

# BTR: AI, Data Integration Take Center Stage in Border Security Push

WASHINGTON, DC, UNITED STATES, October 30, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- U.S. border security agencies are under pressure to adapt to a new intelligence reality: an environment where data volumes are exploding, threats are increasingly sophisticated, and public expectations demand both security and accountability. According to Zach Beus, national security lead at i2 Group, a Harris Computer company, the solution lies in harnessing artificial intelligence, data integration, and shared analytic standards to shift from reactive to proactive operations.

Beus, a former intelligence officer with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency who has supported missions in Afghanistan, Latin America and on the U.S.-Mexico border, said the challenge facing border authorities is not simply one of size. "It's not just that the data is large," he told BizTechReports

in a recent vidcast interview. "It's that it's diverse, fast-moving, fractured and siloed. Agencies have more information than ever before, but they can't always use it effectively."

## Breaking Down Silos

“

AI changes the role of an analyst from finding a needle in a haystack to interpreting why that needle matters.”

*Zach Beus, i2 Group*

Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and other agencies collect shipping manifests, travel records, sensor feeds, financial intelligence, and even social media data. But much of that information remains trapped in isolated databases, slowing analysis.

“We need to start shifting from siloed databases toward

platforms that more easily integrate structured, semi-structured and unstructured sources of data,” Beus said. He added that federated search capabilities could help analysts conduct a



Zach Beus, i2 Group

single query across multiple jurisdictions, dramatically improving efficiency. “When I was an analyst, I’d sometimes have to perform searches 16 times across different systems on the same person,” he said. “That’s not sustainable.”

Independent surveys underscore the urgency of breaking down silos. A 2025 Gartner study on government productivity and AI warned that legacy systems and fragmented data remain the biggest obstacles to unlocking the full potential of artificial intelligence in public sector missions — including intelligence and other national security applications. Analysts concluded that integration and governance, not just new tools, are essential for success.

## The Role of Artificial Intelligence

Beus argued that artificial intelligence can redefine how analysts work. Machine learning and natural language processing (NLP) can automate tasks like entity resolution, link analysis, and pattern detection, allowing humans to concentrate on higher-level assessments.

“AI changes the role of an analyst from finding a needle in a haystack to interpreting why that needle matters,” he said. “Instead of just answering who, what, when and where, analysts can now focus on the why — intent, context and long-term implications.”

Industry data reflects this shift. The ISC<sup>2</sup> AI Pulse Survey (2025) found that 70 percent of security professionals using AI-enabled tools reported improved team effectiveness, with most saying the technology freed them from repetitive data sorting and let them focus on higher-value tasks.

Still, Beus cautioned against moving too fast without establishing standards. A lack of common protocols for using AI could create legal and operational risks. “At some point, whether you’re a local police department or the CIA, you may be asked in a court of law how you derived information from AI,” he said. “If there’s not a common approach, we might get into some really big problems.”

That concern is widely shared. The Cloud Security Alliance’s “State of AI and Security” survey (2024) found that while 63 percent of IT and security leaders expect AI to significantly enhance threat detection, many stressed the need for transparency and standardization to maintain trust and accountability.

## Security, Civil Liberties, and the Workforce

Indeed, trust will play a key role in encouraging acceptance and adoption of AI in border operations, because the mission itself raises ethical and policy considerations. “The government will need to balance national security and civil liberties,” Beus said.

The good news is that growing maturity around how AI applications are used is being accompanied by new oversight measures designed to ensure transparency and accountability.

Agencies are beginning to adopt explainability frameworks and audit practices that help demonstrate how algorithms arrive at their findings, reinforcing ethical utilization in sensitive missions.

As those concerns are addressed, agencies can focus on how AI can reduce workloads and reallocate scarce resources. “For instance, it might have taken a hundred analysts to sift through or scan manifest logs, but now it takes 10 analysts,” he explained. “So now we have 90 analysts that can do other things. They can look for long-term intelligence challenges. They can conduct strategic assessments that previously weren’t possible because we didn’t have the human capital to do it. Now we can be much more cutting edge — and from a policy standpoint, that’s a significant change.”

### Tools for the Analyst Community

i2 Group, which has served defense, law enforcement and intelligence organizations for more than 30 years, is updating its flagship Analyst’s Notebook platform to meet these challenges. New features include:

- \* Natural Language Processing: Analysts can drag and drop unstructured documents, and the system automatically extracts entities, links and properties.
- \* Automated Insights: Data from spreadsheets can be normalized and visualized instantly, producing dashboards that highlight critical connections.
- \* Geospatial Mapping: Movement of phones, vehicles or people can be visualized in near real time, providing predictive insights into trafficking or migration patterns.

“Our focus is making the analyst less of a data manager and more of an analyst,” Beus said. “We want to give them tools that simplify visualization, collaboration and sharing — whether that’s through digital files, PowerPoint decks, or wall-sized maps for operational planning.”

### Partnerships as an Imperative

Beus stressed that border security has no one-size-fits-all solution. Agencies need ecosystems of partnerships that blend cutting-edge tools with legacy integration expertise. “Their missions are incredibly complex,” he said. “The most effective partnerships are those that combine AI and graph analytics with the ability to connect old and new technologies under real-world constraints.”

### Looking Ahead

As border management grows more high-profile and technologically intensive, Beus sees intelligence-led methods as essential. “We’re in a really good position right now to leverage both

people and technologies," he concluded. "We just have to put the right emphasis at the right time to support the analysts on the front lines."

[Click here to read the Q&A based on this interview.](#)

Airrion Andrews

BizTechReports

[email us here](#)

---

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/863022005>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2025 Newsmatics Inc. All Right Reserved.