



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

As of July 17, 2012

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### **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, Circuit Court & Records (CCR), General District Court (GDC), Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court (JDRDC), 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 CTMS offers integrated evidence presentation, laptop interface, and video teleconference capabilities for hearings, trials and arraignments. The custom built CTMS allows all high-tech courtrooms to share a common infrastructure through a centralized Master Control Room. The distributed environment provides consistency, standardization, and scalability between all courtrooms, and is designed to meet future growth and changes in technology.

All CTMS courtrooms include multiple flat-screen displays allowing the judge, jury and gallery to view unobstructed presentations of evidence with the ability to pause, enhance, annotate and print. The courtrooms contain touch-screen panels for the judge, clerk and users (i.e., attorneys) to manage multiple microphones and video displays located at the judges' bench, clerks' station, court recorder station, attorney tables and podium, jury box and spectator gallery. Prisoner arraignments are conducted on a daily basis both locally and remotely from any of the high-tech courtrooms saving significant staff and travel time. The evidence presentation system provides for various electronic evidence sources including CD/DVD/VCR, document camera, enhanced x-ray, computer video and multi-audio interface with annotation and printing capabilities.

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 for three additional high-tech Courtrooms: 5D and 5C at the Circuit Court, and 1A for the General District Court. All three courtrooms were completely gutted so as to replace major mechanical systems to include heating/air conditioning, improved lighting, satisfy ADA requirements, enhanced security system, and improved acoustics. The renovations also included necessary finishing work needed to refinish judges' benches, jury and gallery seating, wall paneling, paint, carpet, etc.

Completion of these courtrooms makes three additional high-tech courtrooms available for use, and includes integration with the Court's centralized Courtroom Technology Management System framework. All new and renovated courtrooms share a common technology infrastructure with distributed audio and video services routed through a centralized Master Control Room.

Upon completion of renovation efforts, 17 high-tech courtrooms (Circuit Court – 4, General District Court – 4, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court – 9) are available within the 40 courtroom facility. Renovation efforts for Courtroom 5F at the Circuit Court are in progress. Future courtroom renovations are under consideration (for the remaining 22 non-tech courtrooms), but not currently funded.

### ***CTMS – Enhanced Court Interpreting (ECI)***

The ECI project is underway to provide a technological solution to enhance the interpreting process in the courtrooms and the Adult Detention Center (ADC) for all three Fairfax County Courts. The ECI project is a collaborative effort including judges, court staff, sheriff's office, technical staff and courtroom interpreters, and was assembled to research and determine methods that would provide the most optimal interpreting solutions to integrate with the existing Courtroom Technology Management System (CTMS).

The ECI project solution includes the utilization and integration of both wired and wireless capabilities. The project team is piloting the solution in courtrooms 2J and 2K for General District Court, 3H for Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court and 5J for Circuit Court. A successful pilot will determine the most optimal solution for the 17 high-tech CTMS courtrooms and future high-tech courtrooms. The project team will address non-tech courtrooms and remote interpreting in a future phase of the project.

### ***CTMS – Courtroom Digital Audio Recording (C-DAR)***

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. 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. Workstations have been setup outside the pilot courtrooms to monitor live and recorded audio from multiple courtrooms simultaneously.

The project team successfully piloted the solution in Circuit Court courtrooms 4J and 5J. In addition, the project piloted the use of secure cloud-based services for archiving digital recordings and same-day or on-demand transcription. A post pilot evaluation is ongoing and will determine the feasibility of expanding the C-DAR solution for remaining high-tech Circuit Court courtrooms. The project team will address non-tech courtrooms in a future phase of the project.

### ***CTMS – Enhanced Annotation Pilot***

Enhanced annotation hardware from various manufacturers have been researched and tested in Courtroom 3K. This next generation equipment adds annotation capability at the judge's bench and improves the quality of the graphics while offering more features and functionality for presentation with annotation. Final testing of the selected product is near completion. Once completed this product will be selected for upgrades and future courtroom renovations.



### ***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. The iPad offers the potential for expanded use within the courtrooms. The CrTO will continue evaluation and testing of the iPad, as well as alternative products.

