



IBM, CISCO AND VIRTUALAGILITY PARTNER TO PROVIDE LEADING EDGE PUBLIC SAFETY SOLUTIONS

SAN DIEGO **September, 2008** IBM and Cisco announced they will jointly offer two new public safety solutions built around VirtualAgility's VOC web portal.

Command, Control and Collaboration and Network Digital Video Surveillance are aligned with IBM's Public Safety initiatives. They are designed to give law enforcement and government agencies at all levels more powerful tools for emergency planning, response and recovery.

As an IBM ISV partner, VirtualAgility's VOC portal was selected to deliver the highest degree of out-of-the-box performance. VOC is peerless at providing crisis managers with a unified, real-time view of even the most complex scenarios. Just as important, VOC enables managers to merge plans, pinpoint resources in the heat of the moment and link all participants together in an ad hoc network.

The new solutions are built with IBM software and hardware, including the Lotus Unified Communications and WebSphere portfolios, Servers and Storage, as well as GTS Service Products and other high-value services. Cisco's TelePresence and NGN network capabilities complete the offering.

According to VirtualAgility president Stuart Rudolph, "There's simply too much at stake these days to tolerate status quo approaches. Public safety officials worldwide now want unified communications and easier interoperability. These new solutions go a long way toward providing full-continuum control."

Command, Control, Collaboration

The full continuum encompasses everything from identifying risks and making plans to multi-organizational response and whatever recovery measures are needed. Clearly, lack of preparation beforehand will hobble any effort at response. Similarly, without plans for the aftermath, the effects of a disaster will be multiplied. VirtualAgility specializes in giving managers exactly this kind of before-during-and after capability. And with VirtualAgility, users plan, train and respond on the same platform, boosting performance.

These new products are based in part on experience gained by IBM and VirtualAgility in building large and complex public safety systems for the State of Missouri and Gauteng Province, South Africa. Both deployments enable managers to exercise control over disparate organizations regardless of IT and provide a range of operational benefits including a common operating picture, timely decision support, networked tools and applications. Missouri is prone to every kind of natural disaster and leads the country in federal declarations. Now, however, Missouri is among the most well prepared to deal with emergencies. Gauteng Province will host the FIFA World Cup in 2010 and expects literally millions of fans. Its IBM and VA system was installed last year in anticipation of heightened risks. Each system was deployed successfully on an accelerated schedule. It's important to note that these systems also help managers deal with ordinary operations. Command, control and collaboration is now a day-to-day advantage.

Network Digital Video Surveillance

A big part of knowing what's going on is being able to see what's going on—and IBM and Cisco's new NDVS provides a new level of visual awareness. NDVS links stationary and mobile cameras for improved threat detection and monitoring. New, autonomous video analytics supply real-time recognition and interpretation, e.g. license plates, individuals, suspicious movement. NDVS is a force multiplier and powerful evidence-gathering tool. Via the VirtualAgility VOC portal, commanders can share video data, coordinate plans and response, and archive footage for after-action review.

“We can't afford to go it alone” Military Health Organization

With systems like IBM and Cisco's new offerings, no one has to go it alone. In fact, fast, cost-effective and intuitive collaboration is the only sure way public safety organizations can optimize their planning and response capabilities in the face of limited budgets, siloed information, government mandates and changing missions.

“Just tell me what I need to know.”

The greatest advantage of these systems may well be their capacity to make communications transparent, ubiquitous and tailored to the requirements of the individual. From the manager in the ops center to the first responder with his Web 2.0 device, these systems allow information, data and orders bundled with appropriate resources to flow unimpeded by organizational firewalls to whoever is authorized to receive them. The impact of that on operational effectiveness will be enormous.

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About VirtualAgility

VirtualAgility continues to apply its robust line of SOA solutions to the needs for improved situational awareness and coordination within and among agencies to organize, plan and track mitigation, preparation, response and recovery activities. To achieve the next level of virtual agility, collaboration and information sharing, VirtualAgility can be laid over existing “stovepipe” solutions without disrupting day-to-day operations. VirtualAgility delivers easy- to-use, quick-to-install Web 2.0 solutions for creating interoperability and business continuity in government and industry.

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