



National HIDTA  
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# DataWalk: Intelligence-Led Policing

*The NHAC sat down with DataWalk, below is an excerpt from our conversation.  
Full excerpt can be found on HRMS.*

## **1. How does DataWalk compare to existing analytical software like i2 or Analysts Notebook?**

As a desktop application, i2 is not natively designed to handle large quantities of data derived from multiple different sources and tends to be more “chart” centric where the goal is primarily to draw a picture of the investigation. Although IBM has introduced EIA (Enterprise Insight Analysis) it still needs considerable customization, requires Add-On purchases, involves extensive ETL services, requires support contracts to operate effectively, and carries an enormous price premium which puts it far out of reach of most agencies.

There are several distinct advantages DataWalk delivers from an LEA perspective because it is new and designed to enable analysts to access content using easy and more intuitive interfaces. It helps discover hidden patterns, trends, and anomalous behaviors using “easy-buttons” and alerts to stay one step ahead of criminal activity. DataWalk comes as a complete package without the need to buy separate modules and integration services to access functionality; out-of-the-box, it provides everything needed under one, well-integrated platform.

## **2. Are any HIDTAs or law enforcement agencies currently using DataWalk?**

Although DataWalk is a newer player in the LEA marketplace, it is already deployed operationally at several LEAs to access, integrate, and analyze data. At the Northern Virginia Gang Task Force (NVGTF), a multidisciplinary and multijurisdictional partnership to impact regional gang activity, DataWalk is used to create a collaborative system to support their daily investigations, analytics, and intelligence operations. DataWalk enables the NVGTF to instantly search across all their data to find people, locations, and events of interest; securely collaborate on investigations, and use advanced link charts and geospatial analysis to detect and uncover criminal patterns.

According to NVGTF Executive Director Jay Lanham, “DataWalk’s platform has the ability to instantly find connections that could possibly take a detective days to uncover, which is a very powerful tool for law enforcement. Its ability to ingest a variety of platforms and types of data has been amazing. The Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force is comprised of 14 State and Local agencies and 3 Federal agencies. The system can digest an investigator’s full case file, not just who was arrested, to include, surveillance data, backgrounds on persons of interest, call detail records, photos, etc., all of which is available to all personnel who are authorized to see it. This ability to link vital information from multiple jurisdictions will help solve future cases and assist in the prosecution. In addition, the platform is very user-friendly and requires little to no prior knowledge of technology, which is a huge plus for those who do not have technical prowess. I would also like to add that the personnel at DataWalk have been very friendly and responsive. The platform has been designed in concert with our detectives to meet our specific needs. They have been willing to learn the investigative side of things to better suit our needs vs. providing us a program out of a box. It has been a pleasure working with them and I would highly recommend their services.”

## **3. Describe what you mean when you claim that the DataWalk data output is auditable.**

DataWalk enables users to build their analytical products by helping to encode their organizational knowledge into workflows. The workflows are a record of every step a user takes to generate a result; essentially a sequence of queries and filters across different sources that produce a specific output. For example, “Show all addresses (A) related to people with prior narcotics convictions (B) who are out on parole (C) and connected with wire-transfers for more than \$5,000 in the last 60 days (D).” In this case, there are 4 data sources (A, B, C, and D) accessed along with specific values and conditions. Saving and re-using these queries streamlines the training and efficiency of new analysts, ensures consistency with results, helps justify (audit) outcomes and expands the scope of the entire agency.



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DataWalk achieves 28 CFR Part 23 compliance through an internal redaction process; the default is a five-year rolling period. Data is marked as inactive and no longer considered in any queries or related analytics and can be permanently deleted and purged from the system. Any decisions to retain the data identify the name of the reviewer, date, and the justification to retain.

#### ***4. What type of training is available when one purchases a DataWalk license?***

Once DataWalk is installed, our clients are provided with user guides, trained in the operations of the system including the creation of analytical workflows, and instructed in the identification of high-value targets meeting specific investigation needs. With DataWalk, analysts retrieve responses to any query through the visual interface to find records related to any suspect, show possible name aliases for persons of interest, or expose indirect relationships among criminal operations. DataWalk personnel have worked with numerous local, state, and federal LEA dealing with criminal investigations.

Our goal is to make using DataWalk as simple as possible, so we offer a flexible set of training options:

- Self-paced training is available, online and on-demand, with courses available for casual users, analysts, power users, and administrators.
- Classroom training is also available and can be tailored for specific customer needs and is delivered either at DataWalk facilities or at the customer site.
- A comprehensive documentation set is available in our Customer Portal and can be easily referenced at any time by users or administrators.

DataWalk's dedication to supporting LEAs is apparent before, during, and after a project. Our personnel, staff, and engineers are always on standby to help answer any questions, help configure any data or help provide support for any analyses. All you have to do is "ask," and we're there to help.

#### ***5. Is there a trial subscription available?***

Yes, absolutely. Typically, we provide no-cost Proof Of Concept (POC) trials for 30-45 days periods. We are willing to work with any LE organization including multi-jurisdictional agencies such as HIDTAs, Fusion Centers, Task Forces, State Police, Sheriff's Offices, and even Federal Agencies to show them how to utilize their data more efficiently. Sources often include RMS, CAD, CDR, ALPR, arrest reports, case files, gang data (STG), incidents, leads, probation, jail data, parole records, watchlists, parking tickets, gun permits, evidence, accidents, dispatch, probation, tip-lines, case management and various spreadsheets.

Once approved for access, we install the software, on-premise or via VPN access, and start loading the targeted sources and apply any transformations needed to clean-up, standardize, or add-value to the data. The couplings are directly with databases, table-extracts, spreadsheets, files, API interfaces, or combinations thereof. Usually, between 3 and 5 sources are used in a POC depending on their complexity.

Purchasing DataWalk is affordable and convenient. It is offered on GSA Schedule, NASA SEWP, CIO-CS, and available through state contracting including MD-COTS, TIPS, and NCPA. We'll work with any existing on-site integrators, IT staff, or consultants to ensure a smooth transition, proper operations, and all the necessary training.

For additional examples, check out the videos on our website: <https://datawalk.com/resources/>

Anyone interested in a demo or trial should contact us directly ([info@datawalk.com](mailto:info@datawalk.com)) and we'll make it happen.