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## **PUBLIC ACCESS TECHNOLOGIES**

### ***Wireless in Courtrooms***

Fairfax County continues to review wireless capabilities and the use of personal hand held devices in the courthouse and courtrooms. The Fairfax Bar Association and other entities continue to lobby the courts to allow the use of wireless internet access in the courtrooms. A committee of Circuit Court judges has concluded that wireless internet activity will 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 Docket Displays & Wayfinding***

The Fairfax County Courts utilize electronic docket displays throughout the courthouse. The docket displays show real-time case information identifying the case number, parties involved (unless sealed), courtroom and time. The Fairfax County Circuit Court operates a custom case management system integrated with a third-party supported electronic docket display system, Infax DocketCall. DocketCall is a multi-featured application with integrated support for displaying information on multiple displays and integrated with a docket database providing real-time status of case information rendered evenly across a bank of docket displays.

The Fairfax County General District Court and Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court have implemented an in-house docket display solution developed by the Supreme Court of Virginia (SCV). Both District Courts already utilize the State's Case Management System (CMS) which eliminates the dependency for a third party supported system. The SCV System is hosted in a Digital Media Manager (DMM) platform located in Richmond, VA and reads SCV CMS docket data through a web-based application. Digital Media Players (DMP) render the content on the docket displays from the web pages made available by the DMM.

Future efforts will focus on expanding the capabilities of the existing systems to include individual courtroom docket displays and other strategic docketing locations in and around the courthouse.

### ***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 highly accessed 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 to evaluate and demonstrate product capabilities.

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## 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](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, 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, seven days a week, twenty four hours a day, saving businesses time and money while 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***

Using Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology, the Fairfax County Circuit Court & Records, in collaboration with the Department of Information Technology (DIT), has implemented a case file tracking system to locate court files. Court files are systematically tracked by attaching RF tags to the file folder that can be monitored and detected by strategically placed wireless access points. The range of these strategically placed access points cover all department entry and exits as well as other specific areas to ensure optimum coverage and maximum reliability. File tracking software (FileTrail) is utilized to identify existing and previous folder locations. The application significantly minimizes staff time spent searching for and locating misplaced files.

### ***Online Scheduling System (OSS)***

The Fairfax County Circuit Court offers an On-Line Scheduling System (OSS) to allow attorneys to schedule their own non-domestic, civil case trial dates (both jury and non-jury) on-line. The OSS was developed in a collaborative effort with the Fairfax County Department of Information Technology (DIT) with the goal of saving attorneys and court staff time and money 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*

Fairfax County's Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court (JDRDC) and the Department of Information Technology (DIT) continue to collaborate with the Supreme Court of Virginia's (SCV) Office of the Executive Secretary to implement a case imaging system for the scanning, retention, and electronic viewing of court documents. The Juvenile and Domestic Imaging System (JDIS) is a custom built SCV solution that utilizes off-the-shelf software modified by SCV programming staff that includes built-in interfaces with the existing SCV Case Management System (CMS), and other requirements unique to Fairfax County. Phase I of the project is in production, and captures all juvenile traffic related case documents. Phase II is underway including an interactive docket view, improved clerk scanning and search capabilities, and will expand the capabilities of the existing system by incorporating adult criminal warrants, and include access to remaining court services.

JDIS has significantly improved the reliability of the Court Services Unit (CSU) receiving cases placed on probation from the Court through the Clerk's Office. The JDIS enhancement was in response to an increasing number of cases previously dismissed where the court order was not received nor did the defendant report for supervision. The court now has three ways of receiving court ordered probation cases; client reports in person with copy of order, copy of order sent to CSU, and electronic copy of order sent to CSU. Future enhancement phases of JDIS will provide the capability to have reports created to automatically run against SCV reports that will accurately show the status of each case, where probation was ordered, and an electronic order received by the CSU.

JDIS has successfully demonstrated the capability to scan, image, capture, and electronically retrieve court documents. Fairfax County is the first Juvenile Court in the state to implement the case imaging system. Following Fairfax, the SCV plans to roll the system out to the Fairfax General District Court and 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 Preliminary Protective Orders for victims of domestic violence. Using software purchased through the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), VIA3, a video conference is arranged 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 a Petition for Family Abuse and an application for the Protective Order. The forms are transmitted through VIA3, 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 VIA3.

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## GENERAL DISTRICT COURT (GDC)

### *E-Summons/Police & Court Scheduling System*

The The Fairfax County General District Court, in conjunction with the Fairfax County Police Department and Department of Information Technology, developed an Electronic Summoning and Police and Court Scheduling System to allow electronic summoning and coordinated scheduling for



police officers and court docketing. The Fairfax County Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court (JDRDC) is reviewing and collaborating with DIT to modify the GDC application to meet the unique needs of the JDRDC.

### ***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.

