

Highlights

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Spotlight on Global Member Agency: Nlets—The International Justice and Public Safety Network

About Nlets

- **Nlets** is an interstate justice and public safety network for the exchange of law enforcement, criminal justice, and public safety information around the world.
- Owned by the states, Nlets is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization created over 40 years ago.
- The user population includes agencies with a justice component in all U.S. states and territories, selected regional and international agencies, and a variety of strategic partners that serve law enforcement.
- Operations consist of nearly 1 billion transactions a year exchanged with over 1.3 million personal computers, mobile devices, and hand-held devices in the U.S. and Canada, located at 80,000 user agencies and reaching 1.2 million individual users.
- The types of data being exchanged vary from vehicle registration, to Interpol databases, to state criminal history records and driver's license images.
- These exchanges utilize many formats, including the Global Justice XML Data Model (GJXDM) and National Information Exchange Model (NIEM), developed by the [U.S. Department of Justice's](#) (DOJ's) [Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative](#) (Global), [Bureau of Justice Assistance](#), and the [U.S. Department of Homeland Security](#) (DHS), making Nlets a translator of sorts.
- Mr. Steven Correll, Nlets Executive Director, is the organization's Global Advisory Committee (GAC) representative. Director Correll also occupies an at-large seat on the Global Executive Steering Committee and currently serves as the Global Outreach Working Group Vice Chair. Previously, he chaired the Global Security and Infrastructure/Standards Working Groups and was a member of the Global Privacy and Information Quality Working Group.

The Nlets/Global Connection



From exchanging Record of Arrest and Prosecution (rap) sheets and driver's license photos to studying recidivism and emerging geospatial trends, Nlets is committed to being on the cutting edge of information exchange. In this goal, Global is a crucial resource.

"To Nlets—one of the nation's two critical systems used by law enforcement and public safety agencies millions of time each day—the guidance and leadership of the Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative is invaluable. Nlets is committed to participating in the development and early implementation of Global's national standards that are critical to improving information sharing in a meaningful way."

Current Nlets Projects Using Global Resources

- **Criminal History Information Exchange Format (CHIEF)**—Supported by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), DOJ, Nlets is helping states standardize the exchange of rap sheets using eXtensible Markup Language (XML). CHIEF leverages GJXDM 3.0.2 and NIEM 2.0—both of which originated from fundamental Global standards efforts—providing bidirectional transformations via XSLT, which transforms XML documents into other formats. As of April 2009, nine states are live participants in CHIEF.

Current Nlets Projects Using Global Resources (continued)

- **Criminal History Records Information Standard (CHRIS)**—Nlets received additional funding from BJS to support statistical research and recidivism studies with data captured by the CHIEF project. CHRIS leverages NIEM 2.0 to ease the parsing of statistically relevant data. As of April 2010, Nlets is parsing criminal histories from 43 states and organizations.
- **Nlets Interstate Sharing of Photos (NISP)**—Nlets received a grant from DOJ, with support from DHS, to demonstrate the viability of exchanging interstate driver's license photos. NISP is based on GJXDM 3.0.2. As of April 2010, 18 states are live participants.

New Nlets Activities

- **Nationwide Corrections Image and Information Exchange over Nlets (NCIEN)**—Funded by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), OJP, DOJ, and DHS, and building on NISP, the purposes of NCIEN are to implement corrections photo sharing for up to 12 additional states following the NISP methodology; develop a NIEM standard for correction photos; develop transformation capabilities using stylesheets to allow states implementing the NIEM standard to seamlessly communicate with states using GJXDM; and identify the necessary size and resolution standards for sharing photos. NCIEN specifications are NIEM 2.0-compliant. Efforts are under way to standardize image size, dimensions, and resolution, and to provide image transformation services. As of April 2010, three states are live participants.

The anticipated benefits of NCIEN:

- States will be able to share corrections information and images with officers on the street.
- Officers will be able to receive real-time probation and parole information.
- Officers will have access to an individual's criminal history, including past crimes and special cautions.

- **Enhanced Portal for Image Exchange and Increased Functionality over Nlets (E-PORT)**
Funded by NIJ and DHS, E-Port will expand the Nlets portal to allow the exchange of drivers' license photos, corrections, and probation and parole images, as well as a variety of other media; enable proactive alerting capabilities, with The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children serving as the pilot site; and produce a Concept of Operations regarding multifactor authentication and authorization into the Nlets Portal. Portal improvements will enhance the ability to transmit images to officers on the street. In addition, this technology will enable proactive alerting to officers in missing children cases. It will also provide for safer, more secure authentication.
- **Geospatial Service Oriented Architecture for Public Safety (GeoSOAPS)**—Funded by NIJ and DHS, the purposes of GeoSOAPS are to enhance, expand, and accelerate participation in the Nlets GIS-enabled alert capability; define an interstate GIS transmission specification for geospatial information exchange among local, state, federal, and regional systems using the Nlets network; define a Web services specification; and pilot a demonstration of geospatial information exchange. This project will allow for notifications to targeted areas using GIS technology. Officers will receive data related to their specific regions of responsibility rather than a broad notification. Information on missing children, crime, or wanted persons can be sent to affected regions in real-time.

Opportunities to Learn More...

- **[2010 Nlets Annual Business Meeting](#)**
June 21–25, 2010
Best Western Ramkota Hotel • Rapid City, SD
- **[2010 Implementers Conference](#)**
September 21–23, 2010
Hotel Valley Ho • Scottsdale, AZ
- **www.nlets.org**

As part of the "Global Highlights" series, in addition to reporting the latest resources, recommendations, and events supported by DOJ's Global, we are pleased to spotlight the member agencies and individuals that volunteer invaluable expertise to the Initiative. To suggest a similar feature, please contact staff at dlindquist@iir.com.