



Information Sharing Basics— Getting Started with it.ojp.gov

By Mark Perbix, SEARCH Group

The need to share criminal justice information has taken on a greater urgency in the post 9-11 world. Many jurisdictions have developed various information sharing capabilities over the years, but many others have yet to successfully overcome the challenges of moving information across organizational boundaries. With a growing effort to promote information sharing and a growing emphasis on the use of open-standard technologies to accomplish this, where does one start in evaluating the state of information sharing technologies, resources and services? A good place to start is the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs information technology website:

www.it.ojp.gov.

The www.it.ojp.gov website contains a wealth of information about information sharing, and integrated justice initiatives and resources. A quick tour of the website's homepage identifies links to many different integration topics:

Key Topics

The Key Topics section in the upper left corner is a good place to start.

It is no surprise the Global Justice XML Data Model (Global JXDM) is the foundation upon which many integration and data sharing initiatives are built. The XML/Global JXDM link takes you to many of the services and resources available to developers of Global JXDM conformant information exchanges. In addition to a variety of resource materials, this page contains links to the most current versions of the Global JXDM (Version 3.0.3), the IEPD Clearinghouse and the National Information Sharing Standards Helpdesk.

The IEPD Clearinghouse contains a repository of XML schema documentation for a large number of information exchanges. IEPDs, Information Exchange Package Documentation, contain complete XML schema specifications, instance documents and other documentation required to completely describe the contents of an exchange. The Clearinghouse currently contains more than 70 IEPDs from a variety of sources (state, local, federal, and domain authorities).

Since there is no single authoritative ap-

proach to developing IEPDs, the Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance also funds the National Information Sharing Standards Helpdesk. This resource provides additional resource documents related to IEPD development, a Knowledgebase of technical articles and access to industry experts in IEPD development using Global JXDM and NIEM (National Information Exchange Model).

Because the need for information sharing extends well-beyond justice, there are other links to integration efforts underway in the related domains of Intelligence and Fusion Centers. Additionally, integration efforts are expanding into the domains of Homeland Security, border protection and emergency management.

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President's Message

New Challenges and Opportunities

Congratulations to all for a very successful NAJIS conference last year at the Boca Raton Resort. We had an outstanding agenda with exciting speakers covering a range of topics about integration and interoperability – that many of you, by virtue of your active participation, helped bring forward.

This year will prove equally exciting and challenging as we continue to fuse the

pipeline of law and justice information sharing efforts in the local, regional, and national arenas. And, with a new Congress comes the potential for new approaches on how to fund and enhance law and justice information systems. We need to be better prepared than ever before to demonstrate and promote, for example, our continued and recent successes with standardization in the realm of GJXDM,

victim notification, DNA reporting, sex offender registration, case tracking, and elements of Enterprise Content Management. With sound preparation, coupled with our discussions at conferences, I have no doubt that we will meet these new challenges with nothing but success.

The NAJIS board is preparing for the next conference to be held at the El Dorado Hotel in Santa Fe, New Mexico next October 16-18. The success of NAJIS conferences has always been attrib-

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As a result, the foundation of Global JXDM is being transformed into the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM).

NIEM began as collaboration between the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security to define a common data dictionary and data model that can be used by any governmental data sharing initiative. It is derived from Global JXDM, but has been refactored to separately identify and model data elements that are used universally by all domains while maintaining domain specific XML vocabularies for each specialized discipline. NIEM has its own website, www.niem.gov and a link can be found in the upper right corner of the it.ojp.gov homepage.

Other Homepage Resources

Look-up columns on both sides of the homepage provide links to many other resources. The left column includes a listing of related training events and recent updates. The right column contains a

list of many published resources including access to training materials, white papers and other presentations.

Three of the current hot topics surrounding the use of Global JXDM are privacy, security, and the development of the Justice Reference Architecture (JRA). Further information on each of these can be found under the Featured Resources section.

No Simple Task

Developing Global JXDM conformant information exchanges is not easy. Developing proficiencies in the technologies used in the Global JXDM or NIEM is essential to ensuring semantically correct exchanges between organizations.

The www.it.ojp.gov website is an excellent resource for learning about the IEPD development process. Bookmark this website and refer to it often as this is a discipline that is evolving quickly. Keeping current with these standards is important to ensuring the successful development of information exchanges.

What Is NAJIS?

The National Association for Justice Information Systems (NAJIS) is an organization of individuals responsible for the acquisition, operation and management of local, state, tribal and federal criminal justice information systems.

All practitioners in prosecutor's offices, the courts, law enforcement, probation, corrections and allied agencies who design, improve, implement or supervise automated information systems can benefit from participating in NAJIS. Individuals who are investigating, evaluating and purchasing automated systems—both hardware and software—for criminal justice purposes are encouraged to join and participate in NAJIS activities.

NAJIS began in 1981 as the PROMIS (Prosecutors Management Information System) User Group and has grown to encompass the needs of all criminal justice agencies. The promotion of integrated criminal justice and new technologies is the focus of NAJIS.

NAJIS conducts an annual educational conference, publishes a newsletter and website with the goal of improving the criminal justice system through the practical application of technology.

