Executive Summary

As information sharing in the justice domain expands, it has become increasingly important to find ways to use technology to help implement and enforce protections of privacy, civil liberties, and civil rights. Converting privacy policy to a form understandable to computers continues to be a significant problem and a high priority for the justice community. *Implementing Privacy Policy in Justice Information Sharing: A Technical Framework* seeks to fill this need by exploring approaches and alternatives to resolve technical and interoperability challenges in supporting privacy policy through automation. The goal is to identify an approach and framework for protecting privacy that will be generally applicable to information sharing in the justice environment and that can be readily implemented using existing information technology architectures, standards, and software tools.

Implementing Privacy Policy in Justice Information Sharing: A Technical Framework builds on and therefore serves as a companion document to the following references:

- *Privacy Policy Development Guide and Implementation Templates*

- *Fusion Center Guidelines: Developing and Sharing Information and Intelligence in a New Era; Guidelines for Establishing and Operating Fusion Centers at the Local, State, and Federal Levels; Law Enforcement Intelligence, Public Safety, and the Private Sector*

- *Global Justice Reference Architecture (JRA) Specification*

- *Applying Security Practices to Justice Information Sharing*

- *Information Sharing Environment (ISE) Implementation Plan*

Leveraging existing resources, the privacy policy technical requirements were developed with a focus on the data about people and organizations stored within information systems. Three key outcomes from this important work effort are recommended as action items for implementers, as shown in the box below.

Privacy Policy

Technical Framework

The technical framework outlines a sequence of steps for implementing a set of electronic privacy policy rules. The electronic policy rules are based on written policies, such as privacy policy, laws, documents, memoranda of understanding, contracts, and agreements. The framework requires that all electronic information requests be submitted with a set of electronic identity credentials to allow the

Recommended Action Items

- *Adopt the Global Privacy Policy Technical Framework for providing a comprehensive approach to define, enforce, monitor, and manage information exchanges subject to privacy policy requirements.*

- *Use a common set of standards and metadata for privacy policy that are specific to the justice domain and aligned with current initiatives, such as the Justice Reference Architecture, National Information Exchange Model, and the Global Federated Identity and Privilege Management initiative.*

- *Develop a transition strategy for moving to the Privacy Policy Technical Framework and to enterprise electronic policy services.*

policy service to determine whether the requestor has the authorization to access the information resource. The policy service is composed of software modules referred to as policy decision points (PDPs) and policy enforcement points (PEPs). It ensures that the request is authenticated, authorized, and audited before granting access to the information resource. Additionally, the policy service may impose a set of obligations on the consumer regarding restrictions on further information dissemination, record retention, and audit logging. A diagram depicting the high-level view of the technical framework appears in the box on the right.
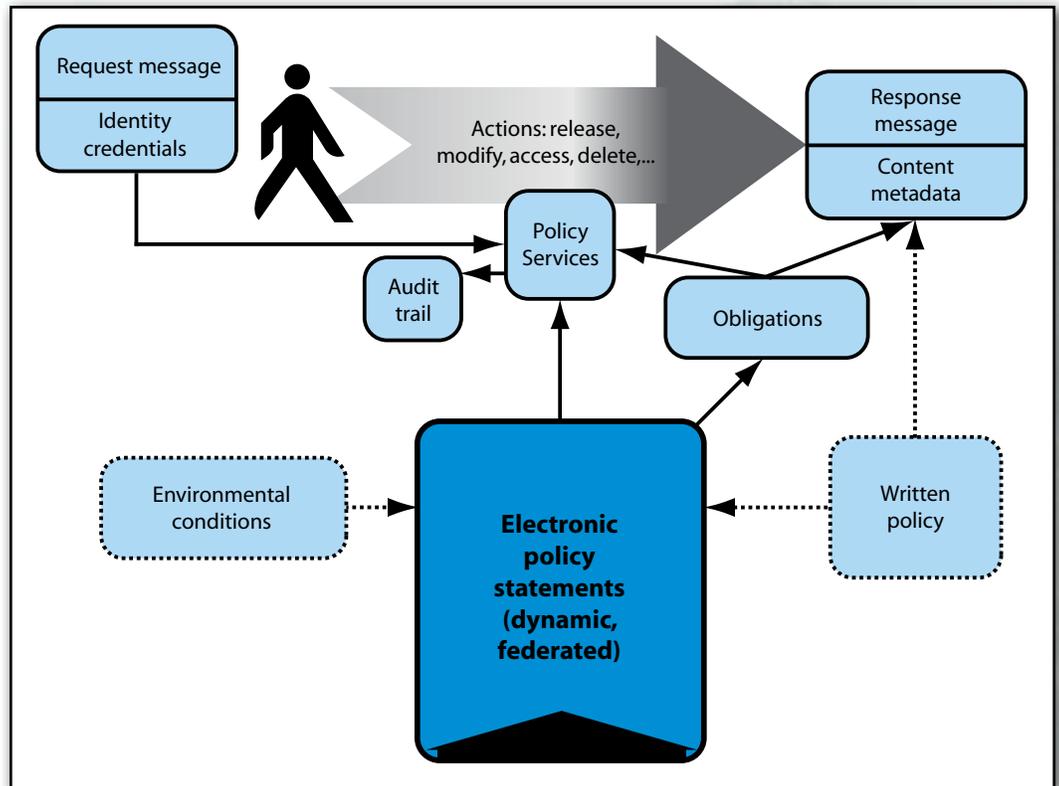
Benefits of Policy Services

Historically, each information system programmed its own independent set of security and access controls, creating numerous silos of varied levels of information security policy enforcement throughout the enterprise. By adopting a common technical framework and justice domain vocabulary for expressing electronic policy rules, justice enterprises will have these advantages:

- *Enhanced security and privacy of information exchanges*

- *Better management of the security and access controls for information resources*

- *New capability for communicating their privacy policy requirements to other justice agencies*

- *Increased interoperability of secure information through utilization of a common set of standards and privacy policy metadata*

The development of policy services as an independent set of security and access control services helps ensure consistent implementation of policy across all of an agency's information resources. Development of enterprise policy services affords opportunities for consistent reuse and standardization of policy administration. Separate policy services can be maintained without making expensive coding changes to the information systems governed by the policy services.

About Global

The U.S. Department of Justice's Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative (Global) serves as a Federal Advisory Committee to the U.S. Attorney General on critical justice information sharing initiatives. Global promotes standards-based electronic information exchange to provide justice and public safety communities with timely, accurate, complete, and accessible information in a secure and trusted environment. Global is administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance.