Judicial Information System

Centralized or Decentralized

May 19, 2010

WASHINGTON COURTS

Presentation Topics

- Historical Review
- JIS Services and Funding
- Alternative Approaches
- Criteria for Future Decisions

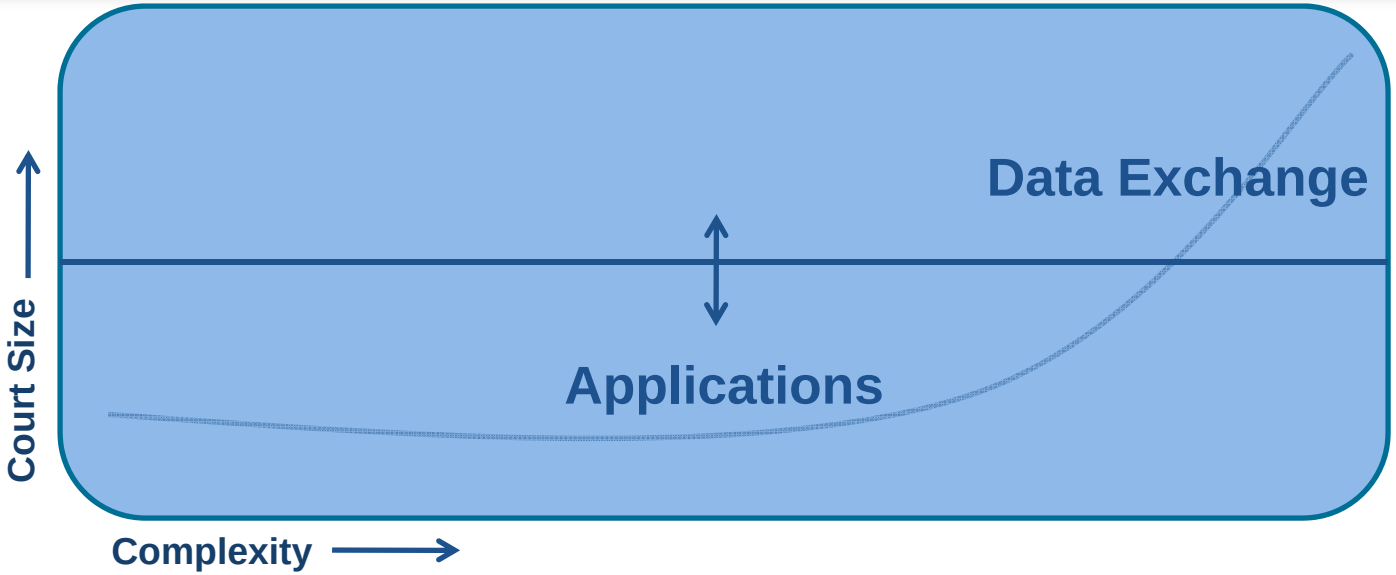
Historical Review

- **ADP and Permanent Funding Plan**
  - **JIS intended to improve management, operations and responsiveness of courts.**
  - **JIS intended to improve reporting capabilities.**
  - **Central system viewed as most cost-effective and most likely to result in intended benefits.**
  - **Best alternative for funding is court user fees.**

Historical Review

- 1976: LEAA Grants
- 1977-1981: SGF Appropriations
- 1980: $2 Superior Court fee to JIS Account
- 1981: Repeal JIS account, fee support through SGF
- 1984: Create PSEA, fees to support JIS and others
- 1989: JIS account (re)created, non-court user fees
- 1994: Repeal non-court user fees, add infraction penalties
- 2009: Repeal PSEA
- Today: Funded by SGF and JIS account

