

# STORAGE SOLVED

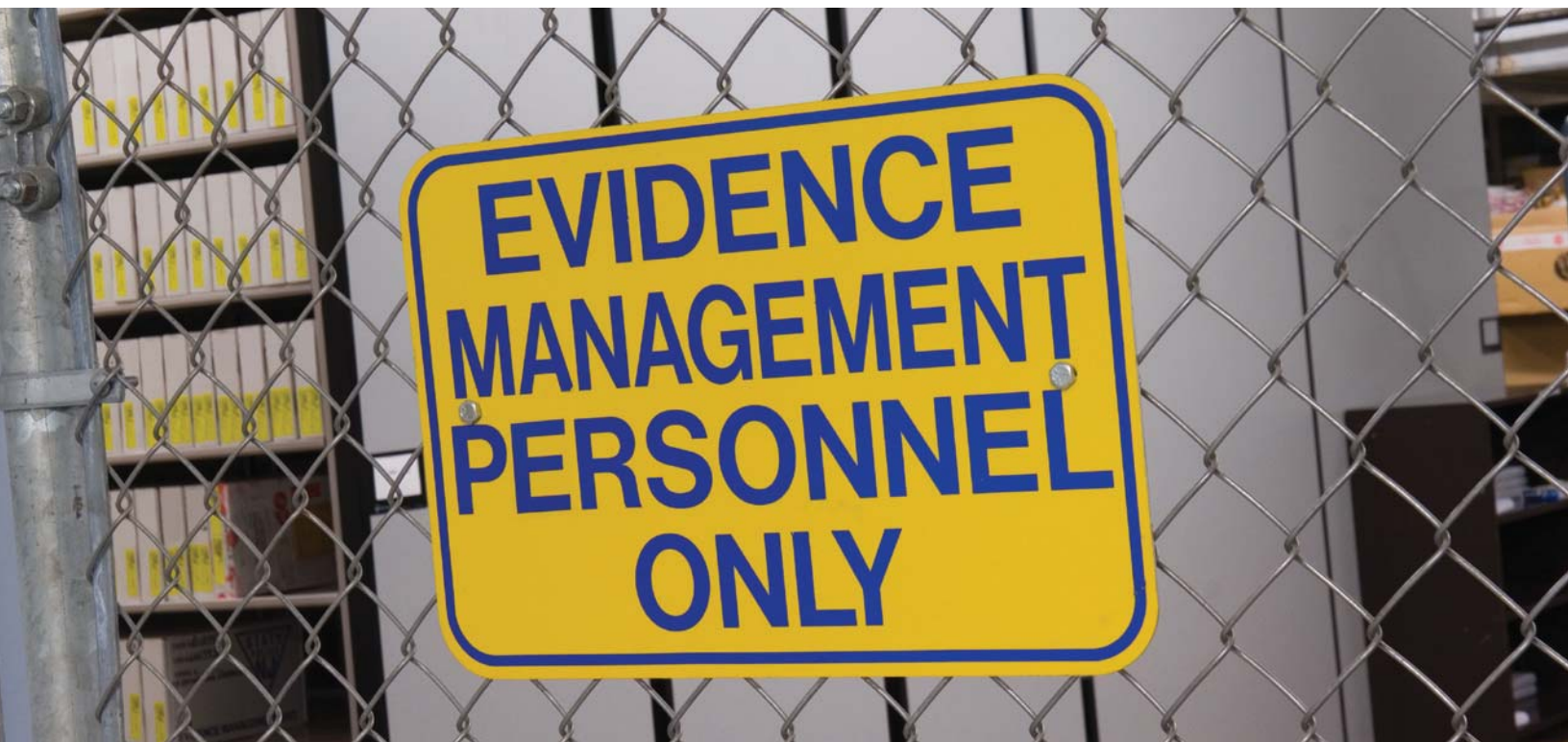
**SITUATION:** A state police agency in the Northeast faced challenges in the critical functions of protecting evidence through the chain of custody in state-of-the-art crime laboratories, and providing secure, long-term storage for evidence and property at its headquarter's central repository. The storage solution needed to be tailored specifically to match the agency's process for ensuring the integrity of evidence throughout the chain of custody.

