Verkada

Overview of Verkada's Native NCIC Integration Capabilities

What is the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database and how is it used by law enforcement?

The FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) is a nationwide computerized database used to quickly share criminal justice information among federal, state, and local agencies. NCIC serves as a central tool for law enforcement, enabling access to records on wanted individuals, missing persons, criminal histories, and stolen property such as vehicles or firearms.

Access to NCIC data is exclusively available to authorized local, state, and federal law enforcement, and includes regular audits and training for proper use.

NCIC serves as a helpful tool, particularly when it comes to cross-jurisdictional coordination. Agencies are able to collaborate more effectively by exchanging real-time information, avoiding false arrests, and supporting investigations that cross state lines. For example, officers can instantly check if a specific person is wanted for serious crimes or outstanding warrants, and helps law enforcement identify and recover stolen property.

Agencies submit, update, and query records to the NCIC database using text-based searches of names, descriptions, and serial numbers.

What is automated license plate recognition (ALPR) and how do law enforcement agencies use it alongside NCIC?

Many law enforcement agencies use automated license plate recognition (ALPR) technology, which allows cameras to automatically read and identify vehicle license plates in real time. When a law enforcement agency's ALPR camera captures a license plate, that plate can be automatically cross-referenced against NCIC data. If a match is found, law enforcement receives a notification.

Can any law enforcement ALPR camera integrate with NCIC?

In order to cross-reference ALPR data with the NCIC database, a technical integration is required between the ALPR camera provider (vendor) and NCIC.

Before the integration can occur, the ALPR camera provider must first receive approval from the state(s) in which they wish to operate. For a state to approve the integration, the provider must meet strict Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) security requirements. Each state may have additional requirements prior to approving the integration.

Once a state approves the integration, all law enforcement agencies in that state can leverage the NCIC integration with that specific ALPR camera provider.

What are Verkada's ALPR capabilities and how are they used with NCIC?

Verkada's ALPR technology utilizes computer vision to identify and record license plate images in near real time, even in challenging conditions such as high speeds and poor lighting. The captured plate number is instantly displayed on the screen and can be easily searched and accessed, with the option to pair with live or recorded video for added context.

Verkada is currently approved as a vendor in select states. While Verkada supports ALPR for both private and public customers, only law enforcement customers in approved states have access to the NCIC integration.

Like other ALPR/NCIC integrations, Verkada allows law enforcement to receive alerts if a licence plate captured on a Verkada ALPR camera is detected in the NCIC database. Law enforcement can choose to then search for additional footage that pertains to that vehicle on their own cameras within the Verkada Command platform. Command organization admins can audit all searches that take place in their organization.

Data captured on a customer's ALPR camera is owned and controlled by the customer, and is not ingested into the NCIC database. Verkada does not own or have rights to that data, and does not share it with other organizations.[1]

How do eligible law enforcement customers set up Verkada's NCIC integration?

In states in which Verkada has a live NCIC integration, law enforcement customers must follow the process below. Note that due to the sensitive nature of NCIC data, this integration is only available to law enforcement customers operating in a Command organization hosted in AWS GovCloud.

1. The law enforcement customer will email government@verkada.com requesting NCIC access and a GovCloud organization. Only certain types of organizations are eligible to use Verkada's AWS GovCloud offering, including US federal, state, or local government entities. Each organization's specific use case is evaluated and verified by Verkada to ensure alignment with this policy.
2. The customer (which is already CJIS-approved) will sign Verkada's CJIS addendum to acknowledge the CJIS policy and Verkada's offering.
3. Once the customer is approved, Verkada will enable the NCIC integration within their Command organization and the customer can start defining the alerts they wish to receive. Alerts are only available to users that are granted "CJIS Viewer" permission by the Command organization admin.

This process is designed to help ensure that Verkada complies with applicable CJIS requirements, and to support our customers in doing the same.

Verkada is actively working to achieve approval for NCIC integration in additional states. If a law enforcement agency in a state where Verkada does not yet have NCIC approval wishes to use Verkada and sponsor the approval process, please contact government@verkada.com.

1. Verkada may get access to a customer's data in certain limited scenarios, including if the customer requests technical support (via a support token), if the customer opts-in to share data with Verkada for testing purposes, or if required by law via valid subpoena.