



COURT TECHNOLOGY *APPLICATIONS & INITIATIVES* Fairfax County Courthouse, Virginia

As of February 21, 2012

ALL COURTS

All court projects meet the primary objectives to improve citizens' access to the Courts, facilitate trials and hearings in the most effective and efficient means possible, allow for all three Courts to share common resources, and provide for flexibility and adaptability to incorporate future changes in technology and court proceedings.

CTMS – Courtroom Technology Management System

Fairfax County's *Courtroom Technology Management System (CTMS)* is a state-of-the-art courtroom management and control system developed to integrate modern technologies into traditional courtroom activities. The custom built CTMS allows all high-tech courtrooms to share a common infrastructure through a centralized Master Control Room (MCR), and offers integrated evidence presentation and video teleconference capabilities for hearings, trials and arraignments. The distributed environment provides consistency, standardization, and scalability between the three courts, and is designed to meet future growth and changes in technology.

The CTMS is overseen by a centralized Court Technology Office (CrTO), and was developed in partnership with the three Fairfax County Courts: *Circuit Court & Records (CCR)*, *General District Court (GDC)*, *Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court (JDRDC)*, and the *Fairfax County Department of Information Technology (DIT)*.

CTMS – Courtroom Renovations

Courtroom renovations were completed in April 2011, and added three additional high-tech courtrooms to the CTMS framework. Courtrooms 5D and 5C at the Circuit Court & Records and 1A for the General District Court (GDC) became operational April 2011. The Fairfax Courts now offer 17 high-tech courtrooms (*CCR – 4, GDC – 4, JDRDC – 9*) within the 40 courtroom facility. Courtroom 5F is funded and renovation is anticipated to begin March 2012. Technology upgrades to courtroom 5E are also being considered. Renovations for the 22 remaining non-tech courtrooms are currently unfunded.

CTMS – Enhanced Court Interpreting

The Enhanced Court Interpreting project is underway to improve interpreting within the courtroom. The primary goals of the project include greater flexibility for interpreting and improved interpretation for Adult Detention Center (ADC) inmates from the courtroom. Enhanced interpreting capabilities will also allow simultaneous interpreting in the courtroom to non-English speaking ADC inmates, enables

Sheriff Deputies in the ADC to hear the Judges' instruction to the inmate in English, incorporates the ability to provide English Assistive Listening to the ADC arraignment room, and creates separate channels of communication for the foreign language and English Assistive Listening.

The requirements have been finalized and were developed in collaboration with judges, clerk staff and court interpreters. The recommended solution is a unique, hybrid approach that includes the utilization and integration of both wired and wireless capabilities. This hybrid approach takes advantage of the existing courtroom infrastructure and is considered the most optimal solution for the 17 high-tech (CTMS) courtrooms and any future high-tech courtrooms. In lieu of a full 17 courtroom investment with an unfamiliar product, the project team will pilot the selected product solution in courtrooms 2J and 2K for General District Court, 3H for Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court and 5J for Circuit Court. This solution may or may not be applicable to the older, non-tech courtrooms. The project team will address non-tech courtrooms in the next phase of this project.

CTMS – Courtroom Digital Audio Recording (C-DAR)

The C-DAR Project Team implemented a Digital Audio Recording solution in Circuit Court courtrooms 4J and 5J. The C-DAR Pilot project utilizes a solution offered by a leading digital audio recording vendor, ForTheRecord (FTR), to capture recordings of courtroom proceedings. The FTR solution was considered the best fit for a pilot project utilizing the existing courthouse/courtroom infrastructure over a centralized networked environment.

The C-DAR project has established recording workstations outside of the selected high-tech courtroom(s) to allow designated court recorder(s) to monitor multiple courtrooms. The digital audio recordings are available to judges, clerks and court staff during and after court proceedings, and may be reviewed by appropriate court personnel or used for transcription.

Live courtroom testing and recording began February 1, 2012, and will continue thru April 1, 2012. The pilot project will assist with the development of courtroom policies and procedures, as well as longer range plans to potentially implement digital audio recording technology in selected high-tech CTMS integrated courtrooms.

CTMS – Enhanced Annotation Pilot

The new Extron Annotator is tested and installed in Courtroom 3K. This next generation device greatly enhances annotation by improving the quality of the graphics and providing more features and functionality for annotation. The pilot adds annotation capability for the judge and clerk, and provides the following new options and features: *arrow, pencil, line, highlighter, spotlight, additional color selection by location and line thickness*. New control functions include *Erase* and *Redo* in conjunction with existing functions such as *Undo* and *Clear*.

