Palantir

CONTAINING WIDESPREAD FOODBORNE ILLNESS

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), foodborne diseases cause 48 million illnesses, 128,000 hospitalizations, and 3,000 deaths in the United States every year. The CDC is responsible for containing the spread of foodborne illness, which involves a myriad of monitoring, investigation, and collaboration tasks. The CDC turned to Palantir to address these challenges.

THE PROBLEM

Containing the spread of foodborne illness is no simple task. When the CDC detects a foodborne disease outbreak, they must tie together multiple data sources, analyze those sources in real time, make recommendations based on less-than-complete information, and collaborate with local authorities to coordinate response efforts. Traditionally, the CDC has relied on separate tools to coordinate these activities.

PALANTIR'S SOLUTION

In 2010, the CDC launched the Foodborne Disease Outbreak Investigation System (FDOIS), which is powered by the Palantir Disease Response solution. Analysts are now able to integrate key datasets into one environment. These datasets include public health information from PulseNet, the National Outbreak Reporting System (NORS), outbreak investigation details, and hypothesis-generating questionnaires. A user-friendly dashboard gives CDC analysts an accessible way to track outbreak diagnostic statistics, while the Map application lets analysts generate heat maps illustrating how the disease has spread over time.

The CDC also investigates the origins of foodborne disease outbreaks. In 2010, for example, the CDC investigated a multi-state outbreak of Salmonella Javiana. In just a few days, analysts traced the outbreak back to a regional chain of Mexican restaurants and identified lettuce and tomato suppliers in Indiana as potential sources of the outbreak. To date, the CDC has used Palantir Disease Response to investigate dozens of outbreaks and collaborate with seven states to coordinate appropriate responses. Based on the success of this deployment, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is planning to use Palantir Disease Response as their disease investigation and response infrastructure.

PALANTIR'S IMPACT & RESULTS

» The CDC is now connected with **health authorities in seven states.**

» The CDC has investigated the causes and monitored the spread of **dozens of foodborne outbreaks.**

» "Palantir has provided a platform that can rapidly **join together epidemiologic and laboratory data in real time** and enhance collaboration between federal, state, and local partners. Palantir allows us to **complete tasks in minutes** that used to take hours or days, and will help shorten the time to pinpoint how and where contamination occured in a foodborne disease outbreak."

– Ian Williams,
Chief, CDC Outbreak Response & Prevention Branch

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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