Department of Justice
E-Government Status Report – FY 2007

The Department of Justice continues to implement e-Government capabilities across its core functional areas, in order to improve DOJ's ability to fulfill its key mission responsibilities. This report is the Department's Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 submission on DOJ's progress in implementing the provisions of the E-Government (Gov) Act of 2002.

DOJ progress includes sharing information between federal, state, local and tribal agencies through the Law Enforcement Information Sharing Program (LEISP), implementing the Federal Enterprise Architecture (FEA) Data Reference Model (DRM) through DOJ's Enterprise Architecture (specifically, the DOJ Information Sharing Segment Architecture), and sharing information with the public through DOJ websites. Further details may be found in the Addendum to the DOJ IT Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2006 – 2011, found at http://www.usdoj.gov/jmd/ocio/2006itplan/addendum.htm

I.   Implementation of Department of Justice E-Government Initiative

The Department of Justice created the Law Enforcement Information Sharing Program (LEISP) to establish Department policy, operations, services, and technical standards. The National Data Exchange (N-DEx) is one such service. N-DEx will provide law enforcement with a powerful new investigative tool to search, link, analyze and share criminal justice information (e.g. incident reports, arrest reports, criminal histories, wants/warrants, etc.) on a national basis to a degree never before possible. It will detect relationships between people, places, things and crime characteristics, link information across jurisdictions and allow law enforcement to "connect the dots" between seemingly unrelated data without information overload.

N-DEx will transform the Department's operations by providing disparate federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies (LEAs) a criminal justice information sharing system with nationwide connectivity for the exchange of information.   N-DEx system will provide contact information and collaboration tools for LEAs working on cases of mutual interest.

N-DEx follows a Resource Management Process instituted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Criminal Justice Information Services Division (CJIS). The primary objective is to give FBI CJIS senior management the ability to systematically maximize the benefits of these investments, and a decision-making framework for the initial and ongoing application of resources to individual investments.   Moreover, N-DEx follows the FBI's Life Cycle Management Directive where it has successfully completed Control Gate three reviews. The Project has also received approval from the FBI's Project Review Board, the Executive Steering Committee, and the Department's Investment Review Board.

The N-DEx prototype was developed in June 2005 and provides law enforcement agencies with a testing ground for submitting their data in accordance with developing National Information

Exchange Model (NIEM) and the Global Justice XML Data Model National standards via web services   In conjunction with national data standards groups, FBI CJIS developed a NIEM compliant N-DEx Information Exchange Package Documentation (IEPD) for incident data. This was the first NIEM compliant IEPD to be published on the DOJ National Standards Clearinghouse and will be one of the first programs to implement an IEPD based on NIEM. Many law enforcement agencies have adopted the N-DEx IEPD for implementation into the LEAs systems in support of data consistency and efficiency.

The N-DEx Program Office actively works with the Integrated Justice Information Systems Institute, the Institute for Intergovernmental Research, and the Georgia Tech Research Institute. These organizations coordinate with other major information sharing initiatives personnel and cost formulas for N-DEx connectivity respectively.

Collaboration with federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies is a key success factor for the N-DEx project. Through the Department's partnership with federal, state, local, tribal law enforcement agencies, the four major law enforcement organizations, (the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Major Cities Chiefs Association, National Sheriffs' Association, and the Major County Sheriff's Association), and the established governance process through the CJIS Advisory Policy Board, the concept of, and need for the N-DEx system has been overwhelmingly endorsed as an absolutely "must have" essential law enforcement investigative tool.   As such, the Department will collaborate with these law enforcement agencies throughout implementation and operation.

By utilizing N-DEx, the DOJ LEISP strategy objectives are accomplished. N-DEx facilitates improved capabilities for law enforcement agencies to collaborate across agency, jurisdictional and geographic boundaries. Additionally, the N-DEx system meets the Presidential mandate (Executive Order 13388), Congressional mandate (S. 2845 H. Rpt.108-796-Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004), by strategically aligning with other key information sharing initiatives such as the Information Sharing Environment (ISE) mandated by Congress in late 2004.

