# Tustin Police Department

*IBM i2 COPLINK sharing abilities help Tustin PD catch a thief*

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## Overview

### The need
Though caught by surveillance camera, the Tustin Police Department was unable to identify a local petty criminal because there was no criminal record of anyone in their jurisdiction matching his description.

### The solution
Using IBM i2COPLINK's connectivity, Tustin PD is able to access other COPLINK nodes across departments and jurisdictions, and ultimately located the suspect in the Santa Ana Police Department's database.

### The benefit
Utilizing the information sharing abilities of COPLINK's connectivity nodes, Tustin and Santa Ana Police Departments were able to work together to attain guilty convictions in court for both cases.
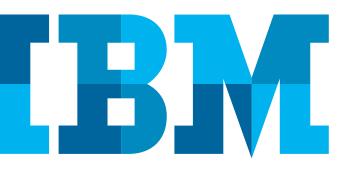
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The Tustin Police Department in Orange County California, a member of the Integrated Law and Justice Agency for Orange County (ILJAOC), is well versed in the importance of information sharing. By using IBM® i2® COPLINK® connectivity, Tustin PD is able to access other COPLINK nodes across departments and jurisdictions, putting relevant information to help them gather leads and solve cases, right at their fingertips.

## Caught on camera, a thief manages to elude identification

Investigator David Maher of the Tustin PD received a case assignment involving petty theft at a Wendy's fast food restaurant. The Dave Thomas Foundation charity box had been stolen in plain view. The perpetrator had ordered his food and left, came back, rushed the counter and stole the clear box with approximately $80 within it. Multiple witnesses saw the theft – as did the surveillance camera which the thief looked directly into prior to exiting.

Unfortunately, once given the case, Investigator Maher had to wait two weeks for Wendy's to provide the surveillance video. As soon as he received it, Maher asked Crime Analyst Suzanna Smedley to create a flyer from the still images and circulate it throughout Tustin PD via e-mail to see if anyone had information on the suspect. Since the perpetrator had no recent record within their jurisdiction, Maher hoped that someone within the department would recognize the distinctive facial tattoos clearly visible in the video stills.

> *"IBM i2 COPLINK once again proved to be an important resource tool to help identify a suspect and solve an otherwise unworkable case."*

—David Maher, Investigator, Tustin Police Department

## Shared intelligence yields results

Within two hours of sending out the flyer, Maher had a hit. Debbie Ernandez in dispatch had a spare moment and located the suspect not in Tustin files, but in a neighboring jurisdiction through COPLINK's tattoo records. The criminal had been arrested in Santa Ana's jurisdiction for shoplifting at a Target store. COPLINK registered the arrest and allowed Tustin PD to identify him for the Wendy's charity box theft. Maher printed out the custody photo of the thief to allow witnesses to confirm his identity through a photo line-up. Moreover, when arrested in Santa Ana, he provided a false name, but due to his prior record, COPLINK was able to find his moniker, true name and identifying tattoos allowing both jurisdictions to solve their cases.

## Collaboration puts perpetrator behind bars

By utilizing the information sharing abilities of COPLINK's connectivity nodes, Tustin and Santa Ana Police Departments were able to work together to solve both cases and attain guilty convictions. Without COPLINK, Tustin PD would have been unable to identify the suspect as he had no recent arrests within Tustin so neither their records nor their staff would have recognized him. Reaching out to neighboring jurisdictions allowed Tustin to broaden their information net. COPLINK's technology allowed them to identify his clearly visible tattoos and turn what otherwise might have remained unsolved into an open and shut case.

Maher went on to say, "COPLINK once again proved to be an important resource tool to help identify a suspect and solve an otherwise unworkable case."

## For more information

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