JIS Services and Funding



Statewide Data and Reporting

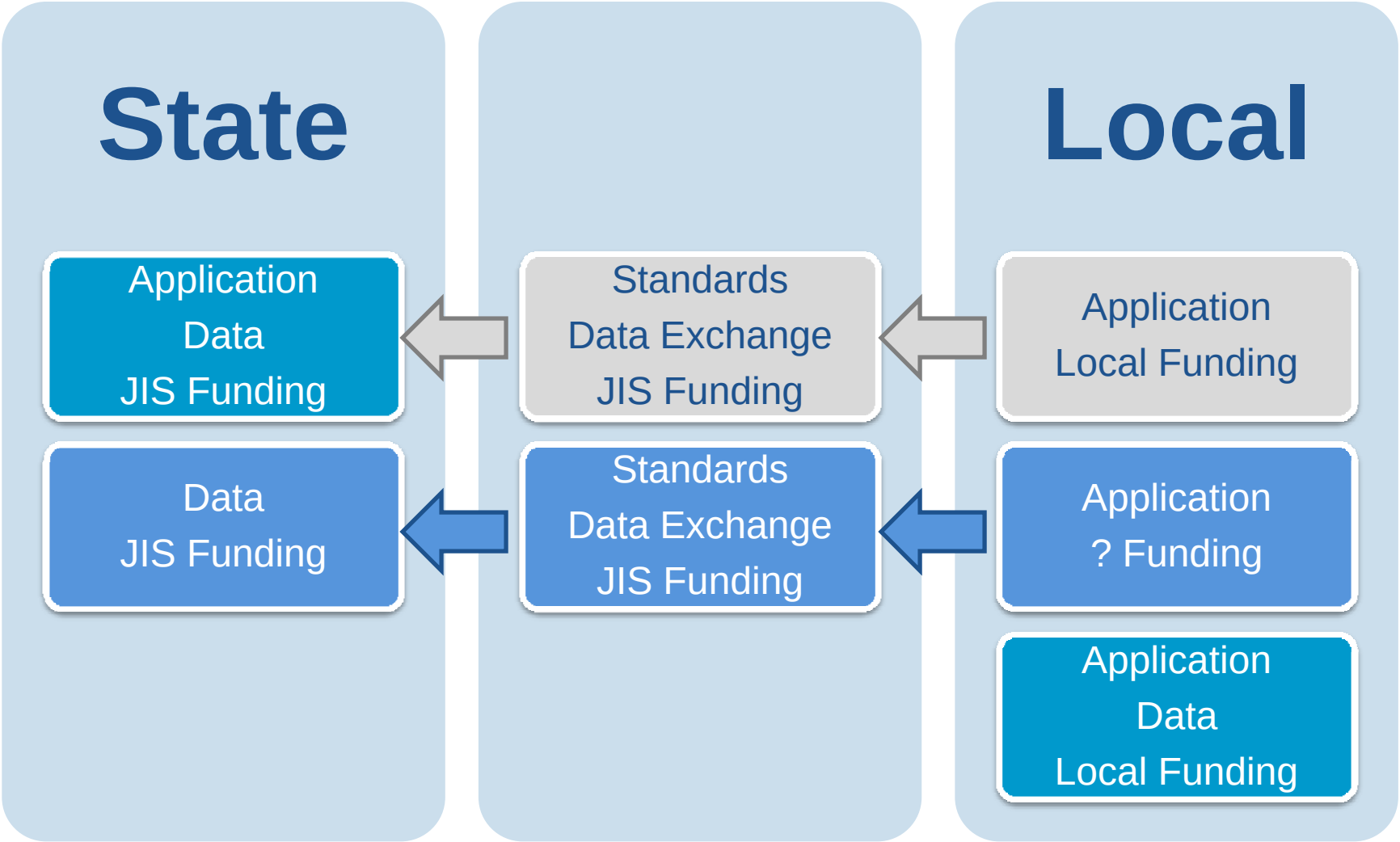
Infrastructure: Mainframes, IGN & Routers

Local Equipment: Laptops, Desktops & Printers

JIS Services and Funding

- **Data Exchanges**
  Vehicle Related Violations, DOL, DSHS, DOC, Federal Firearms, SCOMIS DX
- **Applications**
  DISCIS, SCOMIS, JRS, ACORDS, JCS, JABS, CAPS, Web applications, Internet, eTicketing
- **Data**
  Person, Accounting , Case/Docket, Data Warehouse
- **Equipment and Infrastructure**
  Network, JIS Equip Mgmt, Mainframe & Server, Data Exchange, Web services, Disaster Recovery

Alternative Approaches



Criteria for Future Decisions

- **Need for statewide data**
- **Degree of statewide need for service**
- **Cost**
- **Maturity of vendor market**

Historical Review

JIS Extended ADP Plan:

"From inception, the Judicial Information System project has been directed at improving the management, operation and responsiveness of the courts. It was recognized that automation would be essential, if the courts were to be successful in adopting a modern business approach to their work procedures."

Judicial Information System Extended ADP Plan , January, 1980 (With updates to May, 1, 1980).

Historical Review

JIS Extended ADP Plan:

"The benefits of the JIS development were generally regarded as follows:

Provide operational information to each court to increase administrative capabilities.

Improve the reporting capability to meet statutory mandates for information on the judicial branch to the Supreme Court, Legislature, Executive, and to the citizens of the State of Washington."

Judicial Information System Extended ADP Plan , January, 1980 (With updates to May, 1, 1980).

Historical Review

JIS Extended ADP Plan:

"The major, overall goals of the JIS project have been as follows:

Provide timely and accurate information necessary for the expeditious administration of justice in the courts of the State of Washington.

Improve court knowledge and responsiveness through greater data detail, currency and improved reliability both in court administration and judicial procedures.

