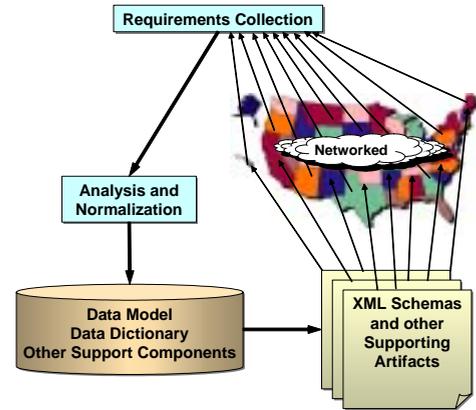




Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative Justice XML Data Model

The strategic goal of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and the Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative (Global) is to increase information sharing among jurisdictions of the justice and public safety communities in order to improve public safety for all Americans and increase our homeland security. The best way to accomplish this objective is to improve the effectiveness of justice and public safety functions by applying information technologies to facilitate the exchange of information. The Extensible Markup Language (XML) is a technology that was created for this purpose. It is generally recognized as an enabler for increasing the sharing of information and has emerged as a key technology to assist commercial and government organizations in exchanging information and conducting business over the Internet and intranets. XML is the "glue" that promotes interoperability. It will allow systems being developed to communicate with each other and will pave the way for future expanded collaboration between agencies. In other words, XML lays the technological foundation that supports interoperability.

For the past two years, OJP, with advice from Global and support from the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) has been collecting justice and public safety information requirements from various local and state government sources. The approximately 16,000 data elements that were identified have been analyzed and reduced to around 2,000 unique data elements that were then incorporated in about 300 data objects (reusable components.) They have inherent qualities enabling them to be accessed from multiple sources and reused in multiple applications. In addition, the standardization of the core components has resulted in significant potential for increased interoperability among and between justice and public safety information systems.



The resulting data model, data element dictionary, data definitions, and other supporting components have been placed on the OJP Information Technology Web site www.it.ojp.gov to make them available for examination by prospective system developers and users in local, state, and tribal governments. The latest version of the data element dictionary is version 3.0 and uses object-oriented technology. The *Request for Comment* of this capability has been scheduled for April 2003. There will be an open comment feedback period of approximately 60 days. A series of pilot projects are being initiated to validate concepts employed, after which the product is planned for Initial Operational Capability release later this year.

The assistance of Global members is needed to "evangelize" the availability of this new capability. Also, Global member's assistance is needed to help OJP identify local, state, and tribal data dictionary initiatives currently planned or underway that could benefit from knowledge of this new and advanced technology. If further information is desired, please contact Mr. J. Patrick McCreary in the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Information Technology Policy Office. Please provide information concerning planned or ongoing data dictionary initiatives in your communities that might benefit from this capability to Mr. McCreary at BJA.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Program: J. Patrick McCreary, BJA, (202) 616-0532
mccrearj@ojp.usdoj.gov

Technical: John Wandelt, GTRI, (404) 894-8956
john.wandelt@gtri.gatech.edu

Feedback: Bob Greeves, BJA, (202) 305-9317
greevesr@ojp.usdoj.gov
Ken Gill, BJA, (202) 514-3719
gillk@ojp.usdoj.gov