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Discovering connections in semi-structured data provides analysts and investigators with meaningful insights that bolster mission-focused analytic processes and operational responses.

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Discerning Security Threats from Suspicious Activity Reports

CHALLENGE: Finding Connections Across Reports

U.S. Government analysts and investigators receive and collect volumes of suspicious activity reports and intelligence data in a wide range of formats from various sources on a daily basis. With the massive amount of information accumulated, it's a challenging effort for any analyst to quickly determine if any data in a report might be related to other intelligence data and if the information might uncover meaningful insights.

Analyst and investigators at the Federal Air Marshal Service (FAMS) struggled with this challenge and sought a way to improve their understanding and analysis of suspicious activity reports (SARs) to help them detect and prevent criminal and terrorist activity. They aimed to gain greater insight and value from the diverse sourced SAR reports that they received by identifying correlations in the reports so that they could quickly and accurately identify security threats.

SOLUTION: Matching of Suspects, Vehicles and Addresses

Eastport Analytics engaged with FAMS stakeholders and the Department of Homeland Security Science & Technology Directorate to develop a solution that



would solve their challenge. The team leveraged Eastport Analytics' Capability Driven Approach (CapDrive) to engage with operational users in short-cycle, mission-specific analytic capability and technology exploration. With the CapDrive process, the team aligned FAMS mission component directly into the innovation process and rapidly explored the "realm of the possible" in their analytic capabilities - the full breadth and depth of capabilities and technologies available to solve FAMS' specific business challenge.

Applying this agile and iterative approach, the team rapidly developed a pilot solution while introducing new capabilities in stages as their complex mission challenges were understood and while exploring new potential and relevant capabilities. By using this process, the team was able to focus on FAMS' immediate mission demands while refining the solution to more exactly meet their needs. "Our collaborative working sessions allowed us to create a functional program in very little time. What we accomplished in six months, should have taken years," remarks FAMS agent Matt O'Neill.

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Robust functionality and powerful graphics unveil meaningful insights quickly

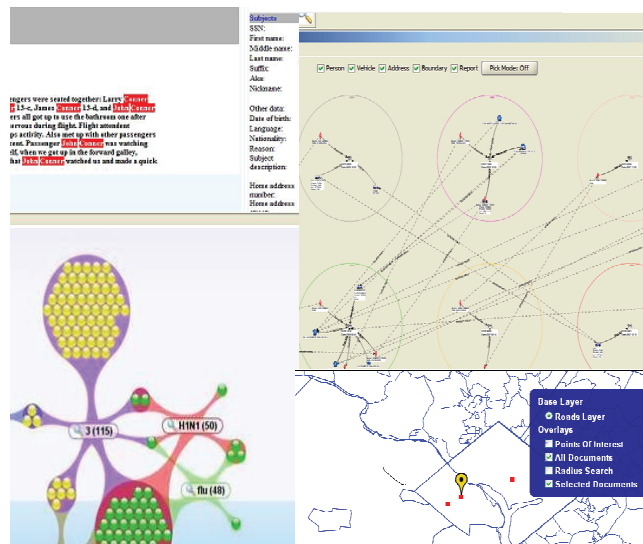
“Within the first 15 minutes of using the ATK capability, we found an association that led to the most interesting investigation in FAMS history”
- FAMS Investigation Agent

The rapidly developed solution – the ‘Analytic Toolkit’ (ATK) – provides a rich set of functionality that enables FAMS analysts and investigators better understand their SAR reports – enabling analysts and investigations to discover connections in their SAR data as well as with other intelligence information across their entire organization. The solution’s robust functionality and powerful graphical capabilities empowers FAMS analysts to:

- Easily perform text, entity and faceted searches across multiple data sources, providing the power and flexibility to filter and sort data and discover matching suspects, vehicles and addresses
- Control the “fuzziness” of inexact matches across data to find similarities in names, addresses, and objects and improve the accuracy and speed of analytic processes
- Visually explore matching results from different perspectives in intuitive ways to quickly reveal relevant relationships

IMPACT: New cases Identified within Minutes

With the ATK solution, FAMS analysts and investigators gained a better understanding of their suspicious activity reports and strengthened their analytic processes. As a result, they were able to



find suspects faster and easier and open investigative cases based on previous unknown connections in their existing data.

Within the first 15 minutes of using the ATK capability, FAMS found an association between numerous cases involving a money smuggling operation leading to the most interesting investigation in FAMS history. “Ever since that first association, the ATK has changed our business process and quickly became an operational dependency,” says John Carroll, FAMS investigation Division.

ATK has also boosted FAMS’ information sharing efforts with other law enforcement agencies, enabling multiple agencies and departments to share mission-critical information quickly and effectively. With its high-impact results, there is a growing momentum to use ATK in local, state, and Federal law enforcement capacities and leverage its capabilities to strengthen homeland security objectives.

ABOUT EASTPORT

Eastport Analytics helps transform information into vital insights you can use to make sound corporate decisions. We blend sophisticated technology with agile integration practices to develop innovative solutions. We enable actionable insight, better-informed decisions and practical, repeatable, defensible answers to real-mission problems.



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