Developed for America's Justice Leaders
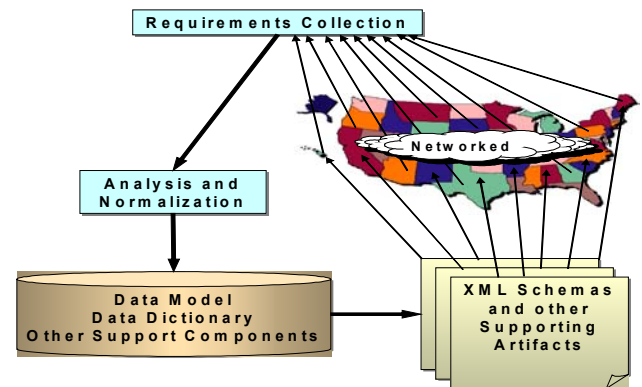
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Justice XML Data Model

A strategic goal of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and the Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative (Global) is to help justice leaders and practitioners increase information sharing across the justice and public safety communities—at all levels of government—to improve public safety for America's citizens and increase our homeland security.

The best way to accomplish this is to improve the effectiveness of justice and public safety functions by applying information technologies to facilitate the exchange of information. Extensible Markup Language (XML) is a technology that was created for this purpose.

XML is generally recognized as an enabler for increasing the sharing of information, and has emerged as a key technology for assisting commercial and government organizations in exchanging information and conducting business over the Internet and intranets. XML is the "glue" that promotes interoperability—it allows systems being developed to communicate with each other and paves the way for future expanded collaboration between agencies.

In other words, XML lays the technological foundation that supports interoperability.

For the past two years, OJP—with advice from Global and support from the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), and the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI)—has been collecting justice and public safety information requirements from various local and state government sources. Approximately 16,000 data elements were identified and have been analyzed and reduced to around 2,000 unique data elements. These unique elements were then incorporated in about 300 data objects (reusable components) which have inherent qualities enabling access from multiple sources and reuse in multiple applications. In addition, the standardization of the core components resulted

in significant potential for increased interoperability among and between justice and public safety information systems.

The resulting data model, Data Element Dictionary, data definitions, and other supporting components have been placed on the OJP Information Technology Web site (www.it.ojp.gov) for examination by prospective system developers and users in local, state, and tribal governments. **Version 3.0,** the latest version of the Data Element Dictionary, uses object-oriented technology. The open *Request for Comment* of this capability is scheduled for a period of approximately 60 days beginning April 2003. Also, a number of pilot projects are being initiated to validate concepts employed, after which the product is planned for initial operational capability release later in the year.

The assistance of justice and public safety leaders is needed to "evangelize" the availability of this new capability, review and comment on Version 3.0, and help OJP identify local, state, and tribal data dictionary initiatives currently planned or underway that could benefit from knowledge of this new and advanced technology. For further information, visit the OJP Information Technology Initiatives Web site at it.ojp.gov or contact the Office of Justice Programs at it@ojp.gov.