

FORENSIC ADVANTAGE® Laboratory Information Management System

Solution Overview

Forensic laboratories rely heavily on lab-centric technologies to collect and analyze evidence. To keep pace with increasing volumes, it is important that these organizations leverage technology to enhance the productivity and accountability of their examiners and overall operations. Forensic Advantage is a full-featured Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) that offers the flexibility and reliability necessary to ensure the smooth operation of a forensic laboratory.

Forensic Advantage was designed to address the unique case and evidence management requirements of local, state and federal forensic laboratories, law enforcement agencies and medical examiners. The product ensures accountability for evidence chain of custody, collects and associates scientific analysis for evidence submitted, provides query and statistical reporting, facilitates inter-lab connectivity and generates documentation for use in criminal proceedings. The product can also be configured to automate communication regarding the transfer of evidence, case status and results. In order to maximize its value, flexibility and scalability, Forensic Advantage was designed as a "Customizable-Off-The-Shelf (COTS) product built with COTS components". The solution benefits from a modular, object-oriented architecture that can be configured to address various business processes and requirements. Most customer-requested customizations are addressed by changing underlying templates and/or business rules as opposed to application code.

Business Advantages

Forensic Advantage is a full-featured laboratory information management system that provides system access and functionality in a modular fashion. Key system modules include:

- **Evidence**

Evidence tracks property from collection through disposition. Leveraging barcodes and password protected access, the system ensures a true chain-of-custody by requiring legitimate two-sided transfers. Hierarchical evidence is supported, including derivative items, sub-items, containers, batches and lockbox transfers.

- **Case Processing**

Case Processing provides tools for managing caseloads at varying levels. Supervisors have the ability to assign and review examiner caseloads while examiners are provided with tools that automate the collection of exam results and the production of case-related documentation. Configurable backlog reports facilitate informed decisions regarding staffing as well as budget considerations.

- **Resource Inventory**

One or more Inventory modules may be configured to manage the location, status and disposition of items such as lab instruments, firearms, reference materials, safety equipment, chemical reagents, exam kits and personnel.

- **Testimony**

Testimony tracks subpoenas for expert testimony, leveraging Outlook to ensure that requested appearances are added to an examiners' schedule. The appearance, time, travel and expense information is collected to facilitate detailed reporting.

- **Workbench Management**

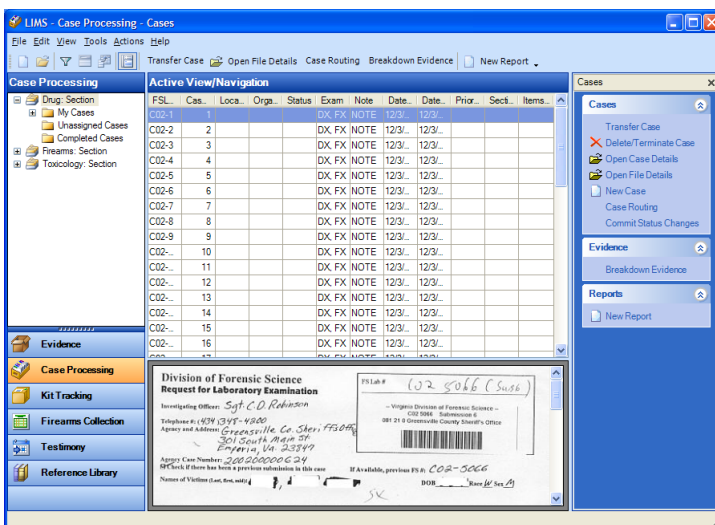
Workbench, combined with one or more Inventory modules, ensures that examiner activities, lab instrumentation and chemical reagents meet or exceed the laboratory's current Standard Operating Procedures.

- **PreLog Web and PreLog Win**

These modules can be configured to speed the submission of evidence and distribution of reports via the Internet or Windows. Users can submit evidence forms before their arrival and agencies may view the status of their requests and download copies of their reports when available.

- **System Administration**

System Administration provides numerous tools to facilitate the timely and effective system maintenance and administration. Role-based security, management reporting, database auditing and exception processes are all handled within this module.





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Technical Advantages

A core component of the Forensic Advantage solution is Microsoft Office System 2007/2010. Leveraging the business productivity suite provides a level of process automation that is not only user-friendly but grows with future iterations of the Office platform as well. Independent Office applications are leveraged as follows:

Microsoft Word

Automates the production of documentation and deliverables, incorporating XML data from exams/investigations and effectively capturing free-form notes and dialogue.

Microsoft InfoPath

Provides intelligent forms technology for automating examiner and investigator worksheets, resulting in XML datasets that can be leveraged in multiple instances.

Microsoft Visio

Allows examiners/investigators to document crime scene and spatial situations.

Microsoft Outlook

Enables examiners/investigators to leverage calendar, task lists and e-mail for scheduling and communication, particularly as it relates to testimony activities.

Microsoft PowerPoint

Templates can be deployed to facilitate automated construction of case summaries for use during testimony.

Microsoft Excel

Provides data analysis capabilities that can be leveraged independently or as part of a larger reporting process.

Microsoft OneNote

Facilitates the capture and conversion of hand-written notes.

Microsoft Windows SharePoint Services

Provides web-based workgroup and departmental collaboration, including an online repository for Standard Operating Procedures.

The data warehousing component of Forensic Advantage leverages Microsoft SQL Server for departmental and enterprise data collection. In addition to providing a foundation for secure and auditable data transactions, SQL Server provides an economical and scalable platform for desktop, workgroup, departmental and agency-wide data management and reporting. SQL Server's adherence to, and support of, industry standards also promotes bilateral communication with disparate systems, facilitating the efficient migration of data from legacy applications.

About Forensic Advantage® Systems

Forensic Advantage Systems is a division of TCSC, Inc. TCSC provides business solutions grounded in proven technology. As a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner, we are among the elite of Microsoft's business partners, earning their highest endorsement. We have the knowledge, skills and commitment to help you implement solutions that match your exact business needs.

Since 1981, TCSC, Inc. has been a leader in business consulting, solution development and technical services throughout the United States. From Imaging, Workflow and Collaboration, to Knowledge Management, Application Development and Enterprise Architecture, the organization's commitment to excellence has repeatedly been recognized via numerous industry awards.

Software Products

The Forensic Advantage platform of software products supports the efforts of local, state and federal forensic laboratories, law enforcement agencies and medical examiners. From case and evidence management, to DNA and breath alcohol analysis, Forensic Advantage Systems is committed to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of laboratories world-wide.

Lab Knowledge and Work Management

Knowledge Management is the process of organizing information throughout a lab and making it available to those making day-to-day decisions that ultimately determine the success or failure of an operation. By automating business processes, Work Management allows people to create, share and collaborate on information in an efficient manner, wherever they physically reside. Forensic Advantage Systems staff members are experts at using technology to empower organizations to meet their strategic goals and objectives.

Custom Application Development

Technology is the foundation of today's vital business functions. It assists you with employee communication and collaboration, aids your partnerships with other businesses and helps you reach out to your customers. Extensive experience with application design, development, implementation and integration enables Forensic Advantage Systems to add value to almost any module in order to replicates virtually any business processes.

Forensic Advantage® Systems

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