



# National Model

for the Statewide Application of Data Collection and Management Technology to Improve Public Safety

## NEWSLETTER

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## National Model Update

Happy holidays from the National Model! May you and yours enjoy all that the season has to offer.

National Model members have been busy this quarter, especially with their TraCS 7.3 to TraCS 10 conversion projects. Florida has been feverously working on meeting a January 1st deadline for their TraCS 10 deployment, including installations at the Miami Police Department. Alaska has been implementing TraCS 10 at their local agencies while beta testing TraCS Web. And with an ongoing statewide rollout of MACH, the Iowa TraCS team has been working through a demanding schedule.

To see what the other National Model member states and provinces have been up to, visit [www.nationalmodel.us](http://www.nationalmodel.us) and click on the States/Provinces link.

The next National Model Steering Committee meeting has been scheduled for February 24 - 25, 2011 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Tempe, Arizona. The agenda for this meeting includes the acceptance of the revised National Model Business Plan, TraCS 10 enhancement discussions, and a TraCS Web beta testing update. If you are interested in attending or would like to be on the National Model e-mail distribution list, please contact:

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## Support Services Posts

Providing quality support and maintenance of the National Model software is key to the success of the National Model member states and provinces. As the demand for support increases, it is more important than ever to have a uniform system in place to keep track of issues and software defects. In response to this need, a new Issue Tracker application has been implemented so that National Model members can report their TraCS, TraCS Web, and MACH issues online and follow them through to closure by subscribing to e-mail updates. *(cont.)*

Visit the National Model web site:  
[www.nationalmodel.us](http://www.nationalmodel.us)

Access the Issue Tracker from the Support tab on the [www.nationalmodel.us](http://www.nationalmodel.us) web site. E-mail [issuetracker@nationalmodel.us](mailto:issuetracker@nationalmodel.us) to register with the Issue Tracker.

**T**o better meet the TraCS implementation strategies adopted by National Model states and provinces, a new TraCS 10 release methodology has been recently implemented. This methodology allows a state/province to standardize on a major version of TraCS 10 and receive defect fixes without upgrading to a new major version.

New major versions of TraCS will be released approximately every six months or as necessary. Major versions will contain significant new enhancements, technology upgrades and any potential backwards compatibility breaking modifications. Major versions will be beta tested by at least two states when possible before being made available nationwide.

As soon as a new major version is made available, it will be actively maintained with regular minor versions until the next major version is released. Minor versions will only contain defect fixes that will not compromise the stability of the major release. Previously released major versions will continue to be maintained for up to one year with state specific showstopper modifications only.

An example release schedule might look like the following:

- Major version TraCS 10.04.00 is released on February 1, 2011
- Minor version TraCS 10.04.01 is released on March 1, 2011
- Minor version TraCS 10.04.02 is released on May 1, 2011
- Minor version TraCS 10.04.03 is released on June 1, 2011
- Minor version TraCS 10.04.04 is released on August 1, 2011

When major version TraCS 10.05.00 is made available on August 1, 2011 no more regular defect versions of 10.04 will be released. State specific showstopper modifications can be requested to be made to the most recent version of 10.04 for up to one year.

## Product Spotlight

### **MACH Handheld**



The latest offering of MACH platforms is now available through the National Model. MACH Handheld is a fully functional version of MACH made to run on Windows Mobile 6.x devices such as the Honeywell Dolphin 9700 pictured to the left.

MACH Handheld is perfect for officers on foot, motorcycle officers, or any other officer that frequently leaves their vehicle such as Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officers and park rangers. MACH Handheld is also a great solution for fire and EMS personnel responding to a call.

*(cont.)*

MACH Handheld is an excellent way to manage a national security or national disaster event. By providing mobile devices installed with MACH Handheld to all personnel entering the event parameter, command officers can continually keep track of what resources are where.

As long as the Windows Mobile device is equipped with a GPS receiver and has access to the internet via a wireless data package, MACH Handheld allows you to stay connected wherever you go. Locate backup, communicate silently and run NCIC/NLETS queries all from the palm of your hand.

## State Report

### Wisconsin

by Erin Egan

**W**isconsin started using TraCS back in 2002 as an internal crash entry system. We are the Badger state, and Wisconsin's version quickly became known as "BadgerTraCS". BadgerTraCS was released externally in June 2005 to just four law enforcement agencies, with the uniform traffic citation, warning, and crash form. In November of 2005, we added the municipal citation, alcohol forms, and attachment form.

