Vermont worked closely with OJBC staff to customize the federated queries available via the VJISS web portal. VJISS users statewide will be able to submit queries for incident data from a single, secure location. The solution is effective and efficient: Users execute a single search, get results from one or more incidents, and view detailed data on a particular incident: persons, vehicles, property, charges, and so on. Police in our state benefit by having reliable, up-to-date information to support critical decision-making. The benefit of being part of the OJBC is that it is scalable—we can easily develop and build information sharing solutions to meet our future needs.

—Francis X. Aumand III
Deputy Commissioner
Vermont Department of
Public Safety

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WWW.OJBC.ORG**

Vermont Justice Information Sharing System

The Vermont Justice Information Sharing System (VJISS) is a portal that offers a variety of functions that enable information sharing. One function is a query tool that searches the records management systems (RMSs) of all police agencies throughout Vermont. Using VJISS, authorized users can search these data by person name, location, vehicle or incident number. Vermont is also utilizing "push" capabilities to push records management information into a crime analysis mapping application and pushing arrest information into a predictive tool used within the rapid intervention community court programs of local state attorneys.

This is done through the VJISS open justice broker (OJB). As a federated query system, VJISS allows its users to conduct a simultaneous search of multiple contributing RMSs, yet it does not store information in a database or separate data warehouse. This information retrieval approach allows individual law enforcement agencies statewide to retain direct control over their data while enabling information searching in real time.

Eager to piggyback on many of the capabilities of the OJBC, justice information sharing leaders in Vermont have implemented a subscription service for probation and parole officers, providing them with real time information on when their clients have contact with police agencies. Vermont has also been working to enhance the basic search capabilities of the original VJISS query tool by adding several key capabilities developed for other OJBC members like entity resolution and federated identity management. In exchange, Vermont's work to enhance the VJISS federated tool is available to other OJBC members to leverage.

OJBC CAPABILITY

Entity Resolution

Entity resolution (ER) is a key OJBC capability—originally developed for Hawaii—that automatically returns matches of people (entities) contained in multiple data systems and presents the user with a list of disparate records that likely relate to the same person. VJISS staff can customize their ER service to increase or decrease the likelihood of a match based upon different data elements contained in each system, such as name spelling variations and other demographic factors.

OJBC CAPABILITY

Broker Architecture

Following the requirements of the Global Reference Architecture (GRA), VJISS uses a broker architecture to promote reuse of data exchanges with minimal cost and complexity. In addition to directly supporting the VJISS portal and federated query, these same services support sharing data with the state's crime mapping application, VCAMP.

OJBC CAPABILITY

Federated Identity Management

To improve ease of access by users, VJISS is incorporating a "federated identity management" mechanism based on the Global Federated Identity and Privilege Management (GFIPM) standard.* This approach enables each user's existing credentials (accounts and passwords) to be reused, thus eliminating the need for a centralized user directory. It also ensures appropriate access to data stored in the various agency systems while simplifying user access through a single sign-on mechanism.

* The GFIPM program, sponsored by the U.S. Departments of Justice and Homeland Security, seeks to develop secure, scalable, and cost-effective technologies for information sharing within the law enforcement and criminal justice communities. For details on GFIPM technical standards, see http://www.gfipm.net/deliverables/standards/

Future plans

The Vermont Department of Public Safety, which oversees the VJISS, plans future system upgrades.

1. Expand VJISS query data sources to include:
   — inmate records from the Department of Corrections
   — driver history records from the Department of Motor Vehicles
   — court records
   — sex offender registration records
   — records from the teen alcohol safety program
   — Records from Vermont's Mental Health/Substance Abuse Intergovernmental Service System Interactive On-Line Network (MHISSION-VT).

2. Expand reuse opportunities by submitting incident records to the FBI's Law Enforcement National Data Exchange (N-DEx) system.

3. Implement push capabilities of police arrest information to the State's Attorney's Offices in all 14 counties.

4. Implement a manual subscription capability in the VJISS portal that will allow police officers to be notified, via e-mail, when persons of interest are involved in incidents.

OJB Benefits for Vermont

- Reuse federated query and subscription service capabilities developed by Hawaii

- Reuse incident reporting capabilities developed by Maine

- Reuse technology and expertise by implementing federated identity management