

**Nomination Category: Digital Government--Government to Citizen**  
**Project Title: North Carolina Sex Offender and Public Protection Registry**

**Executive Summary**

In a proactive move to provide the residents of the state of North Carolina with robust tracking and email notification of sex offender and sexual predator address changes, the North Carolina Department of Justice implemented an enhanced internet-based Sex Offender and Public Protection Registry (NCSOR) replacing the registry which was first introduced in 1997. [www.ncfindoffender.gov](http://www.ncfindoffender.gov)

NCSOR is the State of North Carolina's comprehensive, statewide source for detailed sex offender information, on-line interactive mapping of the offenders, and proactive, free email notifications to citizen subscribers regarding sex offender address changes. This innovative system takes real time data and photographs entered by the Department of Corrections and County Sheriffs and assigns geographical coordinates to the address of each offender which is in-turn used for mapping and notification purposes. It also provides links regarding victims and citizen services, national and other state's registries, and internet safety. It is a one-stop shop for tracking and information about registered sex offenders.

Within the first two weeks after the deployment, the site had over 5,100 subscribers for email notifications and received more than 900,000 searches within the site itself.

Upon initial entry to the site, end users have the ability to map a specific offender (if known) or show the locations of offender residences based on a 1, 3, or 5 mile radius from an end-user provided address. Offenders will be shown as markers on either a 'road-map' type map or on a satellite view as selected by the end user. Once produced, the maps have both zoom and scrolling functionality. The offender markers have roll-over capability to show a small picture of the offender and their name and address. The users can click on these to receive more detailed information about each particular offender. Detailed information includes the offender's picture, personal statistics, conviction information, and address history. Once a particular offender is selected, the end user has the ability to subscribe for email notifications anytime there is a change in this offender's status. If the offender is under Department of Corrections monitoring, there is a link that will take the end user to the Department of Correction site for additional information about the offender.

In addition to subscribing to a particular offender, end users can also subscribe for radius notifications. The end user can select a personal address, school, day care center or other address of concern to monitor and receive email notification anytime any registered sex offender moves into or out of a 1, 3, or 5 mile radius of the subscribed address.

The notification emails an end user receives contain the offender's picture, name, and address. It also has links to view more detailed information and to subscribe to that particular offender. In addition, the notification provides information and links for crime victim services.

NCSOR is easy to use. It provides ready access to maps and information on sex offenders, crime prevention, and victim services. For those who are unfamiliar using internet subscription services, there is also a help section with screen-casts to assist the user using this functionality. The project was completed from concept to deployment in less than one year for approximately \$368,000.

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**A. Concise description of the business problem and solution, including length of time in operation.**

The North Carolina Department of Justice (DOJ) provides vital services to millions of North Carolinians. Protecting the residents of the state is a primary concern for the Department of Justice. With over 10,000 previously convicted sex offenders living among the residents of the state, it is a difficult task to keep concerned residents aware of sex offender locations and movements. Not only are residents concerned about sex offenders living near their homes, but also schools, day care facilities, parks, and other areas where their loved ones congregate. Given this challenge, the Department of Justice identified the need to develop a tool that would allow the state's residents to use the internet to easily navigate maps showing locations of sex offender residences, and provide a free service where residents can receive proactive email notifications of sex offender address changes.

While the Department of Justice has provided an internet-based sex offender registry since 1997, the site needed to be significantly enhanced to incorporate geomapping software and subscription services with the base offender data provided by the Department of Corrections and County Sheriff personnel. Discovery and planning were conducted in mid 2006 with the decision to custom develop the new site in-house using DOJ Information Technology Department resources. The official roll-out of the enhanced North Carolina Sex Offender and Public Protection Registry (NCSOR) was in April 2007 at an initial development cost of \$368,000.

NCSOR offers a high level of functionality and usability to access sex offender residence locations, descriptive data including photographs, and conviction information. The underlying database includes comprehensive sex offender listings from the Department of Corrections and County Sheriffs. From the home page, users can elect to search the registry, find information about the sex offender registration program and statistics, and find links to protective and victim services information as well as links to other state's registries. While searching the registry the end user has the option to search for a specific offender by name, view offenders within a 1, 3, or 5 mile radius of an address entered, or view offenders within a radius of longitude and latitude coordinates. This third option is particularly useful for end users located in rural areas. The search result is a map showing either the specific offender or all offenders within the specified radius. The end user has the option to choose to view this as either a 'road map' style map or an aerial satellite map. Either way, the end user can zoom in and out and scroll the map to locate offenders. The offender markers have roll-over functionality that will show the offender's photograph, name, and address information. Double-clicking on a marker will bring users to an offender's profile page that shows a photograph, current address, address history, conviction information, county of conviction and punishment. From either a map page or profile page, users can choose to subscribe for email notifications. The notifications can be either for specific offender address changes or to notify of offenders moving into or out of a radius of an address specified by the subscriber. The notification email provides the subscriber with the offender's profile, a link to the offender's page in NCSOR, and contact information for the county sheriff and crime victim services.

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## Sample map search result using an aerial satellite map:

**North Carolina Offender Registry - Microsoft Internet Explorer**

Address: <http://ncfindoffender.gov/map.aspx>

Google

Welcome to the North Carolina Sex Offender and Public Protection Registry

SEARCH THE NC REGISTRY SEARCH THE NATIONAL REGISTRY

MESSAGE FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL

SEARCH THE REGISTRY

FAQS

ABOUT THE SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION PROGRAM

REGISTRY CONTACT INFORMATION

SEX OFFENDER STATISTICS

SIGN UP FOR EMAIL ALERTS

LINKS

NC SHERIFFS' OFFICES

SBI WEBSITE

NC DOJ WEBSITE

### Offender Information

**Full Name:** MITCHELL, PAUL EDWARD  
**Address:** 4008 PLEASANT GROVE CHUR RD  
**City:** RALEIGH  
**State:** NC  
**Zip:** 27613

MITCHELL 001243519

Click on a marker for details about the offender.

There are 17 offenders within this 3 mile radius.

Map controls: road, aerial, Show labels, Radius: 1 Mile, 3 Miles, 5 Miles, Email me about offenders in this radius, Hide the Radius

Done

Internet

start

Inbox - Micros... SOR NASCIO R... NASCIO 2006 ... North Carolina ... 3:41 PM

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## Sample offender profile:

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title "North Carolina Offender Registry - Microsoft Internet Explorer". The address bar shows the URL: <http://ncfindoffender.gov/details.aspx?srn=008063S3>. The page content includes a navigation menu on the left, a profile picture of a man with glasses, and detailed offender information.

**BURGESS, BILLY CHARLES**  
3822 SUMMERWOOD CT  
RALEIGH, NC 27613

**Race:** W  
**Sex:** M  
**Height:** 6' 02"  
**Weight:** 250 lbs.  
**Hair:** BROWN  
**Eyes:** BLUE  
**Birth Date(s):** 08-05-1945

**BURGESS 008063S3**

### Offender Information

**Alias Names:**  
SRN: 008063S3

**Scars, Marks, Tattoos:** None Reported  
**Last Address Verified:** 12-29-2006  
**Registration Status:** Registered  
**Registration Date:** 06-20-2002  
**Violations:** None Reported  
**Notes:** None

