GLOBAL JUSTICE XML INFORMATION SHARING IN WHATCOM COUNTY

PROGRAM SUMMARY

WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

- Whatcom County is located on the international border of Canada and the United States and is home to six ports of entry comprising the third busiest northern border crossing.

WHATCOM COUNTY LAW & JUSTICE AGENCIES

- There are more than twenty-five federal, state, county, city and tribal law and justice agencies operating within Whatcom County, each maintaining their own records management system.

- Law enforcement agencies require immediate information exchanges to facilitate real time decision making thereby enhancing the safety of officers and citizens who either live or travel through Whatcom County.

- The WENET project exemplifies the benefits of longstanding partnerships amongst the leadership of the local law and justice community.

WHATCOM EXCHANGE NETWORK (WENET)

- While the impetus for this project was to provide officers in the field with immediate access to data, WENET recognized the potential for building a broader system for sharing information from the initial law enforcement contact through adjudication and supervision.

- The WENET Data Integration and Sharing Project provides real or near real time information access to authorized law and justice agencies via a secure process utilizing the Internet.

- Participating agencies are not required to submit data to a central data warehouse.

- All agencies maintain their own systems and databases.

- WENET utilizes state of the art secure technologies and follows federal sharing protocols enhanced by the Global Justice XML Data Model (GJXDM) for the information exchanges.

- As of January 2007 WENET programmers and software vendors have mapped to over 1075 fields of data making the participating agency systems Global Justice XML compliant.

- The WENET distributed query process is returning data from the four largest local law and justice databases in Whatcom County in less than 20 seconds.

- WENET, by taking advantage of the Global Justice XML Data Model and web services, has laid the technical foundation for any agency to share and exchange data.

THE WENET PORTAL - A single point of inquiry into multiple agency databases

- The WENET portal is designed to facilitate data sharing with local, state, and federal initiatives, consistent with the National Criminal Intelligence Sharing Plan. This GJXDM compliant application facilitates bi-directional information sharing between local and federal agencies and positions all member agencies to exchange data in support of regional fusion centers.

- The WENET portal provides a single point of inquiry utilizing a distributed query process allowing partner agencies to obtain real time information from their disparate databases.

- The WENET portal can be accessed via the Internet by any properly authenticated and authorized user.

CURRENT PORTAL FUNCTIONALITY

The portal currently provides immediate access to law enforcement, prosecution, courts and corrections records, including:

- Over four million records, representing twenty-two years of data, from the four initial contributing agencies.

- Photographs from jail booking records and photo line-up tools.

- Pawn dealer transaction records.

- Case records from Washington State Courts and scanned documents from the Whatcom County Superior Court.

- Real property records from the Whatcom County Assessor.

FUTURE WENET USERS, FUNCTIONALITY & PARTNERSHIPS

- The WENET project is currently developing subsequent service points for remaining agencies.

- The WENET project provides a single connection point for other similar sharing initiatives such as, SRFERS, RAIN, JINDEX, LINX, and JBRS, with which planning has already commenced. Implementation is dependant on obtaining additional funding.