

Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts Raises the Bar on Statewide Data Management and Business Intelligence

Executive Summary

The Common Pleas Criminal Court Case Management System (CPCMS) recently implemented in all 67 counties (September, 2006) combines criminal case data into a centralized application. A web portal included in this implementation provides for web interfaces including secure and public web docket sheets, calendaring/scheduling, and a secure statewide warrant inquiry, among others. A reusable message, the Court Case Event Message (CCE), was developed using GJXDM standards for use in exchanging data with external agencies. CPCMS and the Web Portal use Business Objects Enterprise XI to meet the business intelligence needs of users across Pennsylvania.

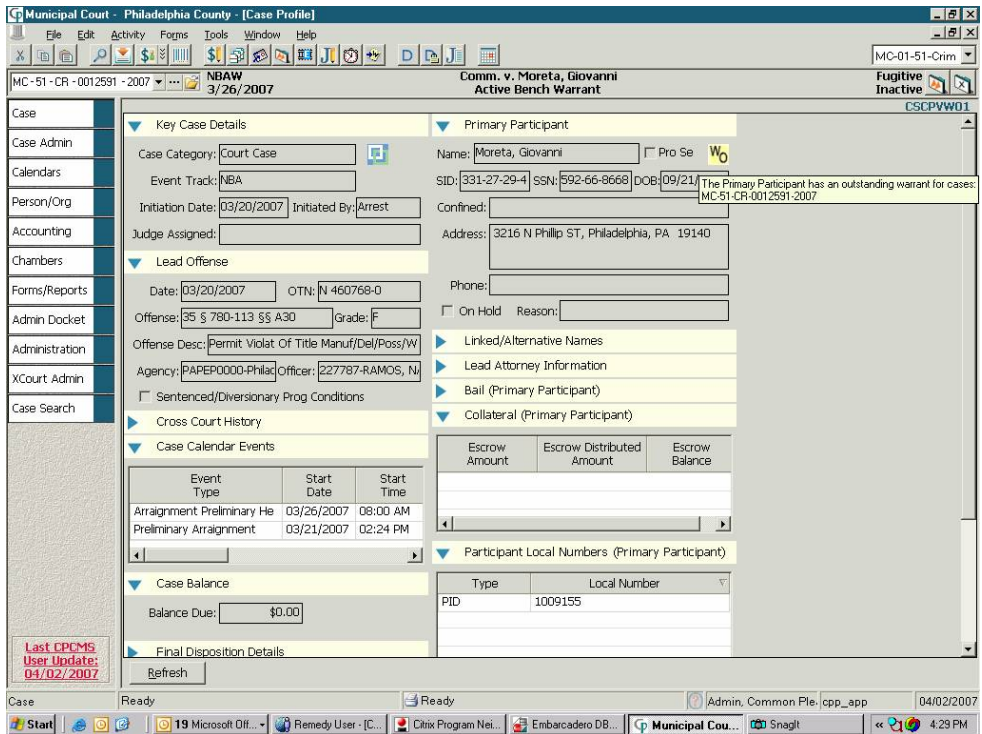
Project Summary

In 2001, the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) initiated what would soon be the first completely unified Common Pleas Court Case Management System (CPCMS) in the country. The CPCMS system, completed in September, 2006, is a comprehensive, statewide system for criminal case management. The system brings Pennsylvania's 60 Judicial Districts, comprised of 67 counties, together in a single, uniform approach to criminal case processing. A data hub included in this implementation provides for sharing of data between CPCMS and other AOPC case management systems including the Pennsylvania Appellate Court Case Management System (PACMS) and the Magisterial District Judge System (MDJS) and creates a single source of data for web interfaces and external data exchanges including secure and public web docket sheets, calendaring/scheduling, and a secure statewide warrant inquiry, among others. As a result of this centralization, the CPCMS system has made it possible for the first time to perform data exchanges across all courts and with all of the courts' business partners in a uniform and reusable way.

