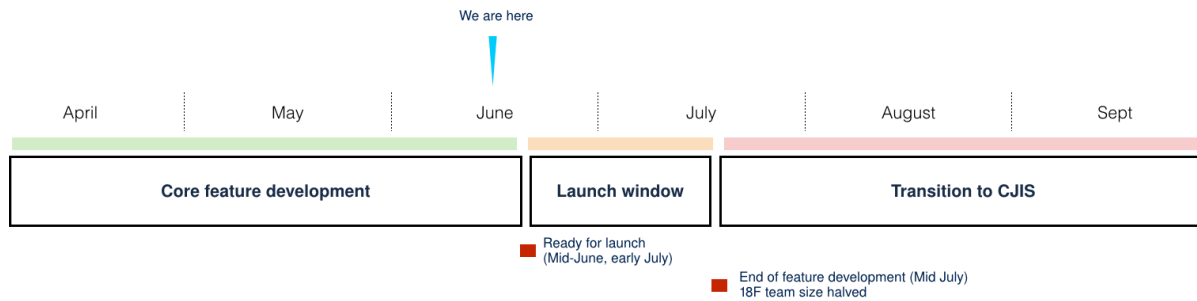**FBI Crime Data Explorer**

Status Report (6/15)

18F

Project plan

The remainder of the project will consist of the following phases: 1) preparing the CDE for launch and 2) transitioning ownership of the CDE to CJIS. Below is a high-level overview of the project approach and it's key milestones:

Timeline notes (updated as of 6/15):

- The timeframes listed here are for directional purposes only. Project status will be communicated via these status reports, weekly check-ins with CJIS staff, and scheduled checkpoints. *While the dates of project milestones may change, feature development will end in mid-July as 18F shifts its focus towards transitioning the product to CJIS.*
- The project team recently set a go-live launch target of June 30 for the CDE. In order to meet this target, 18F will need to focus its efforts on hardening the application at the expense of some new feature development.
- While the team agreed to the June 30 launch target, the FBI requires an authority to operate (ATO) in order to release the CDE to the public. As of this writing, the FBI has yet to define an approach for approving of an open source application within a timely manner. Unless this issue is resolved, the June 30 launch date may not be realistic.

Executive Summary of Activities:

Having set a release target of June 30, 18F is focused on preparing the CDE for launch and is prioritizing "hardening" tasks that improve the quality and performance of the application over new features. Specifically, the team is pursuing the following opportunities:
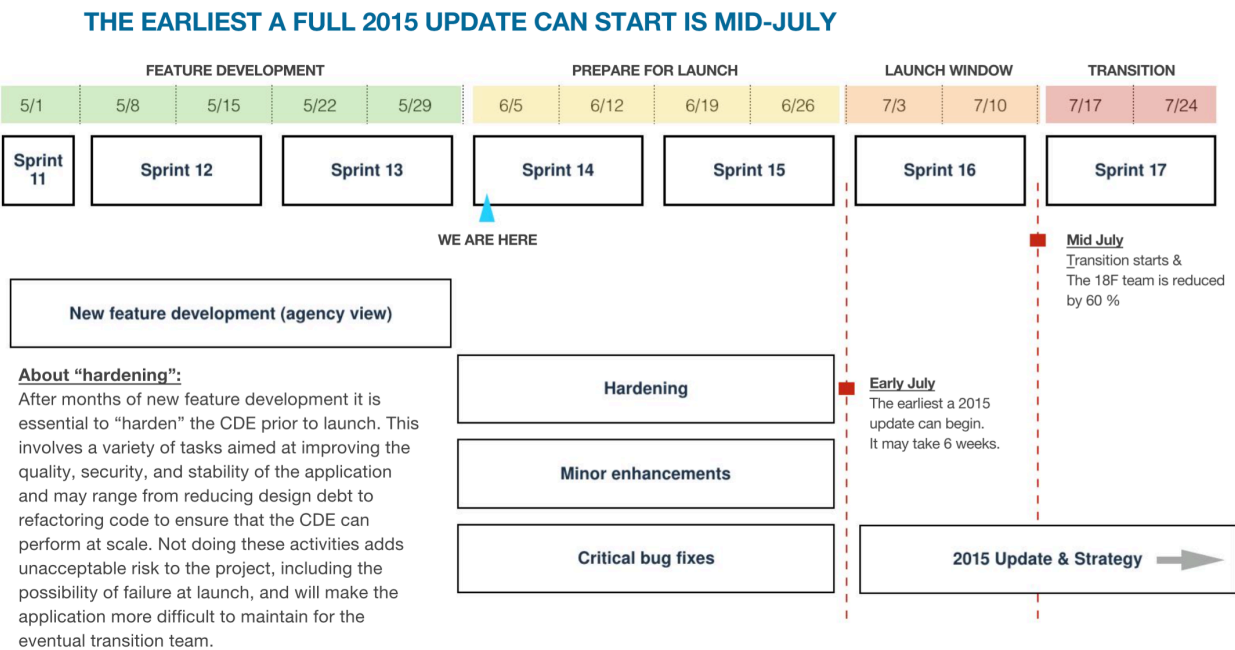
- **Improve the overall performance of the site by refactoring some data services**
- **Address critical bugs that affect the web and mobile experiences**
- **Make targeted improvements to the design and copy of the user interface**
- **Add some new features, such as ethnicity as a NIBRS dimension, territory data as a download, and a 404 page for improved error handling**
- **Review the site for accessibility/508 compliance**

