# Handphone IMEI Tracing System

Detecting Handphone Crimes

**ncs**
making IT happen

A member of the Home Team, the mission of the Singapore Police Force (SPF) is to uphold the law, maintain order and keep the peace in the Republic of Singapore. With a vision to provide security and safety to our nation, SPF serves the community by four main tenets.

Tenet 1: To be an organisation that sustains the life of our nation - to be a force for the nation. Our convictions are directed towards the goal of ensuring the security, survival and success of our nation. To be a police force of excellence that inspires the world, embracing continuous learning and innovation as our way of life.

Tenet 2: To be united with the community to assure the highest level of safety and security for our best home. We want our work with and in the community to be filled with care. To be guardians, friends and protectors of the community, serving them with the best of our ability and to the highest of our standards.

Tenet 3: To be always ready to deal with any threats to the safety and security of Singapore, SPF reassures and instills in our community a continued sense of confidence and faith in Singapore. In times of crisis, the people of Singapore will look to us for reassurance and leadership.

Tenet 4: To form a harmonious family where the relationship is built on sincerity, openness, mutual respect and trust.

To keep up with the fast-changing pace of the society and stay connected with the community, SPF has over the years, increased the adoption of technology to assist in its law enforcement efforts. Apart from its presence in the social media scene such as Facebook and Twitter, SPF also strives to bring convenience and support to the community through the deployment of technology.

## CHALLENGES

- With the increase in handphone-related crimes, there is a need to detect and monitor how these stolen handphones are disposed off

- Secondhand dealers and buyers did not have proper means to check if a handphone has been reported stolen before deciding to purchase it

## SOLUTION

- The Handphone IMEI Tracing System (HITS) holds a database of IMEI numbers of the handphones that have been reported stolen or lost. It allows member of public, usually a potential buyer of a second-hand hanphone or a second-hand handphone dealer, to verify whether the handphone that they intend to purchase has been reported stolen or lost, using each handphone's unique 15 or 17 digit International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) number.

## BENEFITS

- Potential buyer of a second-hand handphone or a second-hand handphone dealer is able to identify whether the handphone that they intend to purchase has been reported stolen or lost. This in turn deters handphone thieves from selling their stolen handphones to them.

# IMEI Tracing System (HITS)

The Handphone IMEI Tracing System (HITS), an online handphone screening service, was developed and launched in 2006 to deter handphone thieves from selling off stolen handphones to secondhand dealers and the public. HITS system uses each handphone's unique International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) number to identify handphones which have been reported stolen.

The System provides an avenue for Members-Of-Public (MOP) as well as Police Officer to screen against its Central Repository of Handphone-Of-Interest (HOI).

For MOP, it allows another mode of access in addition to access via Internet using a web browser. It allows a MOP to conduct screening of HOI using IMEI number via SMS service.

For Police Officer, the HITS system includes the Screening Module and Reports Module. The Screening Module allows the Police Officer to screen against the Central Repository of HOI. The Reports Module allows the Police Officer to generate different types of reports based on data in the Central Repository for further analysis.

All screening activities conducted on the HOI are recorded. Police Officer will be notified whenever there is screening conducted on the HOI under their charge via either internet or SMS screening.

"HITS allows the public to exercise due diligence in the purchase of handphones, thus joining the Police in our fight against crimes involving handphones."

AC Lim Kok Thai, Director, Operations Department, SPF