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DOJ AND DHS EXPLORE DEVELOPMENT OF XML
CORE DATA EXCHANGE MODEL

WASHINGTON, DC - Officials from the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) are announcing a partnership to explore future development of a Global Extensible Markup Language (XML) Core Data Model. Extensible Markup Language, or "XML," is an open standard that allows agencies to exchange data, regardless of computer system or platform. The core model would be an enhanced version of the DOJ-sponsored Global Justice XML Data Model (Global JXDM), which was first released in April 2003 as an XML-based framework to enable the entire justice and public safety community to effectively share information at all levels—laying the foundation for local, state, tribal, and national interoperability.

The Global JXDM has greatly improved the ability of justice and public safety agencies to share information. Today, more than 50 justice information sharing projects are utilizing the Global JXDM to revolutionize the justice system. The Global JXDM has already proven its value in expediting crime solving. For example, last April, police in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, were able to capture a bank robbery suspect in less than two hours by matching his bank surveillance photo with an image on Justice Network, or JNET, Pennsylvania's XML-enabled justice information sharing network.

The Global JXDM also aided police in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania in quickly apprehending a homicide suspect. Within hours of learning of four homicides in one neighborhood, officers used a JNET photo image to confirm the suspect's identity. Through a stakeout, police apprehended the homicide suspect and recovered an assault weapon.

These are only a few examples of the successful use of the Global JXDM to solve crimes. In addition to solving cases, state and local jurisdictions that have implemented the Global Justice XML Data Model are reporting substantial cost savings.

Officials at DOJ and DHS believe that development of a core data model would enable and encourage use by government entities beyond the justice community. It would also ensure long-term stability of the model and protect the investments of early adaptors of Global JXDM. Thus far, representatives from both Departments have engaged in very promising technical discussions.

An Executive Briefing for officials from both government and private-sector entities is being held today at 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Marriott Crystal Gateway Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. Focusing on the development of the core model, it is viewed as the next step in this joint DOJ and DHS effort.

The briefing will encompass various aspects of the Global JXDM, including discussions regarding enhancement of the current data model for maximum interoperability. The agenda includes presentations by Van Hitch, Chief Information Officer (CIO) for the Department of Justice, and Steve Cooper, CIO for the Department of Homeland Security, as well as other government officials and Global JXDM practitioners.

The partnership and collaboration of DOJ and DHS in this important endeavor will provide consistent guidance and a clear path for government entities in the area of information sharing, reduce development time and associated costs, and help provide needed tools in the fight against terrorism.