INTRODUCTION

On a summer day in 2012, two girls rode their bikes through a small Midwest town. Six months later, their bodies were found in a park fifteen miles away from where they were last seen. After the local law enforcement agency had exhausted its own resources, they turned to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.

Analysts at NCMEC, a longtime Palantir partner, used our software to cross-reference cell phone records with other data, narrowing more than 450,000 records to a subset of leads the agency could review.

OUR PARTNERSHIP

In 2010, we deployed Palantir Gotham at NCMEC’s Missing Children’s Division to help analysts examine cases that involve disparate, sensitive datasets. Today, agencies reviewing difficult and often stale cases like the one above turn to NCMEC, where Palantir is the central analytical system. Instead of tracking cases across law enforcement agencies in paper format, where years’ worth of documents are stored in binders and file cabinets, NCMEC analysts use Palantir to build chronologies, plot activity on a map, and discover non-obvious connections among the players in a case. They bring individuals together at one table to conduct analysis and facilitate information review in real time. Examinations are deeper, faster, and collaborative across organizational boundaries.

We recently expanded our partnership to support the Exploited Children Division, where the data scale required a new solution altogether. We built a tool for the Child Victim Identification Program, the central U.S. repository for sexually exploitative media data. With the ability to identify new data points and connections, NCMEC is providing additional insights into victims’ cases that would have otherwise gone undiscovered.

WHAT IT MEANS

When a suspected serial offender was arrested in the Midwest for crimes against children, NCMEC used Palantir to provide law enforcement officials with timelines, links, and other relevant cases to explore.

After 25 years of scrutinizing the disappearance of a young boy, NCMEC used Palantir to help the local law enforcement establish a Task Force, identify potential links, and prioritize new leads.