

What is NIEM Video Transcript

Donna Roy

What is NIEM? NIEM for me foremost is community. It's a program that enables community to get together to decide to solve an important problem and to put in place the processes, the language by which we make movement on some of our most important social issues of today.

Whether it's screening terrorism for the safety of the United States or finding children in Amber Alerts or even the increasing response time in our fire departments.

So communities get together and they decide they want to solve a problem.

They as a community, they decide how they are going to solve their problem and then they put that in place. It's a really powerful community driven program.

Kshendra Paul

The best way to think about NIEM is through its two core components. First, it's a Rosetta stone.

Right, the ability to bring together different communities to agree on common terms, policies, data definitions.

Second, it's a process of framework for developing common business or functional standards based on common mission equities across the same communities and partners.

The Network Effect

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When I first started with NIEM, the adoption of NIEM was pretty low although the value of NIEM across the government was high and so instinctually we had a real strong drive toward increasing adoption. As you see that increased adoption take on as communities really take on this as a way to do business you start seeing the network of fact, of just one more agency using it or just one more county/organization using it.

So when I started there were two departments, the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security who were committed to using NIEM.

Today we have 16 federal agencies committed to using NIEM and since most of our information exchange comes from the very local environment and it goes up and it goes around, the adoption of NIEM is having this strong network effect. This strong increase of community has allowed us to increase our capability to make decisions in a faster time frame.

It saves lives; it saves lives getting that faster information in the hands of operators that need it to put resources where they need it.