

# New Internet Kiosks Make Courts More User-Friendly

## Information, Forms Are a Keystroke Away

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You can't update your MySpace profile or check on your stock portfolio, or even go to Google for the latest Redskins news.

But if you're at D.C. Superior Court and you want to figure out how to file an appeal, track down a probate form or pay that D.C. parking ticket before the fine doubles, the new Internet kiosks should make such tasks a little easier.

Installed at the courthouse over the past few months, the five metal-encased computer stations provide unlimited access to the Web portals of the District government ([www.dc.gov](http://www.dc.gov)) and the District courts ([www.dccourts.gov](http://www.dccourts.gov)).

Each of the five kiosks has a touch screen as well as a mouse and keyboard. Each also has a built-in printer, so users can take copies of whatever seems useful. And for those who cannot find the information they're after, the kiosk telephone can connect them directly to the courthouse information desk.

Provided by the D.C. government, the computer terminals are part of an effort by D.C. Superior Court and the D.C. Court of Appeals to increase public access to court information, and, eventually, to court records.

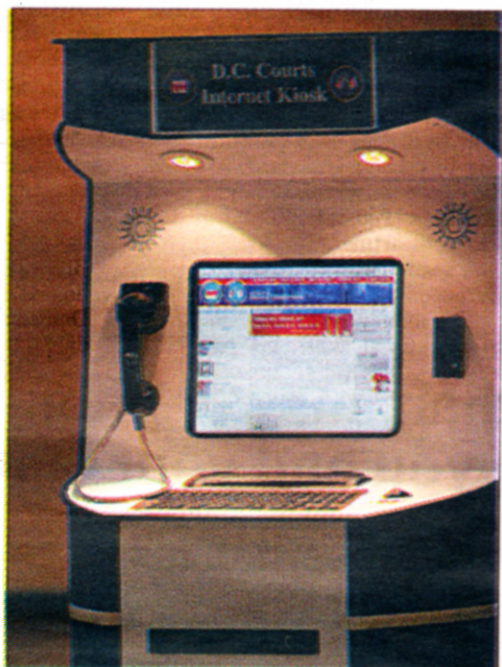
So far the blue-and-white stations appear to be little more than high-tech curiosities to all but a few of the thousands of people who enter the H. Carl Moultrie Courthouse at 500 Indiana Ave. NW. Most days, the machines go unused

for hours at a time.

But court officials say they hope the kiosks will become more popular as visitors grow accustomed to seeing the machines.

The kiosks are in five locations: near the mailbox and ATM machine on the Indiana Avenue level; near the civil actions office on the John Marshall level; next to the ATM on the C Street level; and between the elevator bays on the second and fourth floors.

Additionally, two stand-alone flat panel monitors, with Internet con-



nections and touch screens but without printers, keyboards and phones, have been placed at the family court intake desk on the John Marshall level.

In a few weeks, visitors should be able to use the computers to pull up public information about specific civil cases, and eventually about cases in other court divisions, such as criminal.

But don't expect to be pulling up YouTube anytime soon.



Computer kiosks at five locations around the H. Carl Moultrie Courthouse are designed to make information about District courts and government, and eventually about civil cases, more accessible to the public.

BY SARAH L. VOISIN — THE WASHINGTON POST