Global/NIEM Governance Issue Paper

Problem Statement

Both the DOJ BJA-sponsored Global and the DOJ/DHS-sponsored NIEM have now developed governance processes for the families of national justice technical standards they are creating. The JTC must choose to accept and participate in these governance processes or operate independently as it historically has done.

Background

Global has been working for several years now on a national data model for justice information exchanges. Since 2004, it has broadened its goal to creating a complete justice reference architecture to support interoperable information exchanges among justice partners. The courts have participated in Global committees and working groups from the beginning, but the JTC has never formally agreed to accept either its governance process or its resulting technical standards.

NIEM presents both a broader and narrower version of this issue. Its scope potentially involves non-criminal justice information, but it is currently limited to data models.

Discussion

DOJ has made compliance with the Global data model (GJXDM) a condition for receiving grant funding on technical projects. Vendors are incrementally including support for the GJXDM in their off-the-shelf products. The courts may be unable to pursue a completely independent standards development strategy without incurring significant economic and political costs.

NIEM offers a different set of problems and benefits. NIEM stakeholders are much broader, so court influence is correspondingly diluted. On the other hand, the NIEM scope extends to non-criminal justice data sets like social, juvenile and traffic data that are of interest to courts and extend beyond the current scope of the GJXDM.

The broader vendor community appears to be solidly in support of both Global and NIEM standards development efforts.

Recommended Motion

6. That JTC be fully engaged in both Global and NIEM and charge JTC staff to allocate resources as practical to ensure the courts involvement in these efforts. And that the JTC charge the Standards Working Group to:

    a. develop an RFC for JTC to adopt the GJXDM version 3.0.3 as a JTC Standard and to recommend future Global standards as they are developed.

    b. develop an RFC for JTC to adopt the NIEM Version 1.0 as a JTC Standard when it is ready and future NIEM standards as they are developed.