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TELEMASP BULLETIN

TEXAS LAW ENFORCEMENT MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE STATISTICS PROGRAM

December 1996

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Texas State Documents

The Internet and Law Enforcement Part II Police Agency Home Pages

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This bulletin is the second of a two part series addressing the use of the Internet for Texas law enforcement agencies. In Part I, November 1996, the basic elements of the Internet were reviewed. Additionally, the previous bulletin described the use of the Internet by agencies as a generic resource, for criminal justice reference purposes, and for information sharing through use groups. This month's bulletin addresses the opposite side of the coin, the use of the Internet by law enforcement to provide information to the public. This is accomplished through the development and maintenance of a home page on the Internet by a law enforcement agency. The technical issues with regard to the development and maintenance of a home page are beyond the scope of this bulletin, and are widely available in other sources. The focus here is upon potential content of a home page for a Texas law enforcement agency. Forty-four Texas law enforcement agencies currently maintain home pages on the Internet (see page 2). The focus of this bulletin is upon the content of these existing web sites, with some discussion of potential additional development.

Establishing A Presence on the Net

Police agencies do not maintain web sites on their own computer systems. Rather, they work through local Internet access providers who maintain such sites for a client list. Most local Internet access providers are willing to provide police agencies with either free or nominal charge space on their server units. The web site is accessed by the public on the Internet access provider's computer, not that of the police department. Hence, there is not a danger of opening the police agency's record systems to intrusion by hackers.

Content of Texas Agency Sites

Figures 1 through 6 provide illustrations from several Texas police agencies of potential content to place upon a web site. Where some explanation is required, it is provided directly in conjunction with the figure.

Public Information

A department's own "Home Page" may have information on such items as

- Values
- Mission
- Recruitment
- Annual Report
- Command Personnel
- Complaint Procedures
- Crime Rates
- Safety Tips
- Maps
- Special Programs or Alerts
- Program Descriptions
- News Releases
- Departmental Usenet or Bulletin Board Service (BBS) for interaction with citizens and answering citizen questions



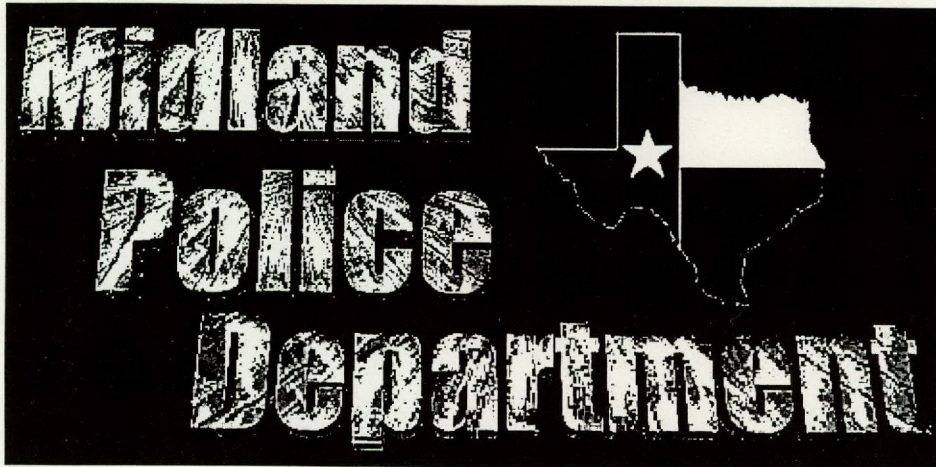
Texas Law Enforcement Agencies' Home Page Addresses

