

Department of Homeland Security keeps close eye on key infrastructure



Ardent
Management Consulting



NAVTEQ map data[®] provides the foundation for an application that integrates the nation's critical infrastructure data to achieve coordinated tracking and event response.

Challenge

Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7 mandated that the nation's critical infrastructure and key resources be spatially mapped and sorted. The goal of Directive 7 was to provide a common view of events and the ability to share information among sectors, key agencies and other federal, state, and local Homeland Security partners. One of the major challenges in meeting the directive was that various departments were using different mapping programs, data sets, and tools. There was no centralized view of information, no comprehensive understanding of where an adverse event might be happening, and no way to broadly communicate it, according to Brandon La Bonte, President & CEO of Ardent Management Consulting, a partner involved in architecting and implementing the solution to this challenge.

Solution

The Integrated Common Analytical Viewer (iCAV) is a custom ESRI application built using standards-based web services (XML/SOAP). At its foundation is NAVTEQ map data which supports locating and viewing key infrastructure assets, as well as imagery and other data layers including live feeds from public and private sources.

The data layers combined with imagery provide users geospatial analytic capability, awareness of situations, and a common operating picture of infrastructure assets and their attributes.

THE CHALLENGE

- Conform to Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7
- Geospatially map the nation's critical infrastructure assets
- Provide a common view of events and the ability to share information among decision makers across many agencies and jurisdictions

THE SOLUTION

- Custom ESRI standards-based web application
- NAVTEQ data as a foundation for locating and viewing key infrastructure
- Additional data layers including imagery, federally owned data, and real-time event data feeds

THE BENEFITS

- Improved communication among departments to better monitor, prepare, respond to and recover from events
- Consistency of information across the Department of Homeland Security
- Economic benefits of eliminating piecemeal licensing of software and data

Currently operational at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) National Operations Center, iCAV provides decision-makers from different agencies a real-time wall map display of any suspicious activity and event data at chemical plants, nuclear facilities, and other key infrastructure. Other initial users of the Web-based solution include the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center and FEMA, with plans for rollout to many state and local jurisdictions.

Benefits

“iCAV is a significant strategic and situational awareness tool,” La Bonte said. “It centralizes critical infrastructure and event information, leading to closer monitoring, easier communication and faster response when an event occurs.”

Now decision makers have the tool they need for coordinated preparedness, response and recovery in the case of suspicious activity, threats, hurricanes, or other major events. Geospatial information is the “glue” that links formerly disparate systems together. “Everyone has the same view now,” La Bonte added.

Another key benefit of iCAV can be measured in economics. Piecemeal licensing of software and data by different departments is eliminated, leading to measurable dollar savings over previous solutions.

About Ardent Management Consulting

Ardent Management Consulting is a results oriented, program management and IT consulting firm specializing in large scale program management and complex systems integration for clients in the Department of Homeland Security and Intelligence Community. Visit Ardent on the web at www.ardentmc.com.

About NAVTEQ

NAVTEQ is a leading provider of comprehensive digital map information for automotive navigation systems, mobile navigation devices, Internet-based mapping applications, and government and business solutions. NAVTEQ creates the digital maps and map content that power navigation and location-based services solutions around the world. The Chicago-based company was founded in 1985 and has approximately 2,800 employees located in 167 offices and in 28 countries.

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How NAVTEQ Helped

NAVTEQ provided the foundational geospatial data at the core of the iCAV application

- Comprehensive street level data for easy-to-read map displays
- Data layers for accurately locating key infrastructure assets and other facilities

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