

CJIS Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) Blueprint News



Project Status **YELLOW**

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CISS – What's in it for YOU?

- The right data.
- In the right format.
- At the right time.
- Supporting critical business processes.
- Improving public service.
- Improving public safety.

What is the CJIS Blueprint Project?

The *CJIS Blueprint Project* is an initiative to assess the current business and technological capabilities of our CJIS partners to identify their future needs and develop a blueprint or plan of action to achieve results. To help us with this initiative, MTG Management Consultants, LLC, has begun the first phase by working with CJIS partners to develop an "as is" logical model view of our current information exchanges (i.e., what exists now). Once the current environment, or as-is logical model, has been fully mapped out, MTG will begin Phase 2. Phase 2 is essentially a vision of the future, or where we want to be, which is called the "to be" logical model. Together, these two models will help us to identify the gaps between where we are and where we want to be. This gap analysis will be the basis for developing system requirements for the new CJIS.

The Size of the House

The phrase "the size of the house" has been used to refer to the potential scope of the CISS program. Last month's edition of *CJIS Blueprint News* discussed the development of the CISS requirements and subsequent RFP, but before they can be developed, the intended scope of the program must be determined.

We have begun the steps necessary to make some critical decisions. The governing board will be briefed on the alternatives and issues associated with this decision.

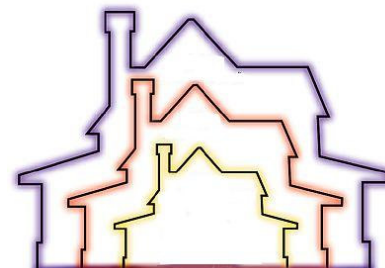
So what are the issues and associated decisions that need to be made? First, the range of possibilities for the size of the CISS program is broad. There are many options – from a Web portal where justice agency data will be available to complete integration of justice agency information through agencies' individual applications. In deciding what will be best, there are many questions that need to be answered, including:

- What first steps will have the most impact on public safety in Connecticut?
- Where will the integration solution be hosted?
- Who will staff both the business and technical functions of the CISS program?
- How many staff members will the justice agencies need to help implement the program? What does their skill set need to be?
- Do some justice agency line-of-business applications need to be replaced, and, if so, how will the replacements be funded?
- How can local law enforcement systems be included, and who will fund local law enforcement agency costs?
- What is the logical sequence of implementation steps?
- How do we best recover earlier investments?
- How much funding will be available?

Once an approach has been agreed to, the processes of funding and acquiring a CISS solution can begin.

These are exciting times. The answers to these questions will form a new and more understandable vision of the future.

"What first steps will have the most impact on public safety in Connecticut?"



Solution Providers Show Their Stuff

On June 4 and 5, three integration solution providers came to Connecticut to demonstrate their products and approaches to providing integrated justice systems. In March, the state released a Request for Information (RFI), asking companies to provide information about their products and approaches. Of the 19 responses, three companies were invited to make a presentation to justice agency representatives. The three companies were chosen because their approaches were very different, and their presentations would provide a good overview of the market. The companies and a summary of their presentations are listed below.

The presentations gave attendees a better sense of what is available in the market.

FATPOT Technologies – This unconventional business name requires some explanation. It means “for all of the people of the world.” FATPOT refers to its solution as a “real-time interoperability software platform.” Using what it calls a “virtual data pool,” the solution is essentially a data warehouse with accessibility through a portal. The application of FATPOT’s solution has largely been in law enforcement, providing access to shared computer-aided dispatch (CAD), Records Management System (RMS), and Global Positioning System (GPS) applications.

Amentra, Inc., a Red Hat Company – Amentra applies open source software in designing and developing portal solutions. Its primary product is called JBoss. JBoss is an enterprise service-oriented architecture (SOA) platform that is advertised as the next-generation enterprise service bus (ESB). It provides a business process automation infrastructure to carry out many functions. JBoss has been implemented as an integration solution for the Texas Attorney General.

Analysts International Corporation (AIC) – AIC’s approach is defined as a “unified open architected enterprise solution” that includes the integration of data, systems, and applications. The decentralized

nature of AIC’s approach allows individual systems to remain autonomous, while sharing and integrating information. Its solution adopts the Global Justice Reference Architecture (JRA) and other national standards. AIC has implemented solutions in Kansas, Wyoming, Alabama, Colorado, and Las Vegas. AIC has also implemented a four-state interstate data-sharing solution.

The presentations were very informative and gave attendees a better sense of what is available in the market

Now That I Read This, What Does It All Mean?

For better or worse, the IT industry has many acronyms. To sort through all of this, a further explanation of some key concepts is in order.

An SOA and ESB create the ability to extract data from existing applications and move that data among the applications.

- **Service-Oriented Architecture** – In computing, SOA provides methods for systems development and integration. An SOA infrastructure allows different applications to exchange data with one another. In Connecticut’s case, the implementation of SOA for integration would involve agency business applications running a “service” that would move data from the application into the integration environment. There are many types of services, but generally, they would be running outside of the business application.
- **Enterprise Service Bus** – The ESB is the piece of software that is situated between the business applications and enables communication among them. An ESB brings flow-related concepts such as data transformation and routing to an SOA. An ESB can provide loose coupling and easy connection between services described above.

In simple terms, an SOA uses “services” to extract data from existing applications, without modifying the application. The ESB moves, transforms, and routes the data in an integration environment. The business rules that the environment relies on – who gets what and under what conditions – can reside in the ESB.

Panning for Gold

One of MTG's tasks in the CJIS Blueprint Project is to look for sources of alternative funding for the CISS program. To date, the outlook has not been promising. While the economic stimulus program has made a large amount of money available to justice agencies, most of it is for the purposes of new hiring. If anyone has knowledge of other federal funding sources, please contact Mr. Robert L. Kreisa from MTG. He can be reached at rkreisa@mtgmc.com or 206-442-5010.

Project Status

The CJIS Blueprint Project remains in yellow status, as the project timeline has been pushed back due to a number of factors. Resolving the "size of the house" issues discussed earlier will delay the delivery of the CISS requirements and RFP. That delay is not critical to the overall progress of the project, it adds value to the process.



*Next Month – An Overview of the
CISS Acquisition Process*

