

County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

Courtroom Digital Audio Recording (C-DAR)

The Court Technology Office (CrTO) is chartered to pilot a centralized Courtroom Digital Audio Recording (C-DAR) solution with the Fairfax County Circuit Court & Records (CCR). Digital audio recording technology uses professional-level audio equipment, and specialized hardware and software to record courtroom proceedings. The project will establish the viability of an enterprise-class solution offering centralized recording, monitoring and system management supporting multiple courtrooms.

The C-DAR Project Team has implemented a pilot solution from a leading digital audio recording vendor that integrates with the existing courthouse/courtroom infrastructure, both inside and outside of the courtroom. In addition, the pilot has successfully tested and integrated the use of secure cloud-based services for archiving digital recordings, and requesting same-day or on-demand transcription.

The pilot solution provides integrated playback and log note capabilities, and includes visual aids representing recording and data replication activity. Roll based access and permissions grants specific system functionality based on user type such as Judges, Clerks, Court Reporters, Court Staff, Attorneys, etc. Functionality includes reviewing, annotating, monitoring, managing, and system administration such as configuration, archival, expunging and distribution. Court reporters have been provided workstations outside the pilot courtrooms to monitor live and recorded audio from multiple courtrooms simultaneously.

Testing and live piloting began on February 1, 2012, and continues through June 1, 2012, in Circuit Court courtrooms 4J and 5J. The project serves as a prototype, and assists with the development of longer range plans to utilize digital audio recording technology. A post pilot evaluation will determine the feasibility of implementing a longer term recording solution for Fairfax County Courts.



The Courtroom Digital Audio Recording (C-DAR) project meets 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.

For more information visit: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/courts/crto



Circuit Court & Records

General District Court

Juvenile & Domestic
Relations District Court



Department of Information
Technology (DIT)
Court Technology Office

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