



Judicial Council of California

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INVITATION TO COMMENT

SP23-02

Title

Tactical Plan for Technology 2023–2024

Action Requested

Review and submit comments by April 27, 2023

Proposed Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes

N/A

Proposed Effective Date

July 24, 2023 (pending Judicial Council approval)

Proposed by

Tactical Plan Workstream
Information Technology Advisory
Committee
Hon. Sheila F. Hanson, Chair

Contact

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Executive Summary and Origin

As part of its annual agenda, the Information Technology Advisory Committee initiated a workstream to update the *Tactical Plan for Technology*. After analyzing the updated *Strategic Plan for Technology*,¹ evaluating existing and new tactical initiatives, the Tactical Plan Workstream now requests your input on the proposed *Tactical Plan for Technology 2023–2024*.

Please review and respond with your comments by **Thursday, April 27, at 5:00 p.m.** You may submit comments by email to itac@jud.ca.gov.

Background

The *Court Technology Governance and Funding Model* directs that the Judicial Council adopt a *Tactical Plan for Technology* every two years.² It assigns the Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC) the responsibility of developing, seeking input on, and publishing the

¹ Available at www.courts.ca.gov/documents/jctc-Court-Technology-Strategic-Plan.pdf.

² Judicial Council of Cal., *Technology Governance and Funding Model* (Oct. 2, 2014), p. 41,

www.courts.ca.gov/documents/jctc-Court-Technology-Governance-Funding-Model.pdf

This proposal has not been approved by the Judicial Council and is not intended to represent the views of the council, its Rules Committee, or its Legislation Committee. It is circulated for comment purposes only.

Tactical Plan for Technology. Building on the *Strategic Plan for Technology 2023–2026*, the *Tactical Plan for Technology 2023–2024* describes the focused efforts on technology solutions that further the administration of justice and meet the needs of the people of California.

Summary of Proposed Updates

As with the recently updated four-year *Strategic Plan for Technology*, the updated two-year tactical plan is future focused, more succinct, and accessible to a broader audience. The Tactical Plan Workstream reviewed and evaluated the previous tactical plan, assessing which activities have been completed and which should be extended into the new plan. The workstream reaffirmed that most of the initiatives were still relevant and updated the plan to reflect the next stage of progress needed. Additionally, the workstream stressed the importance of branch collaboration as a central theme throughout the plan, rather than as a standalone initiative.

Most notably, in this draft, the workstream included two significant improvements to the plan: (1) it aligns with the more recently adopted California Courts Connected framework,³ the branch model of the foundational technology systems needed to operate courts and how those systems can be extended to provide digital services for the public and justice system partners; and (2) it includes proposed metrics for each initiative to help in measuring branch progress in the future.

Review and Input Requested

The Tactical Plan Workstream requests broad input on the draft *Tactical Plan for Technology 2023–2024* by **April 27, 2023**. This plan helps provide a branch road map for the use of technology and innovation to improve access to justice.

We value your input and believe that it is critical to incorporate feedback from throughout the branch, our judicial partners, and the public on this plan.

Attachments and Links

1. *Tactical Plan for Technology 2023–2024*

³ Available at www.courts.ca.gov/documents/California-Courts-Connected-Framework.pdf.



Tactical Plan for Technology

2023-2024

**DRAFT
FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**



JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF CALIFORNIA

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Introduction

[Content for introduction to be added following public comment.]

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Technology Strategic Plan 2023–2026

Executive Summary



Vision

Through collaboration, innovation, and initiative at a branchwide and local level, the judicial branch adopts and uses technology to improve access to justice and provide a broader range and higher quality of services to litigants, attorneys, justice partners, and the public.

Principles

ACCESS

Provided accessible and easy-to-use systems for all persons seeking services from the courts.

