

Courthouse

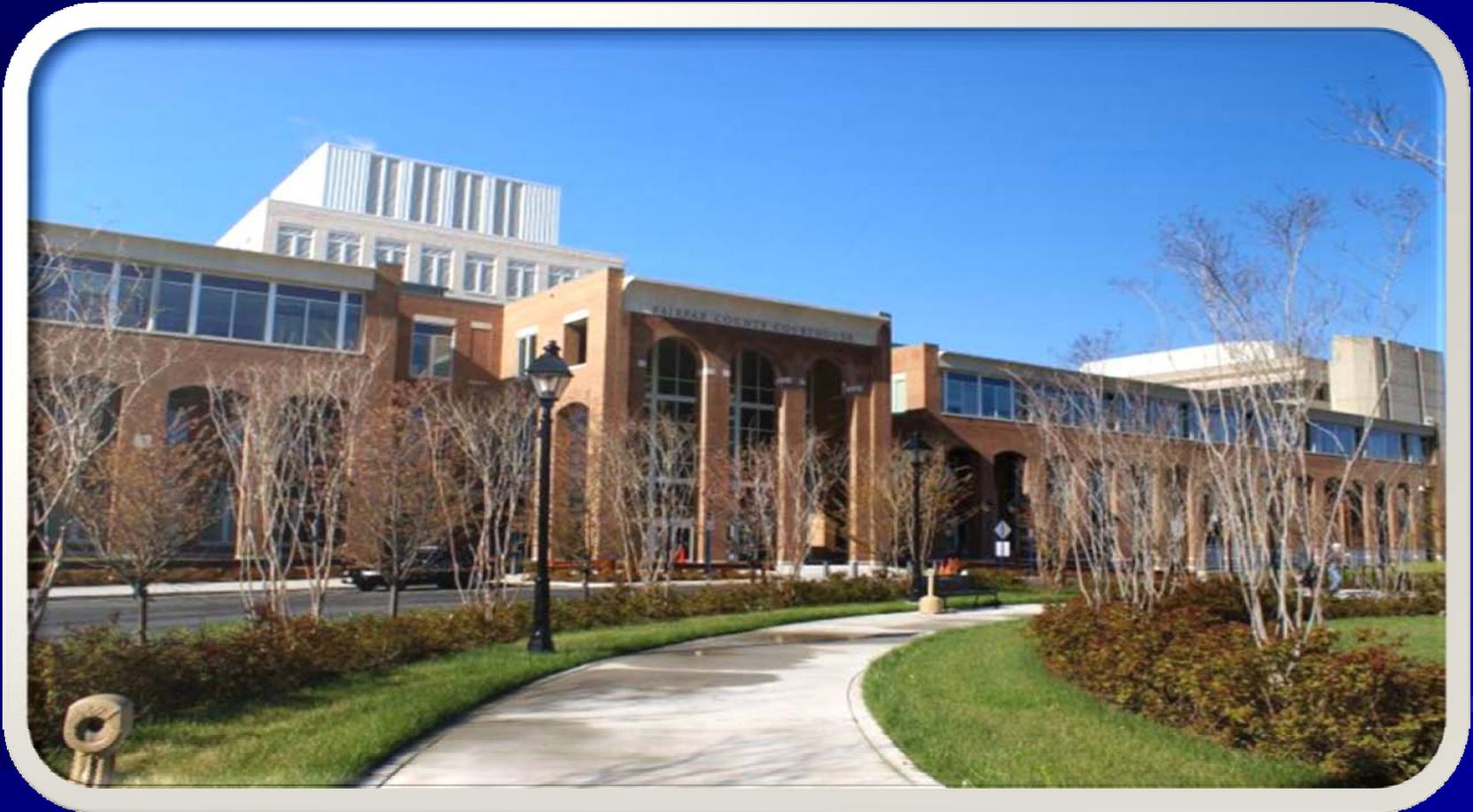
Construction/Renovation & Technology



Center for Legal & Court Technology

May 2011

Fairfax County Courthouse



Fairfax County, Virginia



Agenda

1. Background
2. Construction & Renovation
3. Planning & Organization
4. Communication
5. Lessons Learned
6. Conclusion



Background Fairfax County, VA



- Location – Northern Virginia
- Geography – 400 square miles, shares border with Washington D.C.
- Population – exceeds 1 million
- Annual budget – nearly \$3.5 billion