The project also included the establishment of a central data warehouse for the magisterial district judge, common pleas and appellate court automation systems and Web portal applications (public and secure) to complement the CPCMS and to provide appropriate information to an expanded list of criminal justice-related users and agencies. Visitors to this site can search for cases from all three levels of court and print public versions of the docket sheets. Over 1,000,000 CPCMS public and secure docket sheets were accessed from the Web portal during the month of October, 2006 with total docket sheet access hitting 8.1 million in 2006 and 4.6 million in the first five months of 2007.

As a result of this centralization, CPCMS has made it possible to perform data exchanges with the courts' business partners in a uniform and reusable way. These data exchanges employ a comprehensive XML model definition that is GJXDM (Global Justice XML Data Model) compliant and will soon be NIEM (National Information Exchange Model) compliant as well. Both national organizations are supported by the U.S. Department of Justice..

Another significant part of the CPCMS system and the Web Portal is the use of business intelligence to manage the reporting needs of users. Business Objects XI is used to produce forms and reports both within CPCMS and on the Web Portal. The volume and demand within CPCMS and on the Web Portal required a flexible solution that could handle up to 15,000-16,000 report objects running within CPCMS each day. The Forms/Reports menu within CPCMS provides access to search for and print over 390 active forms and reports. Reports that are run frequently or on a consistent basis can be scheduled within the CPCMS. Users retrieve scheduled reports that are created and then print or view them from the CPCMS. For example, monthly reports for the AOPC's Department of Policy and Research in Philadelphia are taken directly from the CPCMS.



A sophisticated case profile within CPCMS displays the important icons, including a warrant icon. Customizable metadata controls the panels that are available and open by Case Category

CPCMS also allows court and end users to share court-case docket information automatically. This feature is particularly important when a case is moved from one court level to the next or from one county to the next. Instead of re-keying the case docket information, the receiving court can automatically retrieve all information to process the case as expediently as possible. The system also gives the courts the ability to manage case timelines and calculate ahead of time when case milestones will occur. This feature has proven invaluable to defendants and their lawyers, district attorneys, witnesses and court personnel who need to determine when to allocate their time to a case.

In addition to assisting the Pennsylvania courts, CPCMS has also enhanced Pennsylvania law enforcement. Warrant information is automatically posted and shared with criminal justice agencies across the state. The up-to-date information has led to the apprehension of many fugitives with outstanding warrants that might otherwise have gone unnoticed during a routine traffic violation stop or other minor infraction. When accessing the CPCMS, users are alerted when a person they interact with has been issued a warrant from any county in the state. Court and law enforcement personnel (those without direct system access) access CPCMS data via a secure web portal to view confidential information. The web portal helps law enforcement personnel that must appear in court as witnesses as well as citizens that need to attend a trial. They can simply check the web portal before traveling to the courthouse to make sure the trial is taking place or to find out if a continuance has been granted. This has cut down on the traffic at clerk offices as well as law enforcement overtime pay.

Project Impact

The CPCMS system has fundamentally changed and improved the court processes, creating uniformity and an underlying operating language. This widespread improvement is illustrated by providing benefits in areas such as:

- Unified application of justice – criminal courts from all 67 counties now follow the same case management procedures and follow consistent practices resulting in a more uniform system of justice..
- Uniformity of legal and administrative practices – such as how money from fines, costs and restitution is distributed.
- Standardization of information – information across all the counties is now classified in a consistent manner so that it can be easily shared.
- Users are able to access statewide case information rather than inquire county-by-county.
- CPCMS has made it possible for criminal justice agencies to apprehend fugitives faster by providing warrant information in near real-time, making Pennsylvania a safer place for its citizens
- Law enforcement agencies now receive warrant information faster so arrests can be made quickly, which in turn creates a safer environment for citizens.
- Transmit criminal warrant information electronically directly into federal and state repositories for wanted defendants: NCIC and CLEAN.
- The system handles more than 18,000 cases transferred per month that otherwise would be manually entered.
- Different levels of courts can now communicate more easily – cases can be moved from one level to the next without re-keying data.

