnSuite 2.0: Building on Success



For a number of years, law enforcement practitioners have been discussing the need for using modern computer networking capabilities to enable the transfer of information between pawn shops and law enforcement agencies. The Center for Law Enforcement Technology, Training, & Research, has worked to design a program that would help to achieve this goal. This program, PawnSuite, is an application designed to electronically transfer pawn ticket information from pawn shops to a local law enforcement agency. The PawnSuite

Application enables the pawn shops to create pawn tickets, enter pawn tickets in a systematic fashion, print pawn tickets for a hard copy receipt, save pawn tickets to a floppy disk or other external drives, and send pawn tickets to the law enforcement agency via external disks, emails, or FTP transfers. PawnSuite also has an “agency piece” that enables the law enforcement agency to input pawn tickets, edit pawn tickets, print pawn tickets, and search the PawnSuite database for pawn ticket information. PawnSuite is also the application that electroni-

cally transfers pawn ticket information into FINDER. Dan Burroughs, who manages the FINDER development team, has redesigned PawnSuite. The new PawnSuite 2.0 is now a web-based application that is more user friendly for both law enforcement agencies and pawn shops alike. Along with PawnSuite 2.0, there is a new user’s manual to familiarize the users with the updated application. For more information regarding PawnSuite 2.0, please contact Dr. Daniel Burroughs or Dr. Jennifer Sumner at 407-882-1590.

“LETTR has... taken the lead on other technology-based projects in order to fulfill its mission of assisting public safety agencies...”

LETTR: More Than Just FINDER

While FINDER is the premier law enforcement information sharing application made available by the Center for Law Enforcement Technology, Training, & Research, LETTR has also taken the lead on other technology-based projects in order to fulfill its mission of assisting public safety agencies in developing low cost, user-defined software systems,

applications, and training programs in an open source, non-proprietary environment. To help meet this need, Carlos Martinez, a lead programmer for LETTR, has recently completed one such project known as the U.S Y-STR Database, a worldwide DNA analysis and research application sponsored by the National Center for Forensic Science. LETTR is also beginning

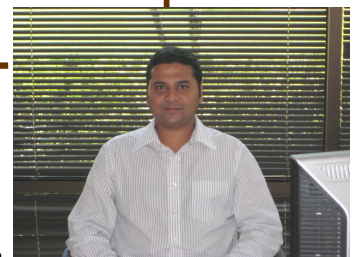
research in other areas such as healthcare information sharing for emergency response; investigating the process of information sharing in matters such as disaster preparedness and bioterrorism prevention. Projects such as these are added examples of how LETTR is successfully helping to advance the role of technology to aid in public safety.

Behind the Scenes: Kunal Motwani

As Kunal Motwani sits in his LETTR office, he is busy building a new agency parser, developing a new FINDER tool, and answering a technical question from a FINDER user across the state. This is all in a day’s work for Kunal, one of driving forces behind the success of the FINDER project. Kunal has been with the

FINDER project since it’s inception in 2002 and, after working briefly as the project’s only developer, he is now the Senior Software Architect and is responsible for many of the behind-the-scenes, technical aspects of the FINDER application. When asked what he likes most about working with FINDER, Kunal

says that he enjoys working in a cutting edge, technical environment, but that he really values the overall information sharing aspect. “It’s a satisfaction for me to know that our work here is doing something beneficial for all of law enforcement; that agencies can share information to help solve crimes.”





LETTR

**3280 Progress Drive
Orlando, Florida 32820
Phone: 407-882-1590**

The Center for Law Enforcement Technology, Training, & Research (LETTR) is a Florida, not-for-profit corporation. LETTR was formed in September 2007 by the University of Central Florida and members of the Florida Law Enforcement Data Sharing Consortium to consolidate the intellectual property and other resources associated with FINDER, the Florida Integrated Network for Data Exchange and Retrieval. FINDER is a set of computer applications that enable automated information sharing between police agencies.