Abilene Police Dept.	http://www.abilene.com/police/
Amarillo Police Dept.	http://www.crisnet.com/lea/tx-amarillo/pd.html
Arlington Police Dept.	http://www.startext.net/homes/arlcops/upload/arlcops.htm
Austin Police Dept.	http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/
Baylor University Police Dept.	http://www.baylor.edu/baylor/Departments/admin/dps/dps.html
Beaumont Police Dept.	http://www.ih2000.net/bpd/
Bexar Co. Sheriff's Dept.	http://www.txdirect.net/users/bcso3/
Carrollton Police Dept.	http://www.flash.net/~carrpdx/
Cass Co. Sheriff's Dept.	http://www.cleaf.com/~wingspan/
Cockrell Hill Police Dept.	http://web2.airmail.net/chpd/
College Station Police Dept.	http://www.cstx.gov:80/cbook/police.htm
Collin Co. Constable's Office., Pct. 1	http://rampages.onramp.net/~shea/ccco/index.htm
Dallas Police Dept.	http://www.airmail.net/dpd/index.htm
Denton Police Dept.	http://www.iglobal.net/police/
El Paso Police Dept.	http://rgfn.epcc.edu/users/eppd/police.htm
Frisco Police Dept.	http://biz.iadfw.net/friscopd/
Harlingen Police Dept.	http://www.rgv.net/harlingen/police/
Houston Police Dept.	http://www.ci.houston.tx.us/departme/police/
Lamar University Police Dept.	http://hal.lamar.edu/~lupd/
Longview Police Dept.	http://www.easttexas.com/longviewPD/
McAllen Police Dept.	http://www.medc.org/police/
McLennon Co. Sheriff's Dept.	http://www.texnet.net/users/mso143/deptmt.htm
Midland Police Dept.	http://www.basinlink.com/mpd/
N. Richland Hills Police Dept.	http://web2.airmail.net/nrhjbc/
Pasadena Police Dept.	http://www.cityscope.net/ppd/home.html
Plano Police Dept.	http://www.ci.plano.tx.us/plano/police/index.htm
Rice University Police Dept.	http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~rupd/
Richardson Police Dept.	http://www.cor.net/police.html
Richmond Police Dept.	http://www.intertex.net/richmond/rpd.html
Riesel Police Dept.	http://www.texnet.net/dkrumnow/
Rowlett Police Dept.	http://www.airmail.net/rowlettpd/
Sam Houston State University Police Dept.	http://www.shsu.edu/shsu/Dept/upd/
San Antonio Police Dept.	http://161.226.90.26/sapd/
Stephen F. Austin University Police Dept.	http://www.osa.sfasu.edu/upd/upd.html
TX A&M University Police Dept.	http://www.tamu.edu/upd/
TX Dept. of Public Safety	http://www.texas.gov/agency/405.html
University of Houston Police Dept.	http://www.uh.edu/admin/police/
University of North Texas Police Dept.	http://www-lan.unt.edu/pdl/vol1/home/www/
University of Texas @ Austin Police Dept.	http://www.utexas.edu/admin/utpd/
University of Texas @ Dallas Police Dept.	http://www.utdallas.edu/utdgeneral/business/police/
UT Health Sci. Center @ San Antonio Police Dept.	http://www.uthscsa.edu/police/police.html
University of Texas @ Pan American Police Dept.	http://w3.panam.edu/~upd_e/ede/
Vidor Police Dept.	http://www.ci.vidor.tx.us/LawEnfor.htm
Wichita Falls Police Dept.	http://206.97.254.231/public/default.html

Sources used to locate home pages as of 11/21/96:

Cop-Net	http://www.copnet.com/
Dallas Police Dept. L.E. Related Links	http://www.airmail.net/dpd/links.htm
L.E. Agencies on the Web	http://www.fsu.edu/~crimdo/police.html
L.E. Sites on the Web	http://www.ih2000.net/ira/ira2.htm#city
Police Officer's Internet Directory	http://www.officer.com/

NOTE: Addresses change and new departments are added continuously.



"We, the members of the Midland Police Department, are committed to being responsive to our community in the delivery of quality service. Recognizing our responsibility to maintain order, while affording dignity and respect to every individual, our objective is to improve the quality of life through a community partnership which promotes safe, secure neighborhoods. The values of the Midland Police Department evolve around People, Leadership, Service and Performance."

Police Chief Richard L. Czech welcomes you to the MPD WWW page.

- There are approximately 17,000 law enforcement agencies in the United States. In November 1993, the Midland Police Department became the 270th to be nationally accredited. The Midland Police Department is setting the standard for law enforcement in West Texas.
- Midland, the "Rising Star" of West Texas, should greet the twenty-first century with one of the finest police departments in the United States. Learn about our history
- The MPD's cadet program is very successful, and is well received by the graduating high school students as witnessed by the huge number of applications for the program each year.
- To be considered for employment as a Midland Police Officer, you must meet these requirements.
- The Midland Police Department K9 Section
- Here is a summary of gang information for Parents including what can be done to keep your children out of them. Also, a listing of groups in the area who can help.
- Information on our new Mobile Substation and the Implementation of "Problem Oriented Policing Philosophy"
- The Citizens on Patrol program has become a successful operation.
- Working with the Community - Community Relations Unit.
- Kops for Kids - the Latest in Police Trading Cards
- In 1992, the City of Midland established an Alarm Ordinance.
- Guidelines for Commending or Registering Complaints Against Employees
- Contacts at the City of Midland Police Department.
- Crime Tips : Personal Security: Hate Crimes, Business Crime : Fraud, Bad Checks, Home Security: Lights, Automatic, Travel & Vacation: Airports, Baggage, Prevention Groups: Children, Avoiding Crime.

Figure 1. Each Underlined Term Links a User to a Subpage on Midland's Home Page



Recruitment

- Police agencies are always seeking high quality candidates—getting the best people for positions, not just those who happen to apply
- Placing information on a police agency's Home Page for recruiting should include
 - Basic Requirements
 - Application Process
 - Salary and Benefits
 - Tests, Physicals, and Other Selection Factors
 - Hiring Schedule
 - Training and Assignment Opportunities
 - Unique and Relevant Job-related Information
 - Persons to Contact for More Information
- The department could even place the application and other forms on the Home Page for downloading—maybe even initial submission via e-mail

THE ABILENE  POLICE DEPT.