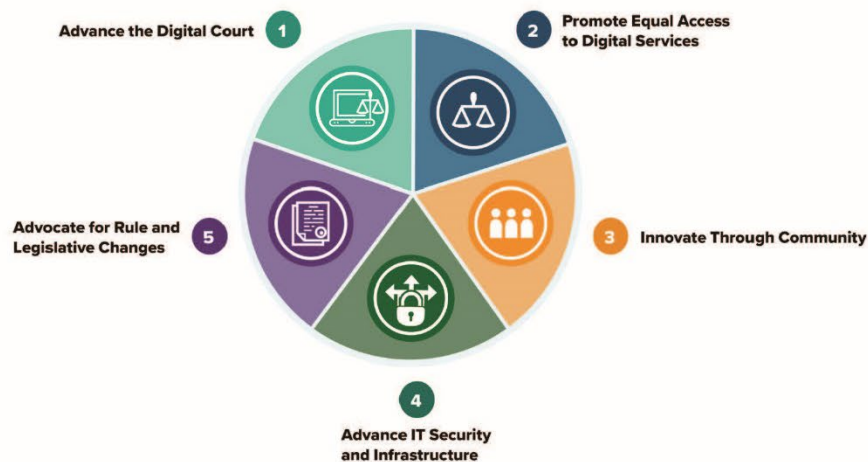
RELIABILITY

Maintain a well-architected, secure, and reliable technical infrastructure.

INNOVATION

Foster a culture of innovation through planning, collaboration, and education to enhance court services and operations.

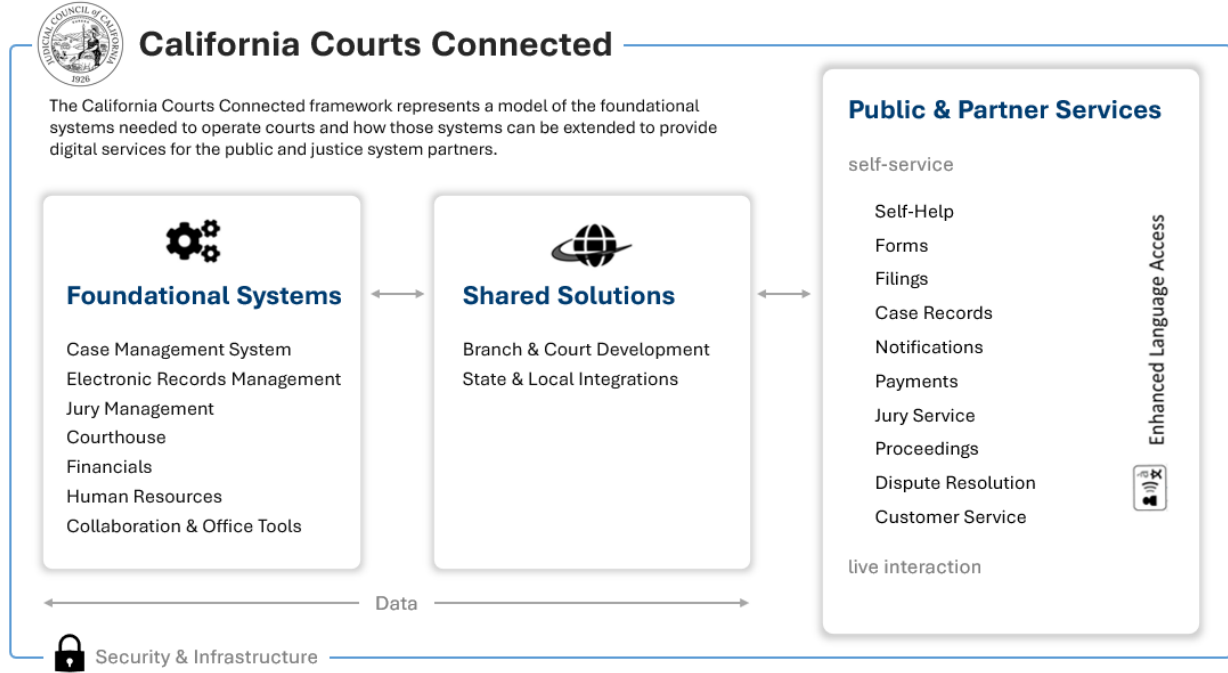
Goals



- 1 Advance the Digital Court**
Gain operational efficiencies and provide consistent and reliable digital services to all.
- 2 Promote Equal Access to Digital Services**
Promote digital services that are accessible to all, regardless of location, socioeconomic status, language, physical ability, or technological access or experience.
- 3 Innovate Through Community**
Maximize the ability to innovate through collaboration, education, and investment in the skills and talents needed to propel technological advancement.
- 4 Advance IT Security and Infrastructure**
Invest in a high-performing technology infrastructure that secures and protects data, privacy, and confidentiality.
- 5 Advocate for Rule and Legislative Changes**
Identify, promote, and support legislation, rules, and procedures that improve court operations and the delivery of services using technology.

California Courts Connected Framework

This framework represents the full scope of solutions needed for courts to effectively operate and provide digital services to the public and justice partners. The framework allows courts to identify focus areas and their alignment to strategic and tactical priorities.