Program management of BadgerTraCS falls under the Wisconsin Division of Motor Vehicles. The DMV has longstanding partnerships with courts, district attorneys, and others in the criminal justice community to share data electronically. For Wisconsin, BadgerTraCS allows us to achieve incredible efficiencies for law enforcement, courts, as well as the DMV, as the citation data is entered once at roadside and submitted electronically to the court. After adjudication, the conviction data is sent electronically to the DMV as well. Crashes, behavior reports, and alcohol reports are submitted directly to the DMV electronically, eliminating data entry for DMV. Furthermore, most BadgerTraCS agencies have mobile data interfaces that populate driver and vehicle data directly from our TIME system, so law enforcement doesn't have to key that information either. (TIME is Wisconsin's Crime Information Bureau system, and also interfaces with NCIC & NLETS). A few examples of the efficiencies by BadgerTraCS include:

- FTE reductions in the Wisconsin DMV, resulting from fewer paper crash reports that need to be keyed;
- Savings in our keying contract, as fewer paper citations need to be entered into our system;
- One sheriff's department saved 77 worker hours in two months alone, from data entry savings as well as reduced errors;
- Traffic stops can be completed in five or six minutes (compared to 10 minutes for handwritten citations), freeing up officers to do other things.

One of the partnerships that developed early was between BadgerTraCS and Wisconsin's Office of Justice Assistance (OJA). OJA created the WIJIS (Wisconsin Justice Information System) Workflow to route citations submitted via BadgerTraCS to courts and *(cont.)*

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district attorneys. This partnership, as well as the WIJIS Workflow, was a critical piece of a new Traffic Stop Data Collection law that takes effect on January 1, 2011. This law requires that information on all traffic stops conducted in the state be collected and sent to OJA for statistical analysis and reporting. A new Traffic Stop Data Collection form has been implemented in BadgerTraCS, and will be the only means for Wisconsin law enforcement agencies to submit this data electronically. Fortunately, the WIJIS Workflow was in place to route the traffic stop data to OJA.

There are currently 15 forms in the BadgerTraCS Suite now. As of December 1, 2010, we have trained 398 agencies to use TraCS (out of 576 total agencies in the state). Over 66% of all crashes in Wisconsin are done using BadgerTraCS, as well as over 56% of all citations. In the past year, we have trained 81 new agencies alone, so these numbers will continue to rise.

Now that the Traffic Stop Data Collection project is done, Wisconsin is looking forward to implementing TraCS 10. We will also start using the Incident Locator Tool at the same time. We are also eagerly awaiting the release of TraCS Web, and hope to require that all crash reports be completed electronically using BadgerTraCS by 2015.

For more information about BadgerTraCS, and to see our list of forms, check out our website at [www.wibadgertracs.gov](http://www.wibadgertracs.gov).

## Tech Blog

### TraCS 10/MACH Interface

Continuing to add new features and functionality to the National Model software offerings remains the primary goal of National Model software development. However, it is also important to ensure that all of the individual pieces of software are able to interface and interact with each other in a seamless way. With this in mind, a new TraCS 10/MACH interface has been created that allows a TraCS 10 field unit in the car to simulate a TraCS 10 workstation using the MACH communications backbone.



Imagine being in a police cruiser miles away from the station and needing a copy of a citation before court begins. In a traditional TraCS setup, you would need to go back to the station and print the citation from a TraCS workstation or you would have to use the Start Shift function to get the citation out to your car to print it from there, still requiring a trip to the station.

With the TraCS 10/MACH interface, all you would need to do is search for your citation directly from your laptop and then print it using the printer in your vehicle. The *(cont.)*

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new interface not only allows you to wirelessly search the TraCS database back at the station, but it also allows you check forms in and out so that you can view, print and edit them directly on your laptop. Fixing issues on rejected forms has never been easier. Even newly created forms can be checked into the TraCS database remotely eliminating the need for using the TraCS Start/End Shift functionality altogether.

Upon TraCS login, the TraCS 10/MACH interface automatically downloads the officer's latest user file directly to the field unit. Any modified user defaults are even uploaded to the TraCS Users database at the station when the officer logs out. This functionality ensures that TraCS always looks and acts the same way no matter what computer the officer logs into.

The TraCS 10/MACH interface is especially useful in agencies that have sporadic or inconsistent wireless access or complete areas without wireless service. When MACH has connectivity, TraCS can take advantage of the remote features. When MACH loses connectivity, TraCS can work like it normally would in a disconnected environment. As soon as connectivity is restored, any work done by the officer offline is automatically uploaded to the TraCS database. If connectivity is never restored, the officer can use the standard End Shift functionality to get daily work into the station or the officer can simply leave completed forms on the laptop and they will be background uploaded during the next shift.

When connected to MACH, TraCS uses the MACH network connectivity status and live GPS coordinates to ensure unified functionality. Additional features will be added to the TraCS 10/MACH interface soon including common information sharing, NCIC/NLETS functionality, and TraCS form creation based on MACH sessions.

## Next Newsletter

**T**he National Model Newsletter will start a fresh year with the January/February/March 2011 issue. Stay tuned for additional National Model news including a recap of the February Steering Committee Meeting.

*Questions or Comments? Would you like your state/province report to be included in this newsletter? Do you have any corrections or suggestions? E-mail us at:*

[newsletter@nationalmodel.us](mailto:newsletter@nationalmodel.us)

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