

NATIONAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE MODEL (NIEM)

WASHINGTON STATE NIEM PILOT DRIVER'S LICENSE PHOTO EXCHANGE

Synopsis

Every day and every hour, thousands of law enforcement officers across the country encounter violators who cannot produce verifiable identification, such as a driver's license or a state identification card. While some drivers honestly leave their licenses at home, others are less than truthful. This presents significant problems for law enforcement officers in the field. The purpose of this case study is to highlight the success of the development of NIEM 2.0-conformant Information Exchange Package Document (IEPD) for Law Enforcement Access to Driver's License Photos in Washington State.

Agency Overview

Statewide justice information sharing and integration efforts in Washington State are coordinated and overseen by the Justice Information Network (JIN) Board. The JIN Board is composed of state and local government representatives and is statutorily authorized to "develop and maintain, in a cost-effective manner, a statewide network of criminal justice information that enables sharing and integrated delivery of justice information maintained in the state's independent information systems." One approach to meeting the statutory objectives is to maximize the use of existing infrastructure and adopt national standards. The JIN Board facilitated this approach by adopting an



Executive Summary

Challenge

To take appropriate action, law enforcement officers across the country must have the ability to accurately and positively identify individuals. When an individual is unable to produce photo identification, this presents a significant challenge.

Solution

Establishment of a NIEM 2.0-conformant Information Exchange Package Documentation (IEPD) for driver's license photo exchange in Washington State.

Results

Creation of a NIEM 2.0-conformant IEPD for Driver's License Photo Sharing to provide law enforcement access to driver's license photos for positive identification. Completion of all required IEPD artifacts and development of an IEPD that will be posted on the U.S. Department of Justice IEPD Clearinghouse for use by other states.

Information Exchange Package Documentation (IEPD) policy that requires integration projects to follow a standard implementation process. This policy identifies the Global Justice XML Data Model (GJXDM) as the standard data definition and structure. Washington State managed this project through the JIN Program Office at the Department of Information Services (DIS). DIS provides staff support and expertise to the JIN Board.

This NIEM IEPD development project also involved business and technical representatives from justice and nonjustice, state and local government agencies, including the Lacey Police Department, Washington State Department of Information Services, Washington State Department of Licensing, King County Sheriff's Office, Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, and Washington State Patrol.

Challenge

Every day and every hour, thousands of law enforcement officers across the country encounter violators who cannot produce verifiable identification, such as a driver's license or a state identification card. While some drivers honestly leave their licenses at home, others are less than truthful. This presents significant problems for law enforcement officers in the field. To take appropriate action, law enforcement officers must have the ability to accurately and positively identify the individual in question. From writing a check to renting equipment, a driver's license is a fast, effective, and familiar method to verify a person's identity. Providing this verification to law enforcement officers in the field will help ensure that honest mistakes are treated as such and those that are less than honest will be further questioned.

Solution

The funds appropriated to the state of Washington through the National Governors Association (NGA) and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) were used to establish a pilot exchange project to develop the technical specifications for law enforcement to access drivers' photos. The pilot exchange project leveraged the emerging National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) 2.0 data standard and followed the Information Exchange Package Documentation (IEPD) process as described in the NIEM Implementation Guidelines. This ensured that all exchange documentation developed through this approach was aligned with national best practices and was available for use in other states and jurisdictions.

The IEPD was developed using established processes, including Unified Modeling Language (UML); mapping of the data definitions to the NIEM data dictionary; development of schemas, using the NIEM tool; and documentation and publication of IEPD artifacts and schemas to the U.S. Department of Justice IEPD Clearinghouse.

Results

Results of this project include creation of a NIEM 2.0-conformant IEPD for Driver's License Photo Exchange to provide law enforcement officers with access to driver's license photos for positive identification. Washington State has also completed all of the required IEPD artifacts and will publish the IEPD to the U.S. Department of Justice IEPD Clearinghouse for use by other states. Other benefits from this project include the development of standardized message specification for accessing drivers' photos, experience with NIEM, coordination among multiple stakeholders, and partnerships established with interstate initiatives, including the State, Regional, and Federal Enterprise Retrieval System (SRFERS) and Nlets—International Justice and Public Safety Network.

"One of the reasons we started using NIEM with driver's license photos was that it was a relatively small exchange and we wanted to keep it manageable. The process worked well. Our stakeholders are enthused about implementing this exchange.

This was our first time using NIEM, and I was impressed by the simplicity of the IEPD tools. We used ARGO UML, NIEMfarer, and the subset schema generation tool on the NIEM Web site—it basically does it all for you. I used the subset generation tool on the NIEM Web site, and it worked like a charm. I thought, is it really that easy?"

*—Mo West, Program Manager,
Justice Information Network*