## LOCKED SECURELY

**A COMPLETE STORAGE SOLUTION PROTECTS THE CHAIN OF CUSTODY AND MAKES EFFICIENT USE OF SPACE**

### CRIME LAB STORAGE

For years, the agency grappled with the task of managing property and processing evidence for 3,000 state troopers, as well as virtually all levels of law enforcement throughout the state. However, storage complexity grew with the construction of a new technology center that includes separate trace/biological, ballistics, and Controlled and Substances (CDS) laboratories.



The labs drove the need for a storage solution that would:

- Preserve the integrity of evidence throughout the chain of custody
- Safely and securely store items such as weapons, ammunition and CDS
- Ensure that only authorized personnel have access to evidence
- Facilitate documentation of evidence handling at every step up to final disposition
- Optimize existing space

When not at their station, the scientists place evidence in non-pass-through DSM customized to fit under the scientists' desks for extra security and space savings.



(Left) After evidence is logged, lab scientists conduct a variety of tests and analyses. Here, a forensic scientist places evidence inside a DSM evidence locker. The unit automatically shuts, and when locked, can only be accessed by the person in charge of the tests.



(Above) The central storage area of the technology center serves as the first critical point in the chain of custody. A mechanical-assist HDMS system with parallel units on each side of the room provides much-needed capacity to securely store evidence, until it is accurately logged and processed.



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At the technology center, Spacesaver® installed a unique mix of High-Density Mobile Storage (HDMS) systems and non-pass through DSM™ evidence lockers. The storage system, which covers virtually every aspect within the chain of custody, includes:

- A mechanical-assist HDMS system at central storage for incoming and outgoing evidence
- Thirty-one customized, non-pass through DSM evidence lockers for trace and biological evidence
- Fifty-one DSM evidence lockers for firearms storage
- A mechanical-assist HDMS system for ammunitions storage
- A mechanical-assist HDMS system with rollout drawers for case files
- A mechanical-assist HDMS unit for central storage

In the ballistics lab, a mechanical-assist HDMS system (left) stores virtually every kind of ammunition known. The unit features eight-inch-deep custom shelves, versus traditional shelf sizes, to conserve space.



Firearms processed at the ballistics lab (above) are housed in a vault in customized DSM lockers, which provide the flexibility needed to store an array of weapons.



A large Eclipse Powered System® at the central repository allows the state agency to store as many as 25,000 incoming MVR tapes per year – and do so indefinitely.

The agency turned to Spacesaver Systems for a solution. The system designed and installed by the local member of the Spacesaver Group protects the chain of custody, while expediting evidence and property retrieval. Additionally, it optimizes severely limited space for storing evidence indefinitely, or until it's disposed.





(Above) To save space and ensure security, CDS items are stored at the central repository in an Eclipse Powered System located in a secure vault (shown here behind the door). The unit has a total of eight carriages measuring 18 feet long and 36 inches wide.

(Right) To maximize the use of limited space, an Eclipse system uses narrow shelves to store pistols and wider shelves to store rifles at headquarters.

### CENTRAL REPOSITORY STORAGE

At headquarters, limited space for property and evidence storage reached the saturation point. In addition, stationary shelving, static pallet racking and traditional file cabinets impeded staff members' ability to access items conveniently and handle them in accordance with standard procedures. Building expansion, however, was not an option—yet the volume of evidence continued to grow. A long-term storage solution was needed to:

- Allow quick access to evidence, including items needed on short notice
- Make the best use of severely limited space
- Ensure safety for staff members



At the central repository, Spacesaver installed a host of Eclipse powered HDMS systems, including:

- Four systems for general property and evidence
- A system for storing firearms
- A system for storing CDS
- A system for personnel files



Four, 10-foot-high Eclipse HDMS systems, which are 18 feet long and as much as 52 inches deep, are used at headquarters to house everything from tire rims to computers. The systems incorporate heavy-duty shelves in varied heights to accommodate property and evidence of virtually any size.