CPCMS also helps agencies and citizens inside and outside of the Pennsylvania Courts in numerous ways. The system provides District Attorneys with the ability to receive Common Pleas case information as well as the ability to transmit data on criminal charges being filed in the Courts of Common Pleas. Law enforcement agencies can now receive warrant information faster so arrests can be made quickly, which in turn creates a safer environment for citizens. The Department of Revenue can now receive electronic summaries and details of all collections on a monthly basis to track monies received and disbursed to all Commonwealth funds and the Pennsylvania State Police now receives information on the compliance with Megan's Law, and reportable dispositions to the criminal history repository among many other things.

CPCMS has ushered in a new era in public access to court records. At no time have court records been so accessible. Electronic criminal court records from 67 counties across the state are now only a key stroke away from any Internet user – with general information made available to the public and confidential information made available only to authorized users within the court system as well as within the criminal justice system of

Pennsylvania. With the recent implementation of a computer records public access policy, data from the three statewide systems are available upon request and approval.

One of the primary goals of this statewide judicial automation system was to improve understanding of court records by providing standardized procedures, notices, and forms in all of Pennsylvania's counties. Judicial automation also greatly expands the public's access to court records and schedules, and it improves law enforcement capabilities through the sharing of critical data between many judicial districts and agencies.

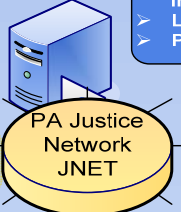
Although judicial automation was the primary goal of the CPCMS, another significant benefit realized by the system is public safety. Not only does the system help the courts provide justice more expeditiously, it also helps to remove more fugitives from the street. For example, by providing near real-time warrant information across all the counties of Pennsylvania, CPCMS has made it possible to apprehend many criminals with outstanding warrants that would have otherwise gone undetected during routine traffic stops or while visiting county courthouses to pay fines.

CPCMS is now fully operational and has exceeded its primary goal of unifying and expediting court-case management across all 67 Pennsylvania counties and three tiers of courts. Approximately 16,000 identifiable users benefit from the system. Additionally, countless other users benefit from the data managed by the system through the public web portal and data sent to various business partners working with the criminal justice system.

Magisterial District Judges
 Magisterial District Judge System (MDJS)

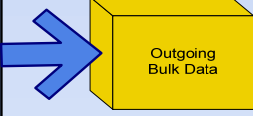
Common Pleas
 Common Pleas Case Management System (CPCMS)

Appellate Courts
 Pennsylvania Appellate Court Case Management System (PACMS)

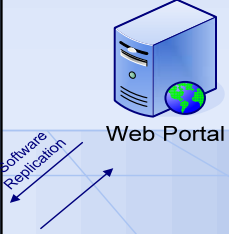


- JNET Event Based Outgoing Interfaces**
- Master Charge Code
 - PCCD Victim
 - Constable Warrant (Court Case Event)
 - Sentencing Guideline System
 - CaseCounty Justice Information Exchange
 - LivePost Dispositions
 - Pre-Sentence Investigations

- Incoming JNET Interfaces**
- Dept. of Corrections – Prisoner Locations
 - PennDOT Photos for Use on Warrants



- Bulk Data Interfaces**
- PA Dept. of Revenue - Monthly MDJ and CPCMS Revenue Reports
 - Tobacco Enforcement
 - Public Access Requests
 - Overdue Payment Plan Collections
 - Auditor General Audit Files
 - PMS Interface



- Web Portal Interfaces**
- Secure and Public CPCMS Docket Sheets
 - Statewide Warrants – CPCMS and MDJ
 - PACMS Docket Sheets
 - DA Link
 - Secure and Public CPCMS Calendars
 - Published Court Calendars
 - PA Rules of Ct. - Local Rules
 - PA Board of Law Examiners – Electronic Bar Application