Enhance the cost effectiveness of the court system through standardization of procedures and data elements, and improved technology for data collection, data handling and data retrieval.

Increase the effectiveness of the judicial process in Washington State by enhancing the availability of court information to the related entities of other courts, prosecutors, law enforcement and corrections organizations"

Judicial Information System Extended ADP Plan **, January, 1980 (With updates to May, 1, 1980).**

Historical Review

JIS Extended ADP Plan:

"Policies

To promote total commitment by the State judiciary in actively participating in the design, review and enhancement of JIS to ensure a continuing quality product."

Judicial Information System Extended ADP Plan , January, 1980 (With updates to May, 1, 1980).

Historical Review

JIS Permanent Funding Plan:

"It is important to note that the JIS concept includes a main computer facility, telephone lines to court sites, computer terminals, and staff to develop, operate, and maintain applications, as well as train court personnel."

Judicial Information System Permanent Funding Plan , August, 1980 .

Historical Review

JIS Permanent Funding Plan:

"Whether or not the individual state courts should be automated is no longer a question. With few exceptions, every medium to large-scale court in the state has investigated or planned to implement computerization to help cope with growing caseloads. The selections have ranged from limited functions available on prepackaged, vendor supplied mini-computers, to full-function court information systems developed by local county or city data processing staffs. The former typically have rigid structures incapable of being modified to meet the unique needs of Washington's courts. The latter have approached JIS goals in meeting local needs, but failed in providing any state-wide benefits. All have been expensive for the amount of services provided. In creating the JIS court rules, the Supreme Court has been successful in preventing the implementation of many dissimilar, non-standard systems which would be of great total cost to the judiciary, and local and state government."

***Judicial Information System Permanent Funding Plan*, August, 1980.**

Historical Review

JIS Permanent Funding Plan:

"Funds are derived from four levels or sources: federal, state and local governments as well as individual citizens. ***However, all funds ultimately come from the tax payer***." (emphasis added)

"Investigation reveals that allowing users of public services to pay for all or part of the cost of the services is a time-honored approach to permanent funding of government activities… …Therefore, it appears that litigant ordered user fees are already an acceptable and frequently used method."

Judicial Information System Permanent Funding Plan , August, 1980 .

Historical Review

JIS Permanent Funding Plan:

"A third alternative, and one that avoids the enormous task of budgeting within each of the many county governments, is to have the costs of JIS borne by the users of the courts. A direct litigant fee payment satisfactorily passes the evaluation of benefit (burden)–payment relationship, ease of collection, and the social acceptability of the potential funds sources. This alternative is superior to the present alternative of direct state appropriation because costs are borne by the user-beneficiary of the services, as opposed to being paid for by all state residents through tax monies. It is this alternative which the committee recommends."

Judicial Information System Permanent Funding Plan , August, 1980 .

Historical Review

- **1974**
  - SCOMIS committee created
- **1976**
  - LEAA Grant obtained
- **1977 - 1981**
  - State General Fund Appropriations

Historical Review

- **Chapter 70, Laws of 1980**
  - General filing fee increases
  - $2 of each superior court civil and probate filing fee shall be deposited in the JIS Account created in the state general fund

Historical Review

- **Chapter 330, Laws of 1981**
  - General superior court filing fee increases
  - $5 cost on CLJ criminal actions to SGF for JIS
  - JIS Account in State General Fund repealed, but retains allocation of portions of filing fees to fund JIS
  - JIS Appropriation and FTE allocation to AOC from State General Fund
  - Directs Legislative Budget Committee study of JIS

Historical Review

- **Chapter 258, Laws of 1984**
  - Creates PSEA to fund traffic safety education, criminal justice training, crime victims' compensation, judicial education, **the judicial information system**, winter recreation parking, and state game programs
  - Initiates funding by $10 surcharge on traffic infractions, with increases established by court rule
  - Repeals $5 CLJ criminal cost for JIS (3.62.080)
  - 35% of fees under 36.18.020 to PSEA

Historical Review

- **Chapter 364, Laws of 1989**
  - Recreates the JIS Account as codified in Chapter 2.68 RCW
  - The Legislature shall appropriate funds from the account for JIS
  - The JISC shall develop a schedule of user fees for in-state non-court users and all out-of-state users of JIS and charges for JIS products and licenses for the purpose of apportioning the full cost of the operation and development of JIS among all users.

Historical Review

- **Chapter 8, Laws of 1994**
  - Repeals JIS Account funding with non-court user fee schedule.
  - Initiates funding by $10 surcharge on traffic infractions, with increases established by court rule.

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Historical Review

- **Chapter 479, Laws of 2009**
  - PSEA repealed as part of larger measure to repeal dedicated accounts, thus increasing the state debt limit and deposits to the state budget stabilization account