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Tactical Plan for Technology Alignment to the California Courts Connected Framework

Foundational Systems

Courts require foundational systems that enable judicial officers, court operations, and administrative units to effectively perform their work.

- [Case Management System Modernization and Improvement \(1\)](#)¹
- [Expanded Use of Electronic Records \(1, 2\)](#)
- [Enterprise Resource Management \(1\)](#)

Shared Solutions

Reusable integration frameworks allow courts to create efficiencies between state and local partners and share common digital services across courts.

- [Shared Integrations \(1, 2, 3\)](#)

Public and Partner Services

Courts strive to meet the needs of the public and partners in the justice system using enhanced digital solutions that accommodate language access needs.

- [Enhanced Self-Help Services \(1, 2\)](#)
- [Remote Appearances \(1, 2, 5\)](#)
- [Electronic Evidence Management \(1, 2\)](#)
- [Language Access Technology \(1, 2\)](#)

Security & Infrastructure

A modern, secure, and highly available technical infrastructure is needed for courts to provide access to internally and externally facing applications.

- [Network Infrastructure \(4\)](#)
- [Modern Hosting Solutions \(4\)](#)
- [Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity \(4\)](#)
- [Identity Management \(4\)](#)
- [Branchwide Information Security \(4\)](#)

Data & Governance

Continual evaluation of rules and laws, along with the use of data analytics, helps identify opportunities to improve service delivery and remove barriers to access.

- [Modernize Rules and Legislation \(5\)](#)
- [Data Analytics: Governance and Sharing \(1, 3\)](#)

¹ (#) indicates Strategic Plan Goal alignment.

Foundational Systems

Case Management System Modernization and Improvement

Description

Case management systems are foundational to preserving the integrity of court records, achieving operational efficiencies, and enabling expanded access and services to the public. Many trial courts have replaced their legacy systems and are working to complete their transition to these new more efficient systems. It is imperative that all remaining legacy systems be replaced, and that courts commit to continuously improving their case management systems by leveraging new functionality and staying current on available releases.

Collaboration within the branch is key. Courts are encouraged to leverage the collective knowledge and experience of the judicial branch community in order to accelerate case management system improvement and modernization.

Benefits

- Allows courts to optimize resources by automating manual tasks.
- Establishes the foundation needed to expand digital access and services.
- Allows courts to easily access records with greater flexibility and efficiency.
- Improves ability to respond to legislative proposals and requirements.
- Allows courts to collaborate on development and enhancements.
- Provides opportunities to capture accurate and comprehensive data for better reporting and analysis.
- Supports data exchanges with state and local justice partners.

Goals and Objectives

- Continue implementation and improvement of CMS systems.
- Develop streamlined methodologies for CMS testing and upgrades.
- Share best practices and lessons learned through user groups and other collaborative means.
- Increase collaboration and develop strategies for implementing legislative changes.

Metrics

- Number of court systems that are:
 - In need of replacement;
 - On a supported release of a modern case management system; and
 - Using automated testing to support their maintenance release upgrades.
- Number of forums or user group meetings conducted for courts to collaborate on CMS activities.

Considerations

- Readiness of case management system releases.
- Availability of vendor resources to support implementations and upgrades.
- Availability of court resources to adopt best practices.
- Readiness of justice partners to support data integrations.

Potential Funding Requirements

One-time costs

- Deployment of new case management systems.

Ongoing costs

- Licensing, hardware, and professional services related to upgrades and automated testing.
- Application development to enhance case management systems.
- Judicial Council staff and other resources needed to support CMS-related needs, including managing branchwide master service agreements.

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Foundational Systems

Expanded Use of Electronic Records

Description

California courts have made significant strides in their digital transformation efforts to move from paper-dependent work processes to using electronic records. Electronic records allow courts to gain operational efficiencies, reduce physical storage requirements, and increase access to the courts. Having electronic records also allows staff and judicial officers to perform the work of the court without being tied to a physical location.

The most significant aspect of a court's transition to using electronic records is digitizing paper case files and making them accessible from within a case management system. Due to changes in technology, many courts must also digitize records that are now in an outdated format (e.g., microfiche or microfilm). In addition to case records, many courts are looking to use electronic records to modernize their administrative business processes, such as accounting, procurement, and human resources.

The transition to electronic records introduces new considerations for how records are accessed and preserved. The California courts recognize the value of collaboration and are committed to sharing best practices and leveraging the experiences of others in support of these collective digital transformation efforts.

