

EUROPOL UNIFIES CRITICAL DATA TO PREDICT AND PREVENT CRIME AND TERRORISM



“ Effectively combatting 21st century threats requires 21st century information systems—designed specifically to produce actionable intelligence from disparate structured and unstructured data.

Stephen Baker,
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THE CUSTOMER

Europol is Europe's central law enforcement agency, working closely with local authorities in member countries. The agency is dedicated to preventing and combatting all forms of serious international crime and terrorism.

THE CHALLENGE

Europol needed to create, collect, unify, and enable access and analysis of data relevant to criminal and terrorist activity with information drawn from multi-language structured and unstructured data sources across several member nations. The agency had to reconcile inconsistencies like a single person of interest with a surname, given name, and alias—all with different spellings. New information was constantly gathered and automatically submitted by member countries with dramatically increasing data volume, year over year.

Europol's goal was to develop a consolidated criminal information system providing fast, easy access to its vast data sources to aggressively fight crime. The agency also wanted to enable local policing organizations to directly access its anti-crime information sources.

THE SOLUTION

After an extensive, in-depth evaluation process of several potential information solutions, including those of technology mega-vendors, Europol concluded that not all vendors could handle their huge-scale, complex security needs. Ultimately, the Attivio platform proved to be the most agile information solution to index, correlate, and present all relevant data and content to law enforcement authorities.

THE OUTCOME

Europol found Attivio's patented ability to correlate structured and unstructured evidence to be vitally important to achieve its informational strategic plan. Unlike a traditional data warehouse, the agency's "logical entities" (e.g., people of interest) are constructed dynamically from multiple data and content sources that are constantly being updated.

Because Attivio can freely join data and content based on metadata, text, geographic information, and other data in a single query, the agency gains the ability to answer complex queries. For example, identifying all people who have been trained in Afghanistan within the last year; have checked into five or more hotels in a given country within the last year, drive a license plate number that ends with XYZ, and so on.

Attivio ensures that Europol's complex information streams, critical to identifying potential criminal and terrorist threats, are unified, readily accessible, and actionable in advance of potential events.