Additional programming and integration is required to complete known issues with USB enumeration (recognition of devices connecting to the annotator) and power cycle issues. This work is scheduled to be completed by March 2012. Upon successful completion, this enhanced next generation annotation device will be included in future courtroom upgrades.



CTMS – Attorney and Presenters Wireless Control Panel

A new Apple iPad supplements the original Crestron wireless control panel at the podium in courtroom 3K. The iPad provides the same functionality as the original Crestron device, offers considerable cost savings, and increases time between battery charges (from 2 to 10 hours). The clarity of the iPad display and graphics is exceptional.

While the iPad was successfully installed, issues still need to be addressed before this solution is considered for courthouse-wide implementation. The primary concern is locking down the device so that it serves as a dedicated CTMS control panel only, while prohibiting use of traditional iPad functions and applications. Other concerns include the physical mounting of the docking station, and possible sight line issues. These issues are being addressed, and will require additional configuration and testing.

While the device is not ready for use by attorneys and other users, it offers the potential for expanded use within the courtrooms. The CrTO will continue evaluation and testing of the iPad, as well as alternative products.

PUBLIC ACCESS TECHNOLOGIES

Wireless in Courtrooms

The Fairfax County Bar Association and other entities continue to lobby the judges to allow the use of wireless internet access in the courtrooms. A committee of Circuit Court judges has concluded that wireless internet activity be at the discretion of the presiding judge. The General District Court and Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court are reviewing this item independently. All three courts continue to evaluate the protocols for using wireless internet access in the courtroom, and repercussions of individuals that violate the rules.

Electronic Dockets

All three courts, Circuit Court, General District Court and Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court, utilize electronic docket displays throughout the courthouse.

The Circuit Court docket displays do not rely on the State's *Case Management System*, and is supported by a third party system, *Infax Docketcall*. *Docketcall* successfully interfaces with the Circuit Court's *FullCourt* case management system. The General District Court and Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court have migrated to an in-house docket display solution developed by the Supreme Court of Virginia (SCV). Both District Courts utilize the State's *Case Management System*, thereby eliminating the need for a third party supported system.

Public Web Site Information and Accessibility

Upgrades and improvements to the court web pages remains an on-going effort. Enhancements to individual court pages and links are currently under review, including the much utilized Courtroom Technology Reservation/Request form. The courts continue to collaborate with DIT and the Office of Public Affairs (OPA) to ensure consistency and accountability across all court pages.



Wayfinding

Other public access technologies being considered in and around the courthouse include the addition of interactive electronic messaging flat screen displays and self-help touch screens (kiosks) to provide assistance to the public to navigate the courthouse. A pilot is under consideration during 2012 to evaluate and demonstrate product capabilities.

CIRCUIT COURT & RECORDS (CCR)

Courts Public Access Network (CPAN)

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE THROUGH CPAN

Circuit Court Civil/Criminal Case Information

CPAN information on pending and concluded Circuit Court civil and criminal cases is available from the Circuit Court case management system, *FullCourt*. *CPAN FullCourt* includes limited historical case activity information. More complete historical case information is available on the legacy *CPAN* mainframe-based case management systems.

- Cases can be accessed in *CPAN FullCourt* using a case number search, case filing date range, or a party (plaintiff or defendant name) search.
- Civil and Criminal case information from *CPAN FullCourt* includes the case number, date filed, status, plaintiff(s), defendant(s), case subtype, attorney(s), and a register of actions with the most recent activities shown first.
- In compliance with the Code of Virginia, adoption cases and juvenile appeals cases are not available in *CPAN*.
- Information on Circuit Court civil and criminal case activity prior to October 18, 2004, including civil and criminal service information, may be found in our old mainframe-based case management systems.

Real Estate Assessments

The Circuit Court *ICare* system consists of real estate information including land description, assessment information, improvement characteristics, and ownership data for all properties in Fairfax County. This information can be accessed by street address number, owner name, or tax map number. Real Estate Accounts Receivable information is also available.

Delinquent Real Estate Tax Information

The Circuit Court *ICare* system contains delinquent real estate tax records searchable by owner or street address. Information includes up to 20 years of delinquent real estate tax information including owner name, address, map reference number, property description, tax year, and tax due, and payment history information.

Jury Management

The *Jury + Web* system allows jurors to access, view, and fill out the electronic version of their summons using the internet:



- Jurors can update their personal information
- Can request to change their reporting schedule
- Review their service status

The Circuit Court has completed a professionally produced Jury Video to be shown each morning to jurors. The jury video describes the entire jury process in a very professional, succinct manner.

