



## Overview

**Industry:**

Law Enforcement

**End-User:**

Marion Police Department

**Application:**

E-Ticketing, Automated  
Accident Reporting

**Product Solution:**

Honeywell 4810LR  
2D Image Scanner

**Solution Provider:**

L-Tron Corporation

## New Scanning Technology Results in Increased Efficiency, Accuracy at the Marion Police Department

### Executive Summary

The state of Iowa's police departments have been using e-citation and automated accident reporting systems since 1995, and today 50 percent of all citations and 80 percent of all crashes are electronically processed via handheld scanners used with Traffic and Criminal Software (TraCS).

Iowa's Marion Police Department is one of the first departments in the state to implement the Honeywell 4810LR 2D Image Scanners for electronic processing, and as a result has gained increased efficiency and accuracy. With automated processes, officers are able to be out in the field longer to serve and protect the community of 30,000.

### Challenge

In 1999, computers with Traffic and Criminal Software were installed in the Marion Police Department's patrol cars to enable officers to process paperwork at a scene. Unhappy with the handheld scanners they were using to collect drivers' information and its incompatibility with TraCS, the department turned to L-Tron Corporation for a new solution and switched over to the Honeywell 4710 2D Image Scanners.

"L-Tron worked closely with the developer of TraCS to make sure that the 4710s worked well with TraCS," said Lt. Mike De La Mater, Marion Police Department. "We found that the 4710s were the quickest and most durable units on the market. They instantaneously recognized and scanned barcodes, and held up to harsh use in the patrol cars and on the scene."



## Solution

In 2008, the Traffic and Criminal Software was upgraded with new functionalities, prompting the Marion Police Department to return to L-Tron to roll out the next-generation 4810LR 2D Image Scanner. It offers all of the features of the 4710 in a smaller size, plus native USB support, power management and an integrated microphone style mounting tab.

The 4810 incorporates Honeywell's Adaptus® Imaging Technology, which enables scanning of all linear and 2D barcodes, including PDF417 codes found on driver's licenses, registration and insurance cards. Adaptus also enables high-quality image capture of a driver's license or vehicle registration, as well as the driver's signature, to accompany paperwork when necessary.

Eleven Marion patrol cars and three internal work stations are equipped with the 4810s. Used with TraCS, officers can input an individual's personal information into e-citations and electronic crime, incident, crash, and DUI reports with a simple scan. Officers can then upload and provide



supervisors with instant access to the data in TraCS. With the department processing up to 800 traffic accidents, 8,000 citations and 4,000 incident reports per year, supervisors can review crime and crash data within seconds before transmitting it to the state.

"The 4710 was the best scanner on the market at the time we implemented them, and the 4810s have noticeable improvements, so you can imagine how pleased our officers are with this technology," De La Mater said. "We've noticed a remarkable improvement in scanning technology in the last nine years, and the 4810 is among the best available on the market today. As the technology's improved, our jobs have been made easier."

## Benefits

Officers immediately noticed the 4810's ability to read barcodes on driver's licenses, registration cards, and vehicle identification numbers instantaneously and omni-directionally; there was no need to spend time perfectly lining up the scanner's imager to the barcodes, even with worn licenses or cards. Another benefit is the small footprint of the 4810, which takes up little room in the patrol cars.

"The top advantage of this technology is that it enables us to keep officers out in the field rather than back in the office. Even if they're sitting at an intersection processing an incident report, the officers are still serving a purpose and people see them out in the field," explained De La Mater.

With an automated ticketing and reporting process, there is less chance of mistakes at the point of original entry. The Marion Police Department found that the 4810s have helped increase efficiency, as there is no delay in uploading and transmitting information. In turn, this enables those who are ticketed to pay their fines immediately if they wish, as even the clerk receives the most updated data.

Today it takes officers half the time to process citations with scanning technology that it used to take to handwrite them. While De La Mater says that's obviously a benefit, the department's ultimate goal was to increase the accuracy of our reports and move them quickly through the system. The electronic data provides the department with an instant database for analysis of its high problem areas to directed increased patrol activity.

"It only makes sense for other police departments to ultimately move to electronic processes," says De La Mater. "For efficiency reasons alone, I see all departments at some point migrating to this type of technology."