Background Courthouse

- 575,000 SF
 - 40 Courtrooms, Law Library, Constitutional Offices
- Courthouse Expansion
 - Added 325,000 SF and 14 new courtrooms
- Courtroom Renovations
 - 26 existing courtrooms



Background Courts

19th Judicial Circuit and District Courts

■ Circuit Court & Records

➤ **18 courtrooms** (*21,000 to 24,000 cases per year*)

■ General District Court

➤ **13 courtrooms** (*Traffic 1,500 to 2,000 cases per day*)

■ Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court

➤ **9 courtrooms** (*30,000 cases per year*)



Background Court Technology



The Court Technology Office (CrTO) was developed in partnership between the three Fairfax County Courts and the Fairfax County Department of Information Technology (DIT).



Background Court Technology



Primary objectives:

- Improve citizens access to the courts
- Facilitate trials and hearings
- Share common resources
- Consistency, flexibility, adaptability, scalability



Construction





Construction 2004





Construction 2005





Construction 2006





Construction 2007





Construction 2008





Construction





Renovation 2009





Renovation 2010





Renovation 2010





Renovation 2011





Planning & Organization

■ Stakeholders

- Judicial
- Executive
- Public Works
- Architect
- Construction
- Technology
- Sheriff
- Other



Planning & Organization

■ Stakeholders

- **Judicial** = 3 Courts, 3 Chief Judges, 3 Clerk of Courts
- **Executive** = County Executive, Chief Technology Officer
- **Public Works** = Construction Project Manager
- **Architect** = AV Design, Infrastructure Design
- **Construction** = General Contractor, many subcontractors
- **Technology** = IT Staff, Integration contractor
- **Sheriff** = Court Security, Detention Center
- **Other** = Commonwealth's Attorney, Bar Association, Police



Planning & Organization

■ Issues and Concerns

- Who is in charge?
- Conflicting agendas?
- Who approves changes?
- Who fixes/corrects things?
- Who updates the schedule?
- How are documents managed?

