



## **LexisNexis Accurint Advanced Sex Offender Search**

by Kevin Gordon

LexisNexis Accurint® for Law Enforcement "Plus" with Advanced Sex Offender search capabilities can easily and quickly locate probable addresses for registered sex offenders. The resulting savings of investigative hours, therefore money, is very impressive. Every administrator, while quite aware of the importance of knowing where the registered sex offenders are in the community, also knows how challenging it is to find the time and personnel to follow up on such offenders. Accurint may well be the answer for many agencies. Web-based Lexis and Nexis Research services has a presence in over 100 companies and has about 13,000 employees. Their research services are used by the news media, legal researchers, risk managers, and the business world to name a few, as they provide access to billions of records.

Accurint® for Law Enforcement is presently used by over 2,500 police departments. Whether the investigator is trying to locate a witness, victim or criminal, he can search billions of records with a keystroke. Accurint® is a Web-based application so you access it by a standard browser. The search uses both public and non-public information to assist in the location of people, assets, business investigation and relationships.

Accurint® for Law Enforcement Plus is a desktop client application built on the same technology as the Web-based Accurint® LE. I conducted sample searches using the system and was impressed by the speed and information obtained. A search on an individual results in an amazing amount of information, associates, relatives, old addresses, telephones, criminal records, a true expansion to the first degree of separation, which can continue to be expanded on. LE Plus integrates all analytical tools into an easy-to-use desktop application.

At the 2005 IACP, LexisNexis announced the upgrade of the LE Plus to allow the search for sexual offenders. There are presently a reported 550,000 sex offenders in the United States. The percentage of non-compliant offenders, those who have moved and not reported their change of address, is estimated at 24%.

A recent report from the Illinois Attorney General presented the success of Illinois law enforcement efforts and the Illinois Sex Offender Registry Team (I-SORT), a team of local, state and federal officers whose primary task is to improve compliance. They have done a remarkable job resulting in only a 7.8% non-compliance of Illinois' 17,761 registered offenders. But with all the investigative hours and money dedicated to this effort, that small 7.8% still result in 1,372 non-compliant offenders in Illinois.

Accurint® for Law Enforcement Plus with the advanced sex offender search works quickly and efficiently, allowing an investigator to search, locate, and map both compliant and non-compliant sex offenders. A sex offender query searches public and non public records and locates offenders not only where they are supposed to live, but also provides information on where they may live.

A search by zip code for example, results in a list of offenders and indicates which are registered, unregistered, the historical address of the offender and an address with an investigative interest (a probable address that the offender doesn't realize you know!). The application can also map these offenders and then very simply permit the overlay of school locations. Remember, this is all done from the department computer; you haven't even left the station to track the offenders!

Sal Hernandez, the vice president of law enforcement programs for LexisNexis Government Services, provided his thoughts. "Accurint® LE Plus with Advanced Sex Offender Search capabilities will help law enforcement agencies work more quickly and efficiently when investigating child abduction. This tool will enable law enforcement to locate sex offenders even if they have not reported their most current address to the appropriate authorities."

Accurint® LE Plus brings together lots of tools to save the agency money and time. In addition to the items used by Accurint® LE, the Plus edition adds enhanced mapping, photo lineups, case management, real-time phone number batching, the advanced sexual offender search and Relavint™ Plus. Relavint™ Plus is a visual link analysis tool designed specifically for Law Enforcement. It allows you to visualize complex relations between people, vehicles, business, property, relatives and associates.

Accurint® isn't the only research solution or link analysis tool available. Many vendors can provide visual link analysis applications but other solutions may have static data while LexisNexis is live data. Much of their source information is added and updated on a daily basis. The result is a dynamic link chart with information that is as up to date as possible and discovers links for you.

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