While hardening is aimed at mitigating risk, there are limits to how much can optimization can be achieved prior to launch. This is due in part to not knowing how much traffic the site will experience at launch and what its impact will be on the application. While there are practical steps we can take to reduce uncertainty in these areas (e.g. load testing), we expect performance to improve over the course of responding to real-world conditions.

For these reasons and others, 18F continues to advocate for an iterative release strategy, where an initial version of the site is released to the public and frequent updates are made thereafter based on feedback. We also recommend a broader communication strategy around the CDE that explains how it is being developed using agile principles and that the MVP represents an initial offering that will evolve over time, not a final system.

Looking ahead:

There are approximately 4 more weeks left with the full 18F team. Starting in mid-July, (Sprint 17) the team size will be reduced by 60% and begin transitioning the product to CJIS. A key objective of this transition will be to update the CDE with 2015 data and work with relevant stakeholders to define a long-term strategy for data updates.

THE EARLIEST A FULL 2015 UPDATE CAN START IS MID-JULY

	FEATURE DEVELOPMENT				PREPARE FOR LAUNCH				LAUNCH WINDOW		TRANSITION	
5/1	5/8	5/15	5/22	5/29	6/5	6/12	6/19	6/26	7/3	7/10	7/17	7/24

Sprint 11 | Sprint 12 | Sprint 13 | Sprint 14 | Sprint 15 | Sprint 16 | Sprint 17

WE ARE HERE

Mid July
Transition starts & The 18F team is reduced by 60 %

New feature development (agency view)

About "hardening":
After months of new feature development it is essential to "harden" the CDE prior to launch. This involves a variety of tasks aimed at improving the quality, security, and stability of the application and may range from reducing design debt to refactoring code to ensure that the CDE can perform at scale. Not doing these activities adds unacceptable risk to the project, including the possibility of failure at launch, and will make the application more difficult to maintain for the eventual transition team.

Hardening

Early July
The earliest a 2015 update can begin. It may take 6 weeks.

Minor enhancements

Critical bug fixes

2015 Update & Strategy

For more information on near-term priorities and goals for the transition phase see the "options for data updates" document previously made available here:

Open Issues:

- Mike to provide an update on the FBI ATO process and its likely impact on the launch timeline for the CDE.
- Sammy to confirm that no compliance reviews, such as an accessibility review by the FBI's Office of Public Affairs, are required prior to the launch of the CDE.
- Sammy to help make territory data available to the 18F team so that this information can be made available for download via the CDE as part of the current sprint.
- Larry to provide a list of discussion topics prior to the technical check-in with Cindy and others that is scheduled for Friday, June 16. During this call we will examine how the limitations of UCR data affect the new agency view (such as the Chicago police department not reporting clearances) and consider how these limitations may affect the public's perception of the data presented by the CDE.

Key Risks

- **Managing expectations:** There are many stakeholders involved in this project and different perspectives on what the CDE should do and why. Aligning around what is both feasible and of highest value to users will be key to achieving the best results and managing expectations going forward.

- **Limited opportunity:** The CDE is limited to *presenting* the data that's available from the FBI. It will not directly affect the volume, quality, or timeliness of the data it displays.

- **Dealing with uncertainty:** There is uncertainty around what data will be available, what it can support, and how it will be updated.

- **Agile, user-centered design, and open data:** 18F works in ways that are new to the FBI and may present organizational and cultural challenges.

- **Providing visibility around decision-making and approval:** How might shared responsibilities among the project core team, the FBI's ATO process, and the Office of Public Affairs influence our ability to make decisions in a timely manner?