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Thomson Reuters Uses Pondera in New Anti-Fraud Tool

The new software combines a huge database for verifying identity with AI-powered tools meant to comb them, looking for fraud and irregularities. And it's found an early user in California, which was at the center of a massive unemployment insurance fraud scheme last year.

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About a year after [acquiring Pondera Solutions](#), [Thomson Reuters](#) company's technology in a new solution meant to help government unemployment insurance and other public benefits.

The new solution, called ID Risk Analytics, is a mashup of Pondera



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software and Thomson Reuters' CLEAR tool. CLEAR brings in both public and proprietary data — including names, addresses, social security numbers, corporate filing information, etc. — which Pondera then analyzes for potential fraud or irregularities.

The solution is already in use in California, and currently analyzes about 30 percent of unemployment claims in the U.S., according to a [press release](#).

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California has found itself at the epicenter of the unemployment fraud discussion during the pandemic. While every state found itself facing an incredibly steep increase in UI claims as the economy shut down last year, and many of them had to contend with fraudsters infiltrating the system, California faced a particularly huge problem. Using the names of prisoners, fraudsters [managed to claim more than \\$800 million](#) from the state.

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Total New Unemployment Insurance Claims by Week

Note: This chart is no longer being updated as of 12/2/21

(indexed to Feb. 1, 2020)

Source: [U.S. Department of Labor](#) • Note: The most recent week of data will be updated the next week.

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According to news reports, the state [rekindled its use of Pondera](#) in the wake of a recent rash of fraudulent claims.

The state has used Pondera's technology to prevent \$60 billion worth of fraudulent unemployment claims, the company wrote in the statement.

"States are faced with enormous pressure and historic levels of unemployment while they're trying their best to reduce fraud, they are struggling with outdated and antiquated technology and are often defeated by criminals," said John Thomson, Thomson Reuters' vice president of risk, fraud and compliance. "Pondera is allowing state agencies to capture anomalies and detect fraud before it costs taxpayer dollars."

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