

XJail and Safari: Prison Security Springs into the Future

By: Meghan Rogers

A Two Technologies Case Study

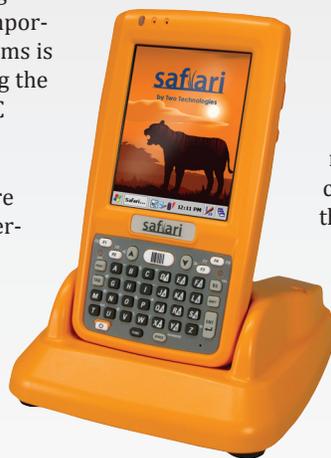
 *"The founders of a new colony, whatever Utopia of human virtue and happiness they might originally project, have invariably recognized it among their earliest practical necessities to allot a portion of the virgin soil as a cemetery, and another portion as the site of a prison."*

This beginning to the widely celebrated novel by Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*, is a famous, often quoted truth that continues to ring true today in societies all over the world. Prison systems, in particular, are an important "reality" of society and have been for thousands of years. In colonial America, for example, prisons were amongst the first erected structures. These "practical necessities" might not be a pleasant sight in any community, but they are an absolutely required system in civilized communities in order to house criminals and maintain order in what is often a violent world.

As of 2009, there were more than 1.6 million people in the United States serving time in either a State or Federal prison. While budgets and staff are constantly shrinking, more and more people are being arrested and sent to jail. The importance of maintaining these systems is unquestionable and is something the people at Archonix Systems, LLC know a lot about. Located in Marlton, New Jersey, Archonix Systems, LLC has dedicated more than 20 years to creating and perfecting public safety software systems that support police, fire, and other public safety departments. According to Jeremy Thorsgaard, a Project Manager at Archonix Systems' the company provides software solutions that manage citations and warrants, dispatch agencies during emergency situations, and even allow officers to record and send reports right from their car. For example, their CJMS™ solution, XJail, "is the evolution of jail management software". Not only does it manage time and tasks, alert to meetings, and signal alarms when security issues arise, but it also effortlessly integrates with the company's record and mobile software, giving entire departments instant access to often critical information



According to Thorsgaard, "Archonix believes that hand held computing is the best way to allow (Archonix) customers to utilize their time more effectively". Archonix Systems decided to partner with Two Technologies, Inc®, a Horsham, PA based manufacturer of ultra rugged handheld computers, in order to find the best fit for the XJail solution. Their choice was the Safari II, one of Two Technologies' most versatile. This "miniature marvel" comes equipped with a 2D barcode scanner, is IP65 rated and heat/chemical resistant, and has the option to employ a



RFID reader and writer as well as GPS; all of which fits literally in the palm of your hand. Combined with XJail, the Safari II lets officers track and coordinate inmate movement simply by scanning the barcode on the identification bracelet that each inmate wears. Instead of wasting time calling names during roll call, these wristbands are scanned, instantly confirming and recording the presence of each inmate. If a security issue arose and an inmate was missing, the unit would not only immediately bring this to the officers' attention, but it would also give report to the exact time and location the missing inmate was last seen.

Medication administration is also simplified. Inmates requiring daily medications are given clearance to the infirmary, and the medications and dosages they need are kept on file. The nurses scan their identification tags to find out what they need, at what time, and at what dosage, and the medication is provided. As

THE COMPANY



THE INDUSTRY

Prison Systems

THE CHALLENGES

Manage prison systems efficiently from inmate tracking to medication administration.

THE SOLUTION

Lightweight, easy to use handheld computer, Safari with XJail.

THE RESULTS

Two Technologies' Safari II with Archonix Systems' XJail solution is a priceless tool for corrections officers

The Safari II is without a doubt an unstoppable workhorse that gives correctional officers what is required to keep things running efficiently.

added security, any inmate entering the infirmary without clearance would immediately set off an alarm to the officers, alerting them to the issue.

The Safari II is without a doubt an unstoppable workhorse that gives correctional officers what is required to keep things running efficiently. To offer readers a better understanding of the Safari II and XJail in an actual prison setting, we spoke with Lieutenant James M Shay, Jr. Lt Shay is a Corrections Lieutenant for the Passaic County Jail, a prison that is located in Paterson, NJ and houses an average of 975 inmates. Last year the Passaic County Jail contracted with Archonix Systems, LLC for their jail management system, XJail, and received the Safari II handheld to test as the user interface. They were more than impressed. According to Lt Shay, the Safari II handheld units give correction officers freedoms they didn't always have. "The portability of the unit," he says, "makes the job easier than to log each inmate in manually." Having inmates sign a book proving they were in the places they were supposed to be in, such as attendance of a gym class, requires more time and is susceptible to human error. Instead, inmates are tracked electronically; there are no errors. This greatly eliminates the amount of time officers have to spend logging the information down. Because the Safari II does all of that for them, the records are always up to date with very little effort from personnel. Also, instead of constantly having to run back to check on inmates in their terminals, the officers are able to spend more time on the floor, watching over the system and not individuals.

All of this is extremely important for officers, who every day face the threat of danger. Violence in prisons is a common occur-

rence. According to figures found in the Ohio state newspaper, there were 8600 reported assaults in United States prisons in the last 4 years; almost half of these were to staff. Of those, more than 100 were considered serious, such as stab wounds, head trauma, spinal cord issues, and even one case where a corrections officer permanently lost vision in his eye. Officers who are constantly in potentially dangerous situations don't always have the time or manpower to waste behind a computer; they need to be out on the floor, their focus solely on maintaining order. The Safari II is an extremely light-weight computer (altogether, batteries included, less than one pound); it is extremely durable, remarkably rugged, and can fit easily into a pocket. It will not slow officers down, and it will not get in the way. Additionally, because of the constant tracking of inmates, officers are given an opportunity to see how and with whom the inmates are spending their time. A history of unusual movements, perhaps a suspicious gathering in the prison library, would be recorded for officers to investigate, something that could very possibly lower the amount of assaults that happen between inmates and towards officers.

Overall, Two Technologies' Safari II with Archonix Systems' XJail solution is a priceless tool for corrections officers. It scans barcodes, documents information, sends alerts, and much, much more; all in a palm-sized, light-weight machine. As time passes, more and more aspects of businesses and individual lives are being run by technology; this is no different for prisons and correctional institutions around the world. Lt. Shay understands this, summing it up by saying, "the Safari II handhelds will spring this facility into the future".



About Archonix Systems

Archonix is a rapidly growing provider of advanced public safety software to Police Departments, Fire Departments, Correctional Institutions and other Public Safety Agencies. Archonix prides itself on providing Customers with the benefits of scale formerly attainable only by larger industry players together with the attention and service that is the hallmark of the industry's smaller participants. Archonix software has been utilized by public safety agencies now for over 20 years. <http://www.archonixsystems.com>

About Two Technologies

Two Technologies Inc. designs and manufactures customizable, rugged hand held computer and terminal products for global applications. With over 4,000 customers and one million products in the field, its devices are deployed worldwide, helping to improve operational efficiency and bottom-line performance. Founded in 1987, Two Technologies continues to be recognized for providing unsurpassed value and service to its VARs and OEM customers. The company has succeeded in leading its market segment by providing high quality, cost-effective, customizable products with industry-best customer service. The company's highly automated manufacturing and test facility in Horsham, Pennsylvania is a model for state-of-the-art, surface mount assembly and is certified to meet ISO 9001:2000 Standards. All standard products from Two Technologies are FCC and CE certified, and RoHS compliant.