GJXDM Newsletter
February 16, 2004

Welcome to the inaugural newsletter for the Global Justice XML Data Model (GJXDM) listserv. The Global Advisory Committee and the Office of Justice Programs supported the development of the Data Model as a tool to serve the information exchange needs of the justice community. We've put together this newsletter to provide practical information for the community of practitioners who are implementing the Data Model. As members of this listserv, you can have a hand in the evolution of the Data Model. Indeed, the recent operational release of the Data Model would not have been possible without the active involvement of industry members and justice practitioners.

In particular, we would like to thank the Global Justice XML Structure Task Force and Georgia Tech Research Institute for their tremendous support for the Data Model. We would also like to acknowledge the valuable contributions of our industry partners through the IJIS Institute in the development of the Data Model. The Data Model has become a prime example of how industry and government can work together to develop standards to meet the new information sharing needs of the 21st century.

We're very excited to tell you about the new developments with the Data Model and hope that you will stay engaged in the crucial initiatives that are planned for 2004. To help more agencies realize the benefits of justice XML, this year we will introduce developer training and tools for the Data Model. Once again, your input will be essential to ensuring the quality and usability of these products. As the goal of our newsletter is to offer useful insights to our community, we solicit your contributions regarding new implementations of the Data Model.

We also encourage everyone to make use of a spreadsheet that has been developed as a reference list of justice agencies that are developing, or have implemented, information sharing projects utilizing the GJXDM. It includes project descriptions, timelines, funding, cost savings, and point-of-contact information. The spreadsheet is available at http://www.it.ojp.gov/topic.jsp?topic_id=107 . To request more information, submit information on a GJXDM project not listed at or to provide a project update, please contact rkeiffer@iir.com.

We look forward to working with you to build on our success.

Sincerely,
John S. Morgan, Ph.D.
Science Advisor to the Assistant Attorney General Office of Justice Programs

====

Let me add my welcome to the inaugural issue of the GJXDM Newsletter. I sincerely hope that you will find this useful as you continue your efforts to implement the XML data model and data dictionary. As chair of the group who has produced this body of work, it is critical to me that we listen to how you are using this work and how we can make this a more useable model/dictionary. Please don't hesitate to use this Listserv, or to contact one of the many individuals listed in this or future mailings.

Paul S. Embley
Global XML Structured Task Force Chair
pembley@ghinternational.com

====

The IT companies who are active in the justice information systems field are very engaged with the development and implementation of the GJXDM. In a letter to Attorney General John Ashcroft, the IJIS Institute and the IJIS Industry Working Group endorsed the GJXDM project and applauded the work being done to create a model for facilitating information exchange in the justice field.

The IJIS Institute has received a grant from BJA to evaluate the performance and scalability of the GJXDM and has created a partnership with the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences at The George Washington University where a lab is being constructed to conduct the testing and also to demonstrate information exchanges in the justice world. Representatives of industry appointed by the IJIS Institute and the IJIS Industry Working Group serve on the XML Structure Task Force and various committees of Global. The Institute is also working with the Law Enforcement Information Technology standards project as the technical arm to help develop functional and technical standards for information exchange.

Many of the industry members of the IJIS Institute are already working with the data model and through the IJIS Institute XML Advisory Committee are providing feedback to the XSTF regarding the model. Paul Wormeli, Executive Director of the IJIS Institute, has been named by OJP to chair the GJXDM training and technical assistance committee which has been assembled to roll out the data model to developers in both the private and public sectors.