### Conviction Information

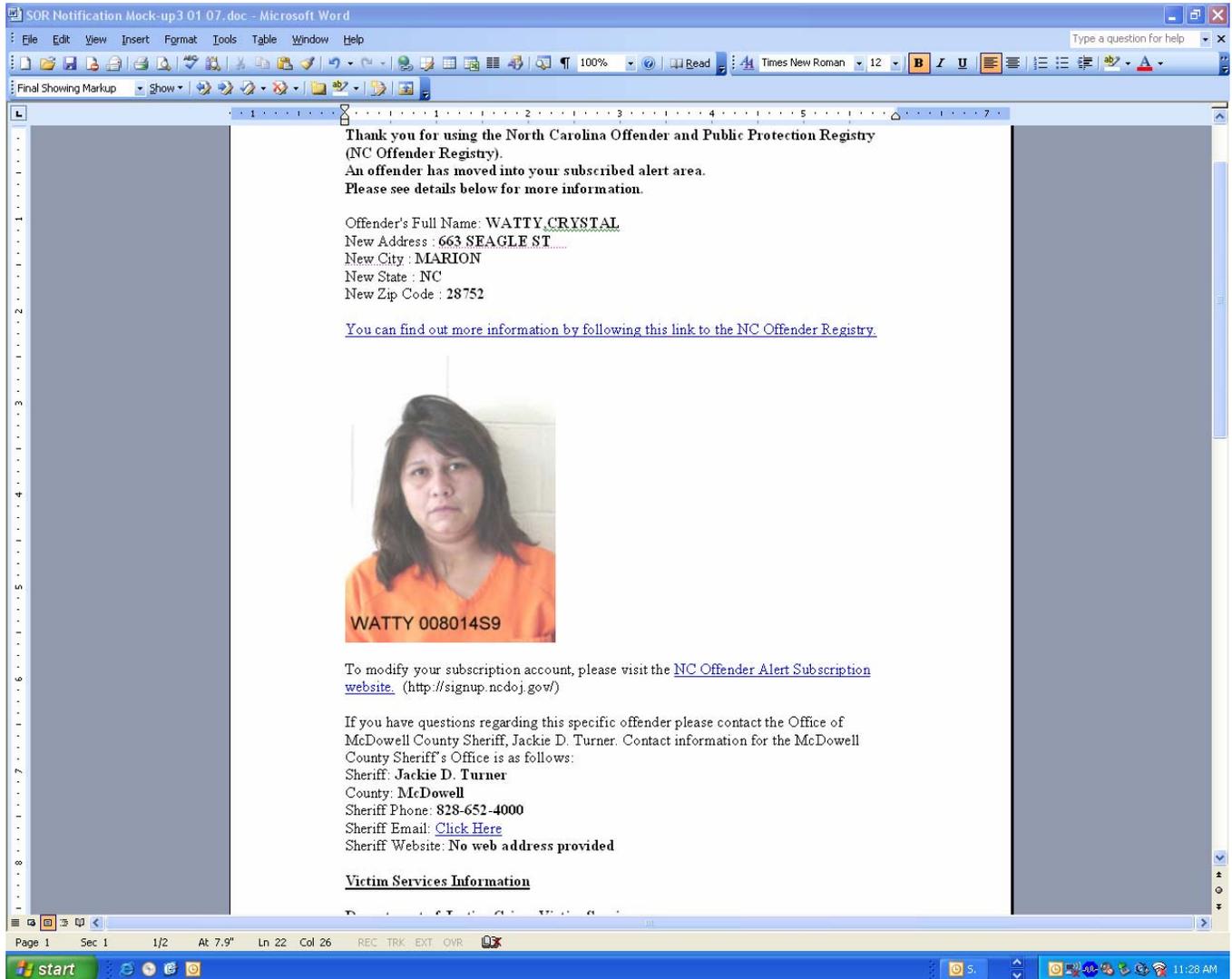
| Convicted | County     | Released | Statute  | Description            | Confinement | Probation |
|-----------|------------|----------|----------|------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1.        | 11-30-1999 | ORANGE   | 14-202.1 | INDECENT LIBERTY MINOR | 30M         |           |

### Address History

| Reported | City       | State   | Zip | Verified |            |
|----------|------------|---------|-----|----------|------------|
| 1.       | 05-14-2004 | RALEIGH | NC  | 27607    | 06-24-2004 |

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Sample email notification for offender moving into subscriber's radius:



## **B. Significance to the Improvement of the Operation of Government.**

NCSOR is one of only a handful of sex offender tracking systems to utilize the latest satellite mapping capabilities to pinpoint the residences of registered offenders. North Carolina took a robust set of sex offender information plus mapping and subscription tools and fused them together into a newly designed, easy to use public-facing interface to enable residents to access sex offender information.

CSOR is the state's official outlet for timely information on sex offender movements. Email notifications regarding the movements are sent real-time as law enforcement databases are updated and new information and photographs appear on the web almost instantly. NCSOR also provides other valuable information. The public not only needs information about locations and movements of sex offenders, but also needs to know about victims and citizen services, other state's and the national registry, and how the registration program works. The site provides links to all of these sources. By providing this information through NCSOR, the North Carolina Department of Justice has created a one-stop system for residents looking for sex offender information and services provided by the Department of Justice and other government agencies.

In addition to the benefits to the public, the project reflects increased communication between several state departments and with local governments. Citizens are provided timely information without having to call multiple agencies to get their questions about sex offenders answered. Having the material on the web also reduces the amount of clerical time required to answer the telephones and redirect citizens, or to find the material in files.

## **C. Public Value of the Project**

NCSOR provides the public with easy access to a wealth of information about sex offender locations and how to track them. It disseminates vital information about sex offender movements to all North Carolinians. While NCSOR is a valuable tool to all residents, it is particularly beneficial for parents to protect their children and for crime victims to monitor specific offenders as well as find links to crime victim services. **Within the first two weeks of deployment, NCSOR had over 5,100 subscribers with approximately 900,000 searches within the site itself.**

NCSOR was developed to be flexible and scalable to handle rapidly evolving requirements. Tracking sexual offenders and predators is extremely important and on the top of the minds of many legislators. There is currently a bill before the North Carolina legislature to further toughen laws on those convicted of sex crimes and collect additional information about them. NCSOR will be ready to handle these new requirements. Another project that is just beginning will further enhance NCSOR to provide telephone notifications to subscribers in addition to email notifications. These will be handled in both English and Spanish. These enhancements help ensure that all residents will have access to the information this system provides.