How To Become A Police Officer With The Abilene Police Department

[| Testing Process](#) | [| Training](#) | [| The Patrol Officer](#) | [| Promotional Opportunities](#) | [| Qualifications](#) | [| Salary](#) | [| Incentive Pay](#) | [| General Information](#) |



Because the position of police officer in Abilene is under Civil Service, openings are filled by a job-related, competitive examination. The Abilene Police Department Police Academy serves to fill positions only for this department, and therefore cadets in the Abilene Police Academy are considered to be employees of the City of Abilene and are paid during their time in training. The entrance level examination is offered whenever department staffing falls below the level approved by the Abilene City Council. Applications and resumes cannot be accepted by the department until the Abilene City Manager grants approval for an academy. We do not anticipate the approval to initiate the process for a police academy until late Fall of 1996 or the first quarter of 1997.

Figure 2. Abilene Provides Comprehensive Employment Information



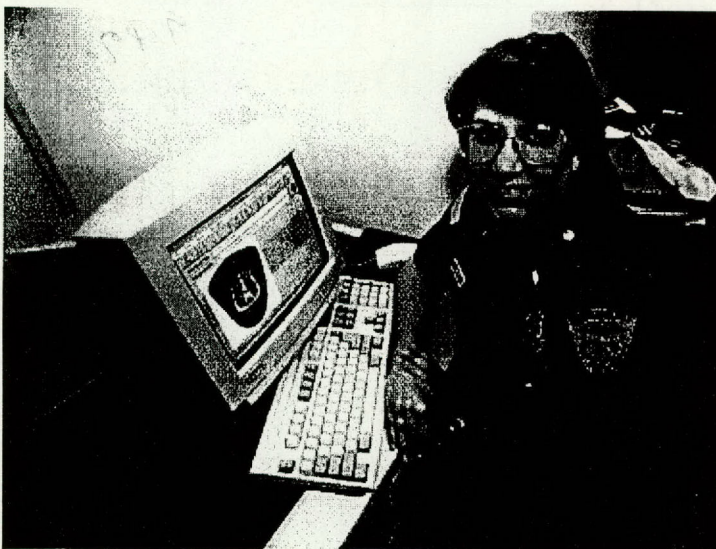
Community Policing


- If a department is going to open lines of communication with the public in support of community policing and problem solving, an Internet Home Page can be useful.
 - Much of the information described on page 1 under public information also applies to community policing
 - In addition, developing “Sub-Home Pages” for community policing beats or sections can personalize the information
- Development of a Usenet provides a means of citizen-departmental communications to assist in problem identification and citizen concerns
- “Sub Home Pages” for
 - Neighborhood Watch Groups
 - Neighborhood Associations


BEAUMONT POLICE DEPARTMENT "COMMUNITY NEWS" NEWSLETTER


SELECTED ARTICLES FROM NOVEMBER 1996 ISSUE


CAPT. MELISSA OWNBY, EDITOR



 **Santa In Blue Gears Up For
Upcoming Holiday Season**

 **'Feast Of Sharing' Set For Dec. 20**

 **TCAA Elects Kocot President**

 **Recycle Telephone Books**


 **'Texas Recycles Day'**

Figure 3. A Segment from Beaumont's Community-Oriented Subpages



Dallas Police Department Central Division

1995 CENTRAL DIVISION CRIME STATISTICS									
Murder	Rape	Bus. Robbery	Ind. Robbery	Ag. Aslt	Bus. Burglary	Res. Burglary	Theft	Auto Theft	TOTALS
36	117	128	696	1020	514	997	7911	5848	13625

