

New Jersey State Police Reduces On-Scene Time and Device Seizures with ADF Pro

Challenge

The Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) unit within the New Jersey State Police faced growing pressure from increasing mobile device volumes and expanding digital evidence demands during search warrants and CSAM investigations.

According to lead examiner John Ragno, investigators were spending hours on scene attempting full device extractions, often seizing large numbers of devices simply because there was no fast, forensically sound way to preview them in the field.

Key challenges included:

- Mobile devices increasing to terabyte-level storage capacities
- Investigators spending up to 4 additional hours on scene during warrants
- Excessive device seizures creating additional forensic backlog
- Limited examiner resources managing growing case volumes
- Delays caused by sending devices externally for forensic processing
- Need for actionable intelligence during active investigations

The unit needed a faster, field-ready triage workflow that would allow investigators to quickly identify relevant evidence without waiting for full forensic extractions..

Solution

The ICAC Unit adopted ADF Pro to support rapid digital triage operations in both the field and laboratory environments.

Using ADF's Preview and triage capabilities, investigators can:

- Rapidly preview mobile devices during search warrants
- Access images and videos in minutes without full extractions
- Conduct quick screen recordings for investigative review
- Identify relevant evidence on scene
- Reduce unnecessary device seizures
- Perform triage directly inside their forensic van during operations

Today, the unit primarily deploys ADF Pro during field operations, with multiple ADF stations installed inside their mobile forensic response vehicle.

ADF also provides the team with an alternative method for acquiring backups from devices not fully supported by other forensic tools.

Results

- Reduced on-scene investigation time from several hours to as little as 30 minutes in some cases
- Decreased device seizures by approximately 60–70%
- Reduced unnecessary forensic processing and lab workload
- Improved operational efficiency during search warrants
- Enabled investigators to focus on high-priority evidence faster
- Helped manage a growing backlog while maintaining court-ready forensic practices
- Accelerated investigative decision-making during ICAC operations

By triaging devices on scene, investigators now return with only the most relevant evidence, significantly reducing downstream forensic workload.

Summary

ADF Pro has helped the New Jersey State Police modernize digital evidence triage workflows for ICAC investigations. The agency now conducts faster, more efficient field operations while reducing unnecessary device collection and forensic processing demands.

For the ICAC Unit, rapid triage means investigators can move faster, minimize operational delays, and focus forensic resources on the devices that matter most.

"ADF is our go-to tool anytime we do previews. It's plug-and-play and lets us quickly access the evidence we need on scene. Before ADF, we were spending hours longer on scene and bringing back unnecessary devices. Now we can triage quickly and focus only on what's relevant."

— John Ragno, Digital Forensics Examiner

"The preview capability is the feature we rely on most. We haven't found another tool that gives us the same speed and flexibility during live investigations."

— Digital Forensics Examiner, New Jersey State Police