

## NATIONAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE MODEL (NIEM)

### NIEM: A Framework for Nationwide Information Exchange

The National Information Exchange Model (NIEM), a partnership of the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, is designed to develop, disseminate, and support enterprise-wide information exchange standards and processes that can enable jurisdictions to effectively share critical information in emergency situations. NIEM also supports the day-to-day operations of agencies throughout the nation.

*NIEM seeks to break down barriers to information sharing by developing standards for information sharing between communities of interest at all levels of government.*

NIEM is not a software program or a computer system but is a set of standards surrounding information exchanges among and between governmental entities that allows disparate systems to share, exchange, accept, and translate information.

### NIEM: Vital for a Safer Nation

Emergency situations in recent years have demonstrated in vivid detail the challenge jurisdictions and agencies often face when trying to effectively share information. Terrorist attacks, natural disasters, and large-scale criminal incidents highlight the critical importance of the nation's information sharing infrastructure.

*"Sharing information across systems is critical to the safety of our nation. Standards developed through the National Information Exchange Model will allow various communities of interest, including justice, public safety, homeland security, and others, to communicate with each other seamlessly without incurring a significant financial strain. Effective information sharing which provides for effective prevention, preparation, and response to threats and emergencies can result in saving lives, the driving force behind the prioritization of this critical initiative."*

*Robert P. Boehmer, Director, Institute for Public Safety Partnerships, University of Illinois at Chicago  
Chairman, Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative Advisory Committee*

### NIEM: Supporting Public Safety and Homeland Security Efforts

By building broad information sharing capabilities, NIEM will transform the way justice and public safety agencies do business and provide real-time, secure, enterprise-wide information exchange. First responders must be able to base decisions on timely, accurate, and complete information from a wide range of sources. NIEM will not only provide the information sharing framework necessary for first responders and decision makers to have the right information to prepare for and respond to major terrorist events and natural disasters but will also enhance the day-to-day capabilities of practitioners at all levels of government to make crucial decisions about border enforcement, passenger screening, port security, intelligence analysis, local law enforcement and judicial processing, correctional supervision and release, and a variety of other governmental functions.

*NIEM Vision: To be the standard, by choice, for intergovernmental information exchange.*

#### NIEM Value Proposition:

- Improve public safety and homeland security.
- Enhance the quality of justice and decision making.
- Achieve efficiency and effectiveness and provide return on investment (ROI).

## **NIEM: Leveraging Existing Information Systems Investments**

Information sharing is complex due to the sheer number of organizations that maintain critical data and the disparate systems these organizations use. It is further complicated by the diverse organizational structures, directives, and mandates that exist. Communities such as the justice community have leveraged XML with much success via the Global Justice XML Data Model (GJXDM). NIEM performs a similar service, but to a much broader stakeholder community. Rather than seeking complete integration of existing information systems, NIEM focuses on cross-domain information exchanges across multiple levels of government, thereby allowing organizations and agencies to share information quickly and effectively with existing technology investments.

*Through NIEM, the major investments all levels of government have already made in existing information systems can be leveraged to efficiently and effectively participate in a national information sharing environment.*

## **NIEM: Business-Driven, Practitioner-Designed**

Operational stakeholders and practitioners from all levels and branches of government are directly involved in NIEM, as are private-sector solution providers. Domains currently addressed in NIEM include justice, intelligence, immigration, emergency management, international trade, infrastructure protection, and information assurance. The NIEM program continues to reach out to partners in domains such as health and human services and transportation to develop a framework for improving information sharing across all communities of interest, whether they standardize on NIEM or not.

Creating and adhering to NIEM standards will remove barriers to information sharing and will reduce the design and development time needed to build and implement robust, agile information sharing capabilities using NIEM's common standards, vocabulary, and reusable data components and tools.



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

NIEM is a framework to:

- Bring stakeholders together to identify information sharing requirements in day-to-day operational and emergency situations.
- Develop standards, a common lexicon, and an online repository of information exchange package documents to support information sharing.
- Provide technical tools to support development, discovery, dissemination, and reuse of exchange documents.
- Provide training, technical assistance, and implementation support services for enterprise-wide information exchange.

*Designed with practitioner experience, governed by participating stakeholders, and driven by both U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Department of Justice leadership, NIEM is a promising approach to solving America's information sharing challenges while supporting the vision that through the development of common standards, vital information can be collectively shared to achieve a common goal—a safer nation.*

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