

UCore is based on:

## Who, What, Where, When

- 4** **Four questions**  
The minimum set of information commonly needed
- 1** **One specification**  
The most common technical elements needed for essential interoperability
- 2** **Two enablers**  
Mission data and information enterprise governance

**u-ni-ver-sal** (yoo'ne-ver'sal) *adj.*

1. Of, pertaining to, extending to, or affecting the entire world or all within the world. 2. Including, pertaining to, or affecting all members of the class of group under consideration. 3. Applicable or common to all purposes, or situation.

**core** (kor) *n.* 2. The innermost or most important part of anything; heart; center; essence.

*COST and COMPLEXITY are greatly reduced if we SIMPLIFY our focus to the most important information that needs to be shared.*



*Partners in Sharing  
Join us*

U  
C  re  
Universal  
Core

Breaking the Barrier to Information Sharing

U  
C  re  
Universal  
Core

*“When  
Information  
sharing  
works, it is  
powerful.”*

*9/11 Commission*

[www.ucore.gov](http://www.ucore.gov)

## The Information Sharing Challenge

Uncertainty is the hallmark of 21st century national security. As proven time and again, no one organization or agency operates alone to address these challenges. It is through the efforts of many, both internal and external to government, that we find success. Partnerships may be predetermined, or completely unanticipated. To succeed, timely and trusted information must be accessible by the team and shared among mission partners. It is the sharing of information that lies at the heart of our future security.

However, today the ability to share information is hampered by data stovepipes and incompatible systems that cannot talk to each other. Sharing is highly dependent upon point-to-point connections, and error-prone manual data entry and reentry. What if we could break the barrier to information sharing? What if we could exchange basic data without delays or deciphering? How would we do that and what would it look like?

## UCore Background

At the heart of Net Centric Operations is the ability to share information on the network. Universal Core (UCore) is a federal information exchange specification and implementation profile supporting the White House's National Strategy for Information Sharing. It represents the first time four cabinet level departments have collaborated on developing and endorsing a network centric endeavor of this magnitude.

UCore defines an implementable specification containing agreed-upon representations for the most commonly shared and universally understood concepts of "who," "what," "when" and "where." It is designed to be simple to understand, explain, and implement. UCore also includes a message framework to package content consistently and to provide extension points for more detailed information exchanges.

*"We propose that information be shared horizontally across new networks that transcend individual agencies." — 9/11 Commission*



*"What are the most common things everyone must agree on to have minimal interoperability? The answer embodied in the standard is refreshingly minimalist: who, what, when and where." — GCN 18 Aug 08*

# Universal Core

## What is UCore?

### THE CONCEPT

- Focuses on four commonly needed data points:
  - WHO — Who is it?
  - WHAT — What is it?
  - WHERE — Where was it?
  - WHEN — When was it there?
- And then creates a standard way to share them

## How does UCore Work?

### THE APPROACH

- Leverages the minimum essential data elements
- Employs system-independent language
- Operates across organizations
- Accommodates legacy systems
- Adheres to the rule of "simplicity"
- Is available now

## Who is Involved?

### THE CURRENT TEAM

- Department of Justice
- Director, National Intelligence
- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of Defense

## Why does UCore Matter?

### THE CHALLENGE

- Tailored formats
- Point-to-point connections
- Pre-engineered interfaces
- Numerous unique systems
- Manual entry (& re-entry)
- Minimal discovery
- Time consuming
- Human error prone
- Pre-identified/pre-determined users

## Why does UCore Work?

### THE SUCCESS STRATEGY

- Minimalist approach vs everything
- Collaborative development vs mandated
- Standards vs proprietary
- Common security labels vs unique
- Common parts vs all the parts
- New code one time vs new code each time
- Machine-to-machine vs manpower intensive

## What is the Way Ahead?

### THE PLAN

- Beta Test — October 08 - March 09
- UCORE 2.0 Release — April 09

*"Better information would have been an optimal weapon against Katrina...within agencies, across departments, and between jurisdictions." — Katrina Task Force*