



Texas Juvenile Justice Department

State agency takes action to protect youth data, by implementing a secure file sharing solution for confidential files.

“As new education and youth services initiatives are rolled out, we’re ahead of the curve with communications. With Accellion, we have the technology foundation in place to support important information exchanges”

Josh Kuntz
ISO

The Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) is a state agency created to provide a cost-effective continuum of youth services that focus on keeping individuals within their home communities while balancing rehabilitative needs with public safety. Headquartered in Austin, TX, TJJD has 2,500 employees and operates dozens of treatment facilities, correctional institutions, and halfway houses throughout the state.

Challenge

Due to the nature of its operations, TJJD regularly handles highly confidential data relating to the youth that come in contact with the organization. New legislation, including Texas Family Code, Chapter 58, mandates that TJJD take the proper measures to maintain the integrity of all juvenile justice information, including any references to individuals within TJJD’s various facilities.

The organization originally had a dedicated TLS link to support confidential communications, but was met with a barrier on the recipients’ end, as most did not have a full-blown encryption solution that would sync with TJJD’s. This led staff members to mail hard copies of files, burn documents to CDs or encrypt emails individually – all very cumbersome procedures. The bottom line: TJJD didn’t have a good file transfer mechanism in place and needed a better option, quickly.

TJJD knew exactly what it wanted out of an enterprise file transfer solution: 1) a physical appliance – to maintain management control and minimize ongoing maintenance costs; 2) rock-solid security; and 3) ease of use. The organization looked at several vendors and Accellion was the only provider that offered an enterprise-class physical and virtual appliance, with significant, successful deployments in the government sector.

“95 percent of our data must be kept confidential for one reason or another, driving us to find a secure mode to exchange information with parents, between staff members, and with the community at large,” said Josh Kuntz, ISO with TJJD. “Accellion was the only solution that met our strict security guidelines, yet made it easy for non-technical individuals to use.”

Solution

Working with Accellion VAR, SolidBorder – an approved HUB vendor for Texas government and public education entities – the first step was to deploy the appliance and put it through rigorous testing.

Quick Facts – Texas Juvenile Justice Department



Deployed Since

2011



Number of Users

**600 internal
unlimited external**



Custom Web Interface

Yes



Email Integration

Yes



Mobile Integration

Yes

- ✓ Allowed users to work exactly as they were used to working – spurring adoption of Accellion organization-wide
- ✓ Enabled case workers and legal counsel to share confidential data with outside constituents
- ✓ Enabled ongoing compliance with new state security regulations

“When Accellion was tested, deployed, and ready for use, we announced availability to our executive management team,” said Kuntz. “Our general counsel used the solution that afternoon to communicate with the Department of Justice – showcasing Accellion’s immediate value.”

Accellion File Transfer is integrated with Active Directory, allowing TJJJ employees to use existing log-in credentials to send confidential files. That’s the beauty of Accellion -- it’s a robust system, yet doesn’t require users to jump through hoops, serving as a seamless extension to users’ everyday communications.

“We started with 100 Accellion licenses and that number quickly grew to 600,” said Kuntz. “Adoption of Accellion has taken off because it allows users to work as they always have – it looks

like email and acts like email, making it a no-brainer to use.”

Accellion was initially used among TJJJ’s medical services group, but rapidly grew to include the organization’s legal counsel and extensive roster of case workers. The solution has been particularly valuable for ongoing community interactions – allowing TJJJ employees to securely communicate with parents at home, who only need to click on a link to access files relating to their family member.

“As new education and youth services initiatives are rolled out, we’re ahead of the curve with communications,” said Kuntz.

“With Accellion, we have the technology foundation in place to support important information exchanges and simply need to add more licensed users to accommodate our growing needs – it’s as simple as that.”

About Accellion

Accellion, Inc. is the industry leader in providing private cloud solutions for secure access and sharing of enterprise information across devices, enabling employees to work securely wherever. Founded in 1999, Accellion is an award-winning, private company headquartered in Palo Alto, California with offices in North America, APAC, and Europe. The company has evolved from its roots in cloud storage into a leading enterprise security software provider. More than 12 million business users and 2,000 of the world’s leading corporations and government agencies, including Procter & Gamble; Indiana University Health; Kaiser Permanente; Lovells; Bridgestone; Harvard University; the Securities and Exchange Commission; and NASA use Accellion solutions to protect confidential information, ensure compliance, increase business productivity, and reduce IT costs.

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Email: sales@accellion.com
Phone: +1 650-249-9544

Accellion, Inc.
1804 Embarcadero Road
Palo Alto, CA 94303



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