

About Customer

With a presence across the United States and around the world, this department and the organizations within it are tasked with upholding the rule of federal law and administering justice, protecting citizens' rights, and keeping the country safe.

Geo

North America

Industry

Government

Solution Area

Accelerate Core Applications
Achieve Sustainability
Activate Real-time Analytics
Enable Multi-cloud

Pure Storage®

Products in Use

FlashArray//C™
FlashArray//X™
FlashBlade™
Evergreen//One™
Professional Services
Pure1®

About Commvault

Commvault Cloud leads the way in cyber resilience—the industry's first platform for true cloud data security that empowers businesses to secure data, predict risks, minimize damage, and rapidly recover.



Fighting Crime with a Modern IT Backbone

In an environment of heightened terrorist threats and incidents, this department's investigative arm relies on a deluge of video surveillance evidence. But legacy, spinning disk storage risked preventing investigators from being able to collect and analyze data efficiently, slowing their progress.

To offset this risk, the department invested in the Pure Storage data platform. It uses a combination of traditional ownership via the Pure Storage Evergreen//Forever subscription, and as-a-service via an Evergreen//One subscription, to provide a highly scalable and performant infrastructure for investigations and crime-fighting activities.

Government investigative and justice agencies rely on Pure Storage to accelerate investigation and prosecution cycles with rapid data analysis.

Impact



Empowers agencies to innovate with more modern, efficient operations



Strengthens protection for citizens, making the most of taxpayer dollars



15% improvement in storage management productivity across 200+ sites

Challenges



Legacy storage slowed investigative and prosecution progress



Forklift upgrades were disruptive, lengthy, and expensive



Long hardware procurement cycles made capacity planning difficult

Turning Data into Actionable Intelligence

Failing storage in the field is simply not an option for this department and the organizations that fall under its purview. Tasked with broad law enforcement and corrections mandates to specific initiatives around human trafficking, hate crimes, gun violence, and more, the stakes are high and can have dire consequences.

For example, growing volumes of digital evidence captured by surveillance cameras and personal mobile devices following a bombing incident were taxing the existing storage infrastructure. Not only did it take longer for investigators to comb through data, in some cases, capacity limitations meant they couldn't capture evidence at all.

In the case of gun sales, background checks for gun purchasers—including biometric queries—must be completed within 15 minutes. Missing this window means that every day there is a risk that a purchaser could legally buy a gun before being fully vetted.

In 2017, with its existing spinning disk storage showing its age and stakeholders running more data-intensive and unpredictable workloads, the department invested in Pure Storage FlashArray™. In addition to boosting performance, the Pure footprint eliminated tedious storage maintenance tasks—including disruptive forklift upgrades—delivering immediate value to the government.

Results



Achieves sub-millisecond response times and restores data in minutes



Benefits from the latest storage capabilities with non-disruptive upgrades



Cuts purchasing times by months and gains scalability with subscription storage

Delivering All-flash Performance with Cloud-like Agility

Given the varying needs of its organizations and differing data retention regulations, the department consumes on-premises storage both via traditional ownership with the Pure Storage Evergreen//Forever subscription, and as-a-service via an Evergreen//One subscription. In total, 400 Pure Storage arrays support thousands of stakeholders across hundreds of sites. Tactical, investigative workloads run on Pure Storage FlashArray//X, while Pure Storage FlashArray//C provides long-term data storage for justice-related workloads as well as video analytics and back-office file shares.

The department is rolling out Evergreen//One for video surveillance, while one of its agencies is using the subscription to provide storage services to other agencies. The as-a-service model eliminates guesswork around future capacity needs, which were difficult to predict and exacerbated by lengthy procurement cycles that took months. Unused storage was effectively stranded, resulting in wasted taxpayer dollars. With Evergreen//One, the agency can purchase capacity as needed, and adjust to spikes and dips in real time.

The department will also combine the snapshot functionality of FlashArray and Pure Storage FlashBlade with Commvault IntelliSnap to improve data protection and cut recovery times from days to minutes in the Evergreen//One environment. FlashBlade provides backup and recovery for on-premise arrays. FlashBlade is also a key component of the department's overall containerization strategy.



With Pure Storage, the department has cut its data center footprint significantly, and can implement storage upgrades without extensive planning, disruptions, or costly forklift upgrades.

Justice at Unprecedented Speed and Efficiency

Sub-millisecond response times have improved functionality across the department's application portfolio, including its VMware environment. An all-flash infrastructure enables the department and its agencies to examine data in different ways—for example, matching fingerprints they weren't able to identify previously—and more quickly than ever before.

Rather than waiting five years for technology refresh cycles, now the department and its agencies can implement the latest storage upgrades as soon as they become available. They no longer need to plan extensively for a data migration, disrupt investigative and prosecution operations, or incur the cost and procurement cycle delays of complex forklift upgrades.

In addition to realizing major efficiency gains in performance and overall storage management, the department also reduced its data center footprint significantly. Its massive collection of fingerprints once resided in a purpose-built data center consisting of several floors. Now, this biometric data takes up just a single rack in one data center.

Partnering for a Cloud Future

Pure Professional Services helped the department and its agencies get the most from their new storage environment. For instance, by automating many of its daily tasks with Pure's APIs for FlashArray, the department of one full-time and one part-time employee improved productivity by 15% across more than 200 storage sites. In addition, some agencies are using Pure1 to help manage their growing fleet of arrays.

The department is considering a Pure Storage Evergreen//Flex subscription to house sensitive data that must be managed fully within the organization. This would enable it to own and manage the storage on site and pay only for the capacity it uses.

The partnership with Pure Storage will only strengthen as the department expands its data-centric approach to supporting agency stakeholders and partners, enabling them to deploy modern investigative and prosecutorial techniques to mitigate modern-day risks.

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