NAJIS Seeks Non-Profit Status; Considers By-laws Changes

Lynne Glick, NAJIS Secretary

NAJIS has submitted all documentation required to receive designation as a not-for-profit organization under the I.R.S. Section 501(c)(3). NAJIS celebrated its 25th anniversary last year but has always been organized as a voluntary association or registered solely as a state non-profit organization. Beginning in 2004, the Board began pursuing designation as a tax-exempt organization by establishing NAJIS as a non-profit corporation in the District of Columbia. Since then the Board has completed all required steps to receive designation as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation and submitted this as of December 2006. Notification is expected to be received in the first half of 2007.

The Board held its annual planning meeting Feb 1-3 in Santa Fe, New Mex-

ico at the 2007 conference venue, the Eldorado Hotel and Spa. In addition to developing the program agenda for this fall's conference, the Board addressed several organizational issues. A review of the by-laws identified several inconsistencies between the original structure of NAJIS and its current structure. NAJIS began in 1981 as a user group for the PROMIS (Prosecutor Management Information System) software application that was originally developed through the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, the forerunner of the Office of Justice Programs. At that time, NAJIS was organized as a membership group consisting primarily of PROMIS users.

The purpose and focus of NAJIS have evolved since then, and now NAJIS addresses a much broader community of

interest. Continuing education has supplanted the need to act as a user group. Integrated justice and information sharing have grown to be the group's dominant interests.

The Board gave serious consideration to changing NAJIS from a membership-based organization to a mission-focused organization. The primary mission is to provide networking and educational opportunities to justice information sharing practitioners.

As a result, President Jim Parsons has appointed a subcommittee to develop proposed by-law changes that would remove the obsolete organizational structure build around a no-longer-existent membership. The subcommittee consists of Bonny Johnson-Patrick, Mark Perbix and Kristen Gonzenbach. They have been charged with developing any by-laws changes in time for the next annual conference. If you have any comments about this change, please contact any member of the subcommittee.

Arizona Agencies Share Information with InSight

Lisa Bergeron, Pinal County Government and NAJIS Director

Twenty police and sheriff's departments around the state of Arizona are working together to seamlessly exchange information using Spillman Technologies' InSight data sharing software.

Arizona's InSight project will be the first in the nation to link every sheriff's department throughout an entire state, as well as some police departments, allowing them to share extensive information in real time.

Agencies currently involved in the InSight project include sheriff's departments in Apache, Cochise, Coconino, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, La Paz, Maricopa, Mohave, Navajo, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, Yavapai, and Yuma counties; and police departments in the cities of Avondale, Buckeye, Cottonwood, Flagstaff, Surprise, and Tolleson.

The initiative for the InSight project has been headed by Pinal County Sheriff's Office, with grant funding coming from the Department of Homeland Security. Once complete, the project will allow

every sheriff's department throughout the state, as well as several police departments, to instantly query the databases of every agency on the system to obtain information on people, vehicles, property, warrants, and incidents. Each agency will also be able to access jail information from every county in the state.

The software incorporates the Global Justice XML Data Model (GJXDM), which allows information exchange even between agencies using different software systems, and extensive search capabilities without costly interfaces. InSight can be used from both desktop and mobile units, and includes top-notch security features with data encryption and user-defined privileges to ensure the highest level of data integrity.

The project is ongoing, but is anticipated to be complete within the next year.

For further information about this project contact Lisa Bergeron at lisa.bergeron@co.pinal.az.us

President's Message

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uted to its agenda built by input from practitioners. I encourage you to contact me or another board member with topics you would like considered for the 2007 conference.

I want to express my sincere thanks to last year's board members for their extraordinary efforts and 'Esprit de corps' while managing the monumental task of changing two site locations as a result of hurricane Katrina. My special thanks to Terri Morris Schaub for her work with hotel/meals accommodations, and Gordon Lansford for his work with all the vendors. I'm honored and privileged to work with such a great team. And equally, I thank you for electing me as president. It is my hope and expectation that I can serve you with utmost of my ability.

Finally, I want to welcome three new board members:

Bonny Patrick-Johnson is a Senior Systems Analyst for the District Attorney's Office in Wichita, Kansas. Bonny has been with the DA's office since 2000, and is currently working on coordinating technology requirements with county and district courts.

Steve Stanec is the Chief Information Technology Officer for the Palm Beach County, Florida, Clerk and Controller and has been working to support an integrated justice program within the county as well as with the state.

David Woo is the Manager of the California Department of Justice Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information. He has been with the Department of Justice for 29 years, and is currently spearheading the state's effort to develop and publish Global Justice XML conformant IEPDs.

Welcome Aboard!

Sincerely,

Jim Parsons

InfoSys is a publication of the National Association for Justice Information Systems.

Subscriptions are free.

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NAJIS

2007 NAJIS Conference Slated for Santa Fe October 16-18, 2007

Mark your calendars now for October 16-18, 2007. This year's conference will be held in sunny Santa Fe, New Mexico, at the Eldorado Hotel and Spa. The Eldorado Hotel and Spa, located at the foot of the famed Plaza de Santa Fe, offers graciously appointed guest rooms and suites, decorated in the distinguished "Santa Fe Style". Fashioned after New Mexico's pueblo-revival architecture, the hotel has been recently renovated and features beautiful southwestern artwork throughout. Plan to attend this conference and experience the remarkable culture of Santa Fe.

Watch for conference mailings or check out the NAJIS website at www.najis.org for more information about the NAJIS 2007 conference.