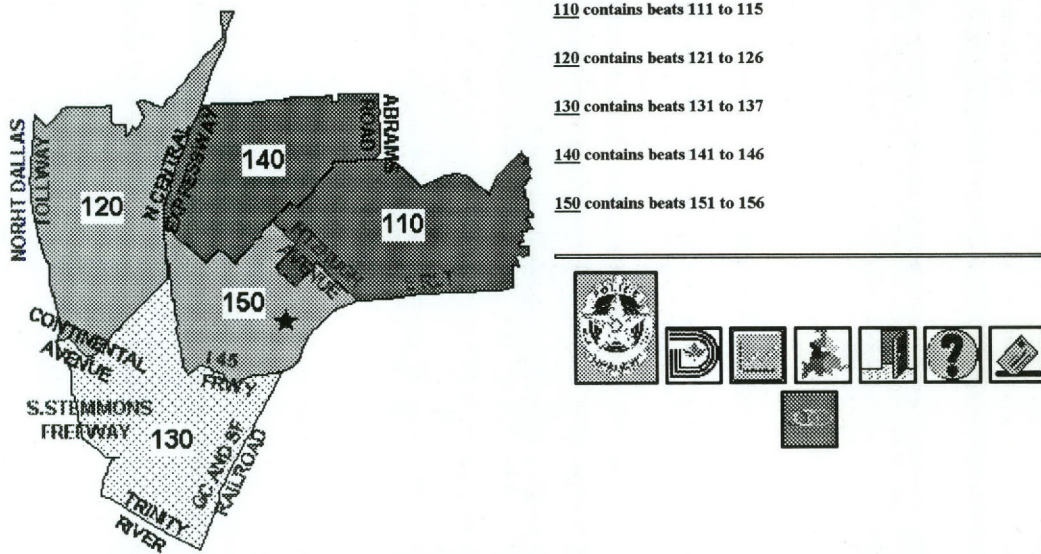


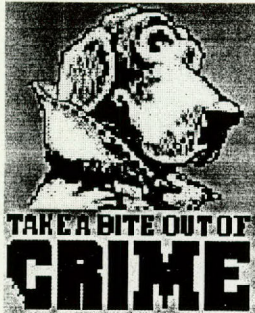
Figure 4. By Clicking on Individual Beats, Additional Detail Data Can Be Obtained

City of San Antonio Police Department Real Time Traffic Data

Disposition	U-Unassigned	A-Assigned	H-Held				
Dispatcher	C-Central	E-East	W-West	P-Northwest	N-Northeast	S-South	T-Traffic

DISPOSITION	DISPATCHER	TIME	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
A	C	07:58	ACC MAJR	BOWIE ST / COMMERCE ST E
A	C	10:13	ACC MINR	300 CONVENT ST
A	P	10:17	ACC MINR	415 SARATOGA DR
A	S	10:22	ACC MINR	4034 MILITARY DR SW

Figure 5. San Antonio Is Posting Traffic Accidents on the Net in 'Real-Time'



Harlingen Area Crime Stoppers

Crime of the Week

Harlingen Area Crime Stoppers is asking the communities assistance in identifying the operator of a vehicle that was involved in a "Hit and Run" that occurred on the 900 block of South "F" Street in Harlingen, Texas

On July 10th, at approximately 9:42 P.M. A 79 year old man was struck by an automobile as he was walking on F street close to the intersection of Lincoln. The elderly man was thrown by the impact into the street and was found lying face down on the street with serious injuries. It is unknown if the automobile was a car or a truck at this time.

Figure 6. Several Agencies Provide Crime Stopper and Most Wanted Information

Potential Additional Development

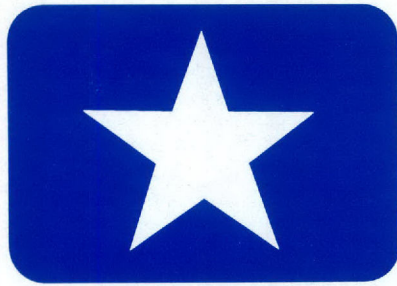
The use of a web site by several agencies to post crime statistics by district provides a good baseline for possible future development of this concept. With federal funding support, the Chicago Police Department is working on expansion of their web site to include provision of current crime data at the neighborhood level. Access is possible either through standard Internet access points, or through kiosks provided at each police substation and in all branches of the Chicago Public Library. In addition to its potential for crime prevention purposes, such information alleviates the need for police agencies to be constantly providing neighborhood level crime data to entities such as real estate offices and law firms. The data provided is obviously public information anyway, so the issue is simply convenience of access. The convenience issue is also a two-way street, with the Internet providing a means for police agencies to efficiently disseminate such information rather than responding to individual requests.

A second use of the Internet for enhanced public convenience being discussed by many agencies is the provision of ability to file simple reports. Routine reports filed primarily for insurance purposes, such as minor theft or damage

reports, can easily be done via the Internet. Quite obviously, members of the public do not enjoy equal access to the Internet. Again, however, many municipalities are now providing access to general city services by a kiosk located in libraries or even shopping malls. Taking such a report via the Internet is no different than a teleserve system, but is more efficient for a police department.

A third potential use of the Internet not yet capitalized upon by police agencies is the reverse of the prior situation, provision of police reports to members of the public. In particular, provision of such reports to frequent users, such as insurance companies, could minimize police agencies' work load. Interestingly, the Texas court system is exploring widespread computer access to public court records and to law offices.

A fourth potential use is for receipt of employment applications. It is not only possible to provide individuals the ability to make employment applications via the Internet, but the status of that application can be kept updated as well—protected by a password provided to the applicant. Although such a use may appear insignificant on the surface, in many large agencies at least one full-time equivalent person does nothing but respond to employment inquiries.



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