1. COVER

TITLE:  
Hawaii Integrated Justice Information Sharing Program (HIJIS): Subscription/Notification

CATEGORY:

FAST TRACK SOLUTIONS

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PROJECT INITIATION DATE:

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PROJECT COMPLETION DATE:

April 18, 2012
2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Hawaii Integrated Justice Information Sharing Program (HIJIS) is building statewide information sharing capabilities across the justice and public safety enterprise, facilitating information exchange with key agencies, and leveraging national information sharing standards and best practices.

HIJIS provides statewide information sharing that will enable federated access and exchange of data between agency systems in an efficient, timely and secure manner with the principal aim of getting the right information to the right people all of the time.

HIJIS is multi-jurisdictional, multi-year, and involves multiple project components. The priorities and projects are set by the HIJIS Executive Committee. The HIJIS Operational and Technical Working Groups consist of agency managers and operational practitioners representing Law Enforcement, Probation, Parole, Judiciary/Courts, U.S. Marshal, State Civil Defense, Department of Education, Department of Health, Department of Human Services, and other appropriate agencies. Both Working Groups provide the necessary support to organize, define and realize the direction set by the HIJIS Executive Committee.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Subscription/Notification project is to provide automated email/text message notification to authorized persons in the justice, court, and law enforcement agencies about defined actions (e.g., arrest of person of interest or change in their legal status) across systems participating in the HIJIS program.
3. BUSINESS PROBLEM AND SOLUTION DESCRIPTION

A universal function of integrated justice information sharing programs is the ability of users to subscribe to notification services. Law enforcement officers searching for a suspect, for example, should be able to be immediately notified if the suspect is arrested in a neighboring jurisdiction. Similarly, probation and parole officers should also be able to subscribe to immediate notification of the arrest of one of their clients without having to first read about it in the local newspaper or rely on the client to contact them with the information, when the client may wish to conceal the fact. Others throughout the criminal justice enterprise (judges, prosecutors, etc.) have similar needs for automated notification of consequential events, such as the arrest, conviction, sentencing, correctional release or discharge, change of address, issuance of a warrant, failure to comply with the conditions of supervised release, or even the death of a client or person of interest.

Although justice agencies throughout the State of Hawaii have access to key state and local justice information systems and other governmental data sources, actively monitoring the legal status of persons of interest is inefficiently achieved by requiring users to regularly query existing systems for status updates or simply relying on informal personal relationships between operational practitioners.

The HIJIS Operational Working Group empanelled a Subscription/Notification Subcommittee. This Subcommittee defined the initial Subscription/Notification needs:

- Agencies are interested in arrest and/or conviction information;

- Agencies would like to be notified when a person of interest is located or has had contact with another agency;

- Most agencies would like email notifications and some indicated that they would like to have a flag in their system;

- Criminal justice agencies identified the benefit of locating persons of interest or locating offenders; and

- Non-criminal justice agencies identified the benefits of protecting children/clients from possible harm and to be informed when employees have become engaged in the criminal justice process.
Elements of the Solution

Our approach includes:

Leveraging membership in the Open Justice Broker Consortium (OJBC), a membership organization of state, local, and tribal government entities, whose purpose is to evolve and govern collaboratively a set of tools to facilitate the sharing of justice information and the automation of justice business processes:

- Maine also joined the OJBC and utilizes it to deliver services in their information sharing program and
- Hawaii is partnering with Maine to show interoperations of exchanges to reuse and speed development/implementation of services;

- Building systems based on Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) for creating and using business processes, packaged as services;

- Developing and conforming to national standards:
  - Global Federated Identity and Privilege Management (GFIPM) guidelines,
  - National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) exchange formats, and
  - Global Reference Architecture (GRA) standard designed specifically for justice and public safety information sharing;

- The use of open source in design and implementation;

- Enterprise Service Bus (ESB) software architecture to design and implement our mutually interactive software applications; and

- Federated Identity Management (FIM) to have a common set of policies, practices and protocols in place to manage the identity and trust of HIJIS users across organizations.
4. PROJECT SIGNIFICANCE AND BENEFITS

Others may also benefit from Subscription/Notification capabilities across the criminal justice enterprise. Government agencies, licensing authorities, some segments of private industry, and even the general public (in some situations) could benefit from having the ability to subscribe to notification services for certain consequential events.

Government agencies and licensing authorities may wish to be immediately notified if one of their employees or license holders has been arrested, if that arrest and subsequent conviction would disqualify the person from holding their position or retaining their license. Similarly, private industries that employ people in sensitive positions (e.g., servicing children, the elderly, or other vulnerable populations) may well be served by subscribing to notification services for arrests and convictions for offenses that would disqualify the person from continuing in their role. Although an arrest does not necessarily mean that the person is in fact guilty of the alleged disqualifying offense, it may nevertheless prompt the agency or licensing authority to exercise special caution until the matter is finally disposed.

The general public may also benefit from Subscription/Notification capabilities in the criminal justice system. Victims of crime are increasingly notified of updates in the legal status of their cases, modifications in court schedules, and changes in the correctional status of the offender involved in their case.

With their membership in the OJBC, Maine is planning to reuse the Subscription/Notification service. This then takes on national implications as it will speed the delivery of this service to other future OJBC members.
5. PROJECT BENEFITS

The HIJIS Subscription/Notification service is currently used by a group of probation/parole officers and will be rolled out across the State this year. Before its implementation, data from the previous day’s activity was sent manually to a central location and re-distributed to each officer. Officers now receive real-time email re-arrest messages of their clients delivered to them on their desktop or mobile device.

Officers make better use of time in the receipt of critical arrestee information requiring action as they know immediately after a client has been processed within the Hawaii criminal justice system.

Additionally, Subscription/Notification reduces administrative resource time (compiling spreadsheets and sending out to the probation/parole units), as well as the errors inherent in manual processes.

Our overall approach to using SOA and reliance on open standards produces extensible, flexible solutions implemented by low-cost tools, ensuring interoperability with similar initiatives in other states and Federal partners. The OJBC, through development of a common platform, enables reuse at the software component level across states.