Benefits

- Eliminates the risk of damage or loss of physical court records.
- Allows multiple resources to access court records simultaneously.
- Allows the work of the court to be conducted independent of a physical location.
- Improves a court's ability to maintain services and/or recover in the event of an emergency.
- Provides opportunities to develop uniform procedures and automated workflows.
- Provides opportunities to adopt modern strategies and methods for managing records.
- Increases options to expand self-service access to court records.
- Improves access control to ensure that records can only be accessed by those authorized.
- Reduces resources required to store and retrieve physical documents.
- Allows courts to repurpose space previously used for records storage.
- Reduces reliance on outdated microfilm/fiche viewing equipment.

Goals and Objectives

- Support courts' ongoing efforts to digitize documents.
- Leverage master service agreements for software and professional services in support of digitization efforts.

- Establish clear standards and guidelines to effectively manage and destroy electronic records, in accordance with legislative requirements.
- Provide forums and opportunities for courts to share best practices and create standards to capture, store, and preserve court records.
- Expand outreach efforts to include operational, technical, and records management staff in available forums to develop comprehensive electronic records management strategies.

Metrics

Number of courts

- Exclusively using electronic case files in all litigation types (e.g., Civil, Criminal, Family, etc.).
- Using electronic case files by litigation type (if not all).
- Using electronic records to support financial recordkeeping and workflows.
- Using electronic records to support human resources recordkeeping and workflows.

Considerations

- Funding and resource allocation for digitization programs and services.
- Reengineering case management and administrative business processes of the court.
- Changing technological norms related to expectations for the use of electronic records.
- Ongoing capacity planning for the technology systems needed to preserve court records.

Potential Funding Requirements

One-time costs

- Hardware, software, and professional services for digitizing records.
- Hardware, software, and professional services for implementing expanded automated solutions.

Ongoing costs

- Annual maintenance and periodic software and hardware upgrades.

Foundational Systems

Enterprise Resource Management

Description

The courts are committed to using modern enterprise resource management software to support the day-to-day administrative business functions of the judicial branch. Enterprise resource management systems are designed to manage and interconnect all aspects of administration, including finance and accounting, contracts and procurement, human resources, education management, project management, and real estate and facilities. The enterprise resource management system hosted by the Judicial Council provides support to administrative functions at both the branchwide level as well as individual trial courts.

Some examples of the system components include:

- *Phoenix*: Statewide financial system for all trial courts and payroll for a growing number of courts.
- *Human Resources and Education Management System*: Human resource management and education tracking system for the Judicial Council, the Supreme Court and appellate courts, the Habeas Corpus Resource Center, and the Commission on Judicial Performance.
- *Computer-Aided Facilities Management (CAFM)*: All aspects of real estate and facility management for court facilities throughout the state.

Benefits

- Promotes consistent and streamlined business practices to maximize resources.
- Provides enhanced functionality using new technology.
- Improves consistency of data for statewide reporting and analysis.
- Effectively communicates short- and long-term needs related to essential business functions.
- Provides solutions to address changing business needs, while improving management of vital services.
- Enhances visibility into administrative tasks for improved accountability and service delivery.
- Reduces the need for additional training when employees move to a new court.

Goals and Objectives

- Continue to provide robust administrative solutions managed by the Judicial Council in support of the courts.
- Identify new functionality that can be incorporated into the enterprise management system (e.g., budget module, electronic forms, and workflow tools).

- Determine ongoing resources required to support changing technology needs and evolving business processes.
- Continue to realize economies of scale by incorporating and sharing local court functionality, as appropriate.
- Migrate systems to next-generation hosting solutions.
- Ongoing improvement of data access.

Metrics

- Number of solutions available for use by the courts.
- Number of solutions added within the Tactical Plan timeframe.
- Number of courts using each of the available solutions.
- Number of courts interested in deploying available solutions.
- Number of potential new solutions identified where the enterprise resource management system may be beneficial.

Considerations

- Business processes will need to be examined and may need to change to fully leverage an enterprise resource management system.
- The move toward more standardized business processes requires strong change management and cultural readiness.
- Ability to hire and retain necessary resources.
- General readiness to support systems and leverage data and shared resources, including creating gateways to provide improved access to data.
- Judicial Council support and available funding.

Potential Funding Requirements

One-time costs

- Project implementation activities.
- Purchase or development of required systems, applications, software, and hardware.

Ongoing costs