Moreover, the N-DEx system meets the Deputy Attorney General (DAG) mandate of December 21, 2006, which states that all DOJ investigative components are to "take all actions necessary and practicable to participate fully" in the information sharing initiatives. This directive ensures that through partnerships the Department is effectively utilizing and leveraging all of its existing information technology information assets. N-DEx will be uniquely positioned to bring together and share data across a broad spectrum of LEAs on a national level.

The N-DEx services and capabilities will be built and deployed incrementally, reducing risk, and providing benefit along the development path. Each planned increment will deliver specific functionality to benefit the law enforcement community while regulating cost. Where possible, N-DEx will utilize existing technical and personnel resources internal to the CJIS Division to control costs. Reduction in long term cost will also be achieved by developing N-DEx based on a Service Oriented Architecture that will be compatible with the CJIS existing systems. Additionally, in order to mitigate state and local law enforcement agency costs and impacts, the

N-DEx will use nationally-developed standards and existing systems and networks. It also will help agencies get started by providing implementation support, tools, and training.

The information to be provided by N-DEx is not public domain. It is to be used only for criminal justice purposes.

II.   Summary of DOJ's Information Management Activities

The Department of Justice strongly supports the vision of the E-Gov Act of 2002 to expand web and information technology resources in delivering and improving Government services to the citizen. Listed below are links to DOJ websites that provide government information to the public.

A. The schedule and priorities of information to be published on the DOJ web site in the coming year was posted on the Department's website at
http://www.usdoj.gov/jmd/ocio/egovschedule.htm

B. DOJ's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Home Page providing guidance on use of the DOJ FOIA site. It also includes links to DOJ's FOIA Reference Guide (May 2006 edition), each DOJ Component FOIA website, frequently requested information, and Components "reading rooms." The site is: www.usdoj.gov/oip/index.html

C. DOJ public websites disseminating research and development information to the public. Those sites providing information about Federally funded R&D efforts are:

www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bja/
www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov
www.it.ojp.gov

Those providing information on the results of Federal research are:

www.ojp.usdoj.gov
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bja/
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/
www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ccdo/
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/
www.ncjrs.gov

D. An inventory describing agency agreements with external entities (e.g., partnerships with State and local governments, public libraries, industry and commercial search engines) complementing DOJ's information dissemination program.
http://www.usdoj.gov/jmd/ocio/egovactreport2007agreements.pdf

To facilitate records access by the public as mandated by the E-Gov Act, DOJ's Office of Records Management Policy (ORMP) continued the efforts to build a modern records management program in the Department. ORMP issued guidance and provided training and workshops to increase the capacity of the records management and information technology professionals, as well as the DOJ executives and managers. The ORMP accomplishments in FY 2007 are:

- Issued the Departmental Records Management Order governing the Department-wide Records Management Program,
- developed a handout on basic records and information management for all employees,
- issued guidance for developing Component Electronic Information Preservation Plans
- conducted electronic records management training for Records Officers and Records Managers, and conducted electronic records management training and education to individuals and groups on an as-needed basis;
- conducted workshops on: 1) Vital Records Program, and 2) electronic records management for Executive Managers and Administrators and for Information Technology Professionals;
- established a plan to develop basic web-based training and education for all employees;
- established an inter-agency email working group to identify the capabilities and benefits of existing email applications in an effort to better manage the information in the email system; and
- established a plan to inventory the Justice Management Division's (JMD) records.

In FY 2008, ORMP will continue to move forward in several policy areas, as well as in records management training and education for all DOJ employees. Using the JMD effort as a pilot, ORMP will develop a strategy and methodology to meet the E-Gov Act's September 30, 2009 deadline for scheduling electronic information systems Department-wide.