Civil File Review Request Form – Available On-Line

The Circuit Court allows citizens and customers to complete and submit Civil File Review Request forms on-line at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/courts/circuit/civil_file_review_form.htm.

The form is located under Court Services – Civil File Review Request Form. Requestors will be notified within two business days after submission of the file availability, and are afforded the opportunity to come to the 3rd floor Circuit Court Civil File Room to review the file. The file will be held in the Civil File Room for no more than two business days after notification of availability.

Electronic Filing

The Circuit Court offers electronic filing of Land Records. The Circuit Court *Electronic Filing System* (EFS) offers customers the option to electronically record certain land record documents within the Clerk's Office. The EFS is a web-based application that allows customers to submit and record documents from remote locations without having to deliver paper documents to the courthouse. The Clerk's Office staff reviews, and accepts or rejects the documents electronically, and collects recording taxes and fees via Automated Clearing House (ACH) for electronic payments. Title companies, law offices, mortgage companies and lenders can electronically deliver documents to the courthouse from across the street or across the nation, seven days a week, twenty four hours a day, saving companies time, money, and providing greater efficiency and speed in recording land documents.

E-Filing for civil and criminal records is under consideration, and requires cooperation and coordination with the Supreme Court of Virginia.

Electronic File Tracking

The Circuit Court has implemented a case file tracking program using Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology to locate court files by applying Radio Frequency (RF) tags and tracking via customized *FileTrail* software integrated with strategically placed wireless access points. The range of these strategically placed access points cover all department entries and exits as well as other specific areas to ensure optimum coverage and maximum reliability.

Online Scheduling System (OSS)

The Circuit Court has implemented an *OnLine Scheduling System (OSS)* to allow attorneys who are subscribers to schedule their own Civil Law and Domestic case trial dates (both jury and non-jury) via the web. The OSS saves attorneys and court staff time and resources by allowing users to select and schedule civil case trial dates electronically without having to travel to the Courthouse to attend a Scheduling Conference.



JUVENILE & DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT (JDRDC)

JDIS – Juvenile & Domestic Imaging System

The Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court (JDRDC) and Fairfax County's Department of Information Technology (DIT) continue to collaborate with the Supreme Court of Virginia (SCV) to implement a *Case Imaging System* for scanning, imaging and retention of court documents. The Juvenile & Domestic Imaging System (JDIS) is a custom built solution utilizing off-the-shelf software modified by SCV programming staff that includes built-in interfaces with the existing SCV *Case Management System*, and other requirements unique to Fairfax County. The first phase of the JDIS pilot project was completed April 2011, for all juvenile traffic related cases. Phase II was implemented on February 15, 2012, and includes adult criminal cases, judge's view, and enhanced court services access.

Fairfax County is the first Juvenile Court in the state to implement the case imaging system. Following Fairfax, the SCV plans to roll out the system to other Juvenile courts throughout the state.

JDRDC/Police Video Intake Pilot

The Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court (JDRDC) has partnered with Fairfax County's Mount Vernon Police Precinct, State Police, and Fairfax County's Department of Information Technology (DIT) to initiate a Police Video Intake process for issuing Emergency Protective Orders and Preliminary Protective Orders for victims of domestic violence. Using software purchased through the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), *VIACK*, a video conferencing occurs between the victim, the Domestic Violence Detective, and the Victim Witness Assistance Counselor at the Mount Vernon District Station, and the JDRDC Intake Officer at the Fairfax County Courthouse. The victim is interviewed, and an affidavit is prepared and electronically signed in support of the Petition for Family Abuse and an application for the protective order. The forms are transmitted through *VIACK*, and submitted to the JDRDC Chambers Judge immediately for consideration of issuance. The Judge's decision, signature, and the subsequent court orders are scanned into and transmitted back to the victim through *VIACK*.

GENERAL DISTRICT COURT (GDC)

E-Summons/Police & Court Scheduling System

The E-Summons/Police & Court Scheduling System is a collaborative project between the General District Court and Fairfax County Police Department to allow electronic summoning and coordinated scheduling for police officers and court docket.

GDIS – General District Imaging System

The General District Court and Fairfax County's Department of Information Technology (DIT) are discussing the opportunity to extend the existing partnership with the Supreme Court of Virginia (SCV) to implement a *Case Imaging System* for scanning, imaging and retention of court documents. The General District Imaging System (GDIS) implementation will be modeled after the success of JDIS and other General District Court rollouts throughout the State, but will require customization for Fairfax. The scanning and imaging system is already in use for several General District Courts in Virginia.

