



THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF
CALIFORNIA
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA
94102-3688
Tel 415-865-4200
TDD 415-865-4272
Fax 415-865-4205
www.courts.ca.gov

FACT SHEET

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Appellate California Case Management System

The Appellate Court Case Management System (ACCMS) is the primary business system for the Supreme Court and the District Courts of Appeal used to track and manage case processing. ACCMS was developed by the Judicial Council of California Information Technology Services Office, working closely with staff in the Courts of Appeal and the Supreme Court. The ACCMS development team provides primary production support to court operations by assisting the appellate courts with modification of configurable automation rules for court business processes; maintenance of shared reference information; and development of customized data reports. Changes are deployed through quarterly releases and critical patches. This centralized Web-based application is hosted at the California Courts Technology Center, which is the branch's Tier 1 data center, allowing the courts to leverage the center's hosting infrastructure, 24/7 operational support, and automated monitoring capabilities.

Key Features

Streamlined Navigation and Data Entry

ACCMS is a Web-based application that is designed to allow users to efficiently navigate through the application. On the Home Page, links are displayed to a user's twenty-five most recently accessed cases. System alerts also notify users about special events that have occurred in a case that may require special attention. Case titles must adhere to particular patterns defined by the California Style Manual; ACCMS lets a user click a button to generate Style Manual compliant titles using the party information for a case. In ACCMS, a user can display the description for system code abbreviations using a mouse-over, allowing for efficient use of screen space while supporting users who are less familiar with the system. ACCMS can also automatically extend case event deadlines that would otherwise fall on a weekend or holiday to the next court business day.

Event Rules Automation (for Court Business Processes)

ACCMS allows each court the flexibility to define event rules to automate court business processes. For example, when receiving briefs from one party, the court can configure the system to automatically schedule a deadline for receipt of a responding brief from the opposing party and generate a letter, using a document template, to inform all parties about the new deadline.

Document Generation

ACCMS has a lightweight embedded document editor that allows each court to define and edit document templates. Case data can then be merged with templates to produce letters, court orders, checklists, operational documents, and reports. The documents are generated in Rich Text Format, making them editable in any standard word processing program (such as Microsoft Word) and can attach the documents to the case for later reference.

Attached Documents

Documents are stored in the OnBase Document Management System (DMS) and are related to cases or specific case events in ACCMS. Prior to ACCMS, court users would store documents on a variety of network shares or desktop computers, forcing them to rely on paper copy documents from the case file. With ACCMS, users can now quickly find, review, and collaborate on documents through links within the case window.

Data exchanges

By being a single repository for data across all appellate courts, ACCMS creates a platform for exchanging data between the Courts of Appeal and the Supreme Court. The system also uses standards-based technologies, which will facilitate communication between trial court and appellate court systems and integration between the courts and other justice partners using the judicial branch's new Integration Services Backbone (ISB).

Ability to address future needs

Since ACCMS was developed in-house by JCC staff, modifications can be made to the application to address future court needs. Also, changes are implemented in a single production instance of the code, instead of requiring installation on each user's desktop as is the case with the current client-server applications, resulting in greater flexibility and a faster rollout of fixes and features.

Use of Enterprise Technology

ACCMS is hosted at the California Courts Technology Center (CCTC), allowing the courts to leverage the data center's advanced hosting infrastructure; 24/7 operational support; and automated monitoring capabilities. The CCTC enables ACCMS to operate in a high availability configuration and provides redundant disaster recovery services which will allow operations to resume within 72 hours, even in the event of a catastrophic emergency at the primary data center.

Development & Deployment Timeline

2002–2005: Requirements, design, build, testing, and user testing of the ACCMS.

May 2006–September 2007: On-boarding of the 6 Appellate districts.

March 2009: On-boarding of the Supreme Court.

September 2013–March 2014: Successfully developed and implemented an e-filing module and data exchange for the First District Court of Appeals.

February 2015–October 2017: Rollout of e-filing to remaining Appellate districts and the Supreme Court.

April 2018–September 2019: Successfully developed and implemented the OnBase Document Management System (DMS) for two pilot courts, Third District Court of Appeals and the Firth District Court of Appeals.

January 2020–October 2020: Rollout of DMS to remaining Appellate districts and the Supreme Court.

Status

ACCMS has been deployed to all of the Courts of Appeal and the Supreme Court. Approximately 1,000 court staff regularly access ACCMS on a daily basis.