



FIELD SEARCH

A guide to using Field Search software as part of an overall strategy to gather computer use information to diagnose, treat, monitor and manage the sex offender in the community.

Field Search was developed with the support of the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center, a program of the National Institute of Justice.

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National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center Rocky Mountain

2050 East Iliff Avenue Denver, CO 80208
800-416-8086 303-871-2522 FAX: 303-871-2500 INTERNET: www.nlectc.org EMAIL: nlectc@du.edu

Created in 1994 as a component of the National Institute of Justice's Office of Science and Technology, the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC) system serves as an "honest broker" offering support, research findings, and technological expertise to help State and local law enforcement and corrections personnel perform their duties more safely and efficiently.

The Rocky Mountain Regional office of NLECTC (NLECTC-RM) has long recognized that one key area in which technology can help to enhance public safety is in the area of sex offender supervision. Technology that can provide information about a sex offender's computer use is particularly valuable on two levels. First, this information provides an objective portrait of a sex offender's interests and proclivities which is important data that offenders typically withhold from their treatment providers. Second, this information will indicate whether the offender is viewing inappropriate materials which will provide the supervising agency the opportunity to increase sanctions and tighten controls on the offender before the behavior escalates into a more serious offense.

To facilitate the use of technology to manage sex offenders in the community, NLECTC-RM partnered with Dr. Jim Tanner, a nationally recognized expert in the areas of computer forensic investigations and sex offenders. Together, we endeavored to develop software designed specifically for use in the field by non-technical probation and parole officers to quickly and efficiently search an offender's computer and create a detailed report of their findings. The result of this effort is a product called Field Search. NLECTC-RM is pleased to offer Field Search to justice agencies free of charge with following caveats.

First, Field Search is intended to be used as part of an overall strategy to monitor an offender's computer use and as such it should be approved for use and supported by your agency's policies and procedures before it is used in the field. Second, so that we may control the distribution of this product, Field Search is not to be shared outside your organization. Any interested justice agency may request a free copy by contacting NLECTC-RM. Lastly, NLECTC-RM does not have the resources to provide technical support for Field Search, please do not contact the Center with questions or problems with the software.

It is my sincere hope that Field Search becomes a widely used tool that officers have at their disposal to better supervise sex offenders which will in turn help create safer communities.

Sincerely,

Joe Russo

**Joe Russo, Program Manager – Corrections
National Law Enforcement & Corrections Technology Center**