Paul Wormeli
Director, IJIS Institute

====

Developers who have explored the application of the GJXDM in their projects (both from industry and practitioners) have raised issues about the potential performance impact on existing systems when the GJXDM is fully implemented. We know that long data element names, name space resolution, the nature of XML as opposed to earlier interface models all contribute to the potential for increasing overhead and requiring additional system resources particularly in high volume implementations. Working with the XSTF, GTRI , and BJA, the IJIS Institute is conducting an evaluation of the performance and scalability that is designed to help implementers better know the limits and requirements from a systems perspective for applying the GJXDM in real life. This project is being conducted jointly with the George Washington University, and a laboratory is being set up at GW under the direction of a project committee headed by Jim Threatte, VP of Public Safety at SAIC. The committee includes representatives from BJA, GTRI, and the XSTF. The team hopes to discover best practices in implementation that can be shared with public and private sector developers to help make the most efficient use of the GJXDM in implementing information exchanges. The project formally started in January, 2004, and the results are to be published by summer, 2004. Interim reports and findings that may be helpful to developers will be published in this newsbrief as they become available.

Jim Threatte
VP of Public Safety, SAIC

====

GJXDM Resources for Practitioners

OJP is developing resources for practitioners and developers:
• GJXDM User/Developer Guide
• SEARCH is developing this Guide with input from GTRI, the IJIS Institute, and justice practitioners, including several SEARCH members • Initial draft is currently out for comment (Thanks very much to those of you who have provided feedback!) • Will be revised based on training developed for the FBI conducted 3-4 February 2004 in Atlanta • Second draft to be completed 19 March 2004 • GJXDM Training

Opportunities • March 22-24, 2004: SEARCH Symposium, Washington DC • Pre-Conference Workshop: Justice XML 101 • 21 March 2004, 9:00-4:00 • Register online at www.search.org • Symposium sessions on:
• Understanding Justice Business Process: Information Exchange in the Justice Enterprise • Communications Interoperability • Exploring Technical Tools and Architecture • Justice XML Data Model Implementation War Stories …and much more!
• Week of May 10-14, 2004: Technical training in Atlanta, GA • GJXDM Developers Workshop • 3 day (16 hours) technical training for developers and practitioners • Location: Georgia Tech campus • Dates will be firmed up and announced in the near future • Online registration will be available at www.it.ojp.gov starting March 2 • Will be limited to 2 participants from each company or jurisdiction • GJXDM Listserv • The GJXDM Listserv is newly developed electronic forum for justice practitioners and developers currently implementing or planning to implement exchanges using the GJXDM component.
• Log on at www.it.ojp.gov!
• GJXDM Technical Feedback Site
• The (Bugzilla-based) comment page for technical bugs, questions, and modifications to the current release is http://justicexml.gtri.gatech.edu/feedback/
• The XSTF reviews "bug reports" entered into the feedback site. Following analysis and discussion, appropriate revisions may be incorporated into the next release of the GJXDM.
• Process for feedback on the GJXDM
• Questions or comments regarding the GJXDM should first be posted to the Listserv, after which some of the more technical feedback will be forwarded to the Feedback site.

Conferences

• The Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards
(OASIS) Symposium on Reliable Infrastructures for XML • April 26-29, 2004 in New Orleans, LA • LegalXML Member Section Technical Committee meetings, including Court Filing and Integrated Justice Technical Committees • Register online at http://www.oasis-open.org/

GJXDM Reference Documents

An important goal of the XSTF has been to provide justice practitioners and their contractors with components to develop standard XML schema to provide common instruments of justice information exchange that can be leveraged by all.

Several efforts have arisen within the justice community in the past several years to develop functional XML specifications for universal justice documents, such as the Arrest Warrant, Arrest/Incident Report, Amber Alert, Rap Sheet, and Sentencing Order. Our approach will be to provide GJXDM Reference Documents, constructed with GJXDD 3.0 components, to be used as model document schema which the justice community can extend locally to meet individual jurisdictional requirements.

An important 2004 objective is to identify organizations that participate in GLOBAL to define and/or validate GJXDM Reference Document requirements and schema definitions. As Reference Document schemas are defined and constructed with GJXDD components, they will be available to the justice community with the GJXDM.

Currently, the Amber Alert has been reengineered with 3.0 components and is available for review and download at www.it.ojp.gov. There is also a first draft of a NIBRS element mapping spreadsheet available on the GJXDM download site. This draft is currently under review and validation by the FBI.

Catherine Plummer
SEARCH