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MERCER COUNTY PROSECUTOR

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OFFICE OF THE MERCER COUNTY PROSECUTOR

County prosecutor's office
counts and documents seized
funds with remarkable speed
and efficiency

JetScan iFX i100 money counter improves operations for Mercer County



The Mercer County Prosecutor's Office was able to reduce police cash seizure processing time from around 43 hours to 8 hours per week thanks to a productive cash processing solution.

When the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office, located in Trenton, NJ, began processing seized money for the county, it immediately recognized a need for procedural improvement. The department previously responsible for the task counted and reported manually – a time-consuming effort that often resulted in error.

Merecis Diaz-Francis, Business Manager for the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office, needed a more efficient solution to streamline the process, so she and her team chose to implement the JetScan iFX i100 money counter.

"The JetScan iFX i100 money counter processes a job in two to three hours that used to take eight to nine hours by hand," said Diaz-Francis. "This allows our team to free up staff hours that can be allocated to other tasks."

Hand-counting Is Not the Answer

Prior to the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office processing seized funds, another department of the county did the job and did so manually. It was cumbersome, and some days the staff had to count large sums of money, often in small bill denominations, such as \$1s and \$5s.

Typically, an officer from each police department would deliver pre-counted funds in a sealed bag, and the county processor would verify the count. Diaz-Francis shared that difficult, timely error-based recounts were troublesome to the previous processing department.

"When there was a discrepancy, recounts were extremely difficult," said Diaz-Francis. "Most discrepancies were only a few dollars, but the result required a complete recount."



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Merecis Diaz-Francis,
Business Manager Mercer County
Prosecutor's Office



Introduction to a More Efficient Process

A detective who had spent time working with a federal agent on a HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) task force shared his experience of using the JetScan iFX i100 money counter.

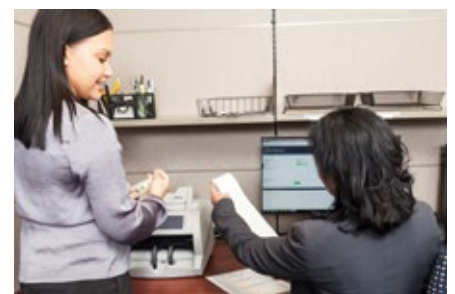
The machine counts 1,200 bills per minute and captures serial numbers and images of each bill. It's also easy to use, which helped eliminate many errors associated with manually processing the control numbers, which are unique identifiers for each seizure. The prosecutor's office knew they had found the answer to streamlining their new duty and approved the purchase of the unit using forfeiture money.

A Streamlined Collection Process

Prior to the JetScan iFX i100 money counter, if the processor received \$5,000 in cash, it would have taken nearly four hours to count. With the new unit, that time dramatically reduced.

"One day, our department received nearly \$55,000 in funds from several different seizure units and not only had to count, but also had to record the denominations of each deposit," said Diaz-Francis. "The funds included several small bills. Furthermore, because the cash came from multiple units, we had to record the denominations and control numbers of each collection. Had we not had the machine, this easily could have taken eight or nine hours. But because we used the JetScan iFX i100 money counter, we shortened the processing time to just two hours."

Furthermore, Diaz-Francis shared that the previous department would count and process money every day, due to the time it took to do the job. With the JetScan iFX i100 money counter, the prosecutor's office only had to count money three days a week, allowing the small office staff to reallocate that time to other tasks.





“By purchasing the accompanying printer with the JetScan iFX i100 money counter, our team now receives a printed control number that we use as the receipt,” said Diaz-Francis. “The printer is so easy to use. We just set it up right next to the unit, and it simplifies the documentation process for us while simultaneously eliminating the errors associated with manual reporting. The receipt also includes the breakdown of cash denominations – a part of the documentation process crucial to our procedure.”

By selecting the JetScan iFX i100 money counter, the Mercer County Prosecutor’s Office simplified the county’s fund collection and processing procedure. The unit’s install was simple and the training was complete within an hour. By freeing up staff time, the prosecutor’s office reduced the number of weekly fund processing days from five to three. In the end, the unit allowed the team to increase efficiency while eliminating errors – a benefit that made a unit a worthy investment. That they were able to purchase the unit using forfeiture funds simplified the process.

Simplifying Documenting Seized Funds

Prior to the money counter, the person counting seized cash would hand-write the six-digit case number and transport the record to the police department. An error – attributed to transposed numbers, handwriting errors, etc. – caused major problems for the system, often resulting in manually changing the numbers right in court.



See how you can improve cash counting and documenting significantly faster with JetScan iFX money-counting solutions.

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