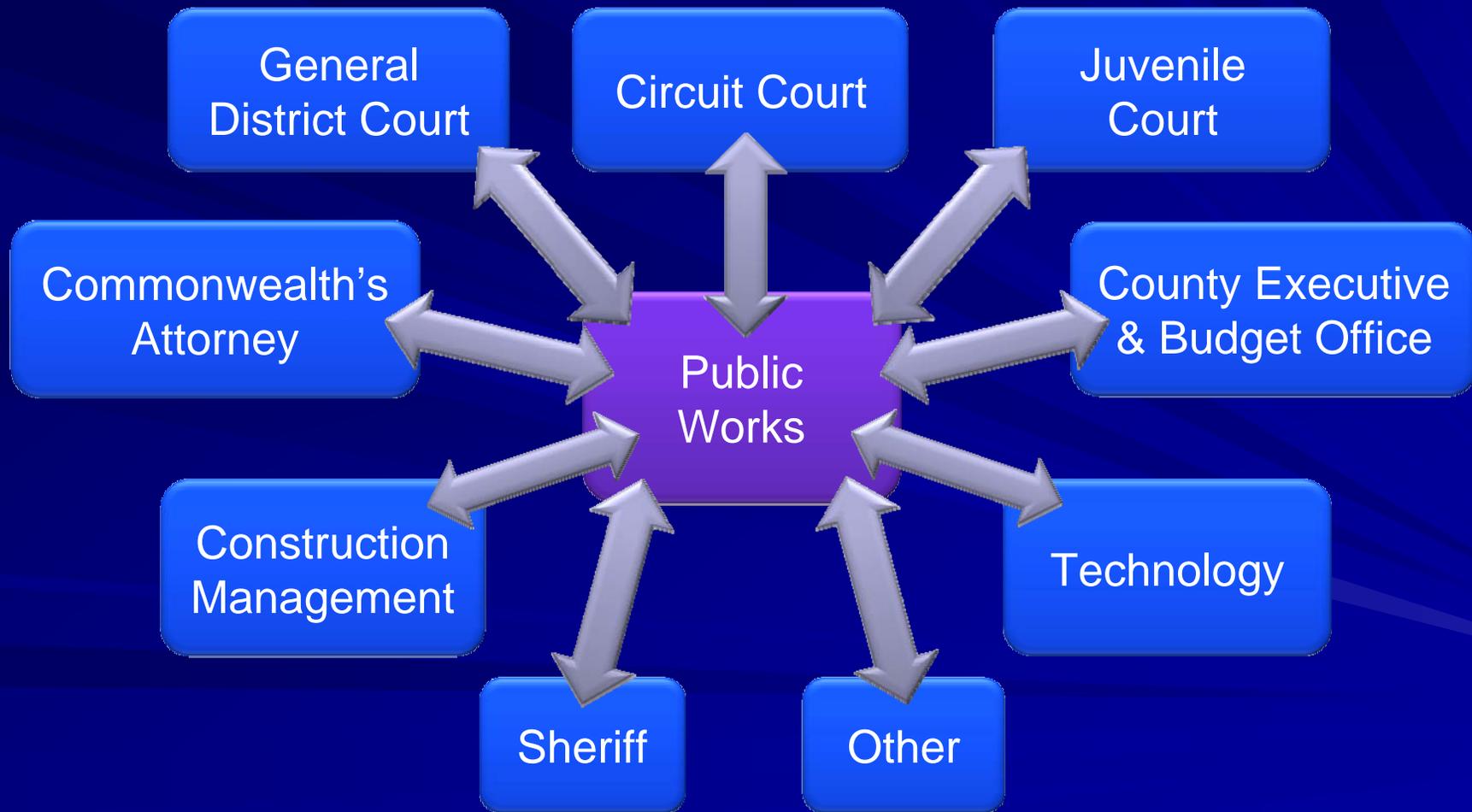


Planning & Organization

- Stakeholders Understanding of Project
 - Do stakeholders understand the unique requirements of Courts?
 - Do stakeholders understand how technology fits in?
 - Are “they” really going to use the technology?
 - How do you plan for growth?

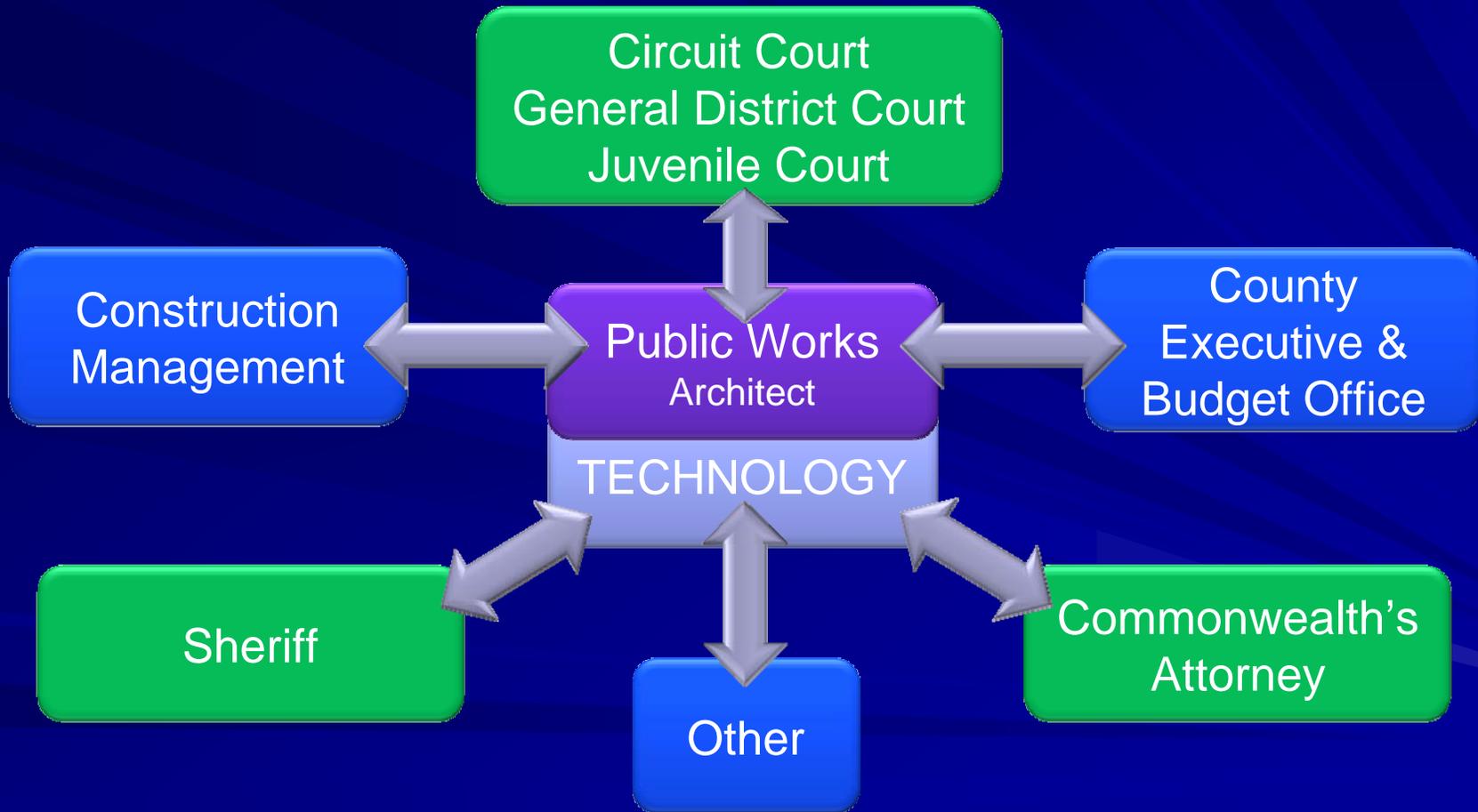


Communication Typical





Communication Recommended





Communication Who SAID What?

- **S**chedules
- **A**rchitecture
- **I**nfrasturcture
- **D**ocumentation



Communication

Who SAID What?

■ Schedules

- Conflicting schedules
 1. Technology schedule dependent upon other tasks
- Technology Integration begins when?
 1. Substantial completion date
 2. Occupancy permit
 3. Final completion



Communication

Who SAID What?

■ **A**rchitecture

- Who does the architect report to?
- Does the architect truly understand your court's technology?
- Work as closely with the architect as you can



Communication

Who SAID What?

- **I**nfrasturcture
 - Conduit, junction boxes
 - Raised floors
 - Dark fiber
 - Flat screen support
 - Speakers



Communication

Who SAID What?

■ Documentation

- Review blueprints and specifications at each step in the design and construction process
- Implement and enforce version control
- Mark-ups and changes **MUST** propagate
- Take detailed notes and maintain email trail



Lessons Learned Picture Gallery





Lessons Learned



Sight Lines



Write Lines



Lessons Learned



Jury Box



Lessons Learned



Remote Witness



Lessons Learned



Remote Witness



Lessons Learned





Lessons Learned



Peek-In



Lessons Learned



Tech Room



Tech Portal



Lessons Learned





Lessons Learned



Raised Floor



Conduit



Lessons Learned



Shelled Courtrooms





Lessons Learned



Main Entrance



Lessons Learned



Information Desk



Lessons Learned



Parking Lot



Lessons Learned

- Successful Projects Require:
 - Clear and concise communication structure
 - Understand how decisions impact others
 - Judicial and Executive endorsement
 - Full-time dedication & support
 - Recognize problems you may cause



Lessons Learned

■ Have a Plan:

- Ensure everyone is on the same plan
- Establish clear lines of communication
- Plan for growth and changes in technology
- Do not sacrifice infrastructure
- Strive for consistency, standardization
- Document, document, document



Conclusion

- Do not feel like you're supposed to know everything
- Do not count on others to understand unique requirements of Courts
- Do not count on others to understand how technology fits in
- Take advantage of your court network
- Take time to visit and ask questions



Conclusion



See the Big Picture!



Questions

