

Meet the Founder Video Transcript

Van Hitch, NIEM Founder and Former CIO of the Department of Justice

Well I had been involved in consulting and systems integration for 28 years and... but I had done some work for the federal government and really felt like I wanted to focus more on that kind of thing and make a contribution to the country and so I started.

I put my resume out there not really knowing anybody, not knowing where it was going to go. Low and behold, I got quite a few calls of interest and had some interviews lined up.

My first happened to be with the Department of Justice. And this was in late August, early September of 2001. So I had my interview.

The interview was exciting to me because I really got kind of wrapped around what the mission of the Department of Justice is and got a feeling for how the Attorney General viewed this position, viewed technology, and viewed it as an aid to our mission. So I got excited about that.

I got a good response to that first interview, actually was lined up for a second interview scheduled to be on the 12th of September of 2001.

Obviously a day after the tragedy that happened on 9/11. So I got a call from the department saying you know we're going to have to change and we'll reschedule. So I heard from them.

I had my interview a few weeks later. Obviously that changed not only things at the Department of Justice, the whole world obviously. Very much the world of the Department of Justice.

And it really put a focal point on some of the things that really had to be done from a technology standpoint. So it was very invigorating to me.

I felt like it was a calling. I really needed to do something at that point. I think everybody felt like they needed to do something and that was my thing and the timing was right in terms of coming in and trying to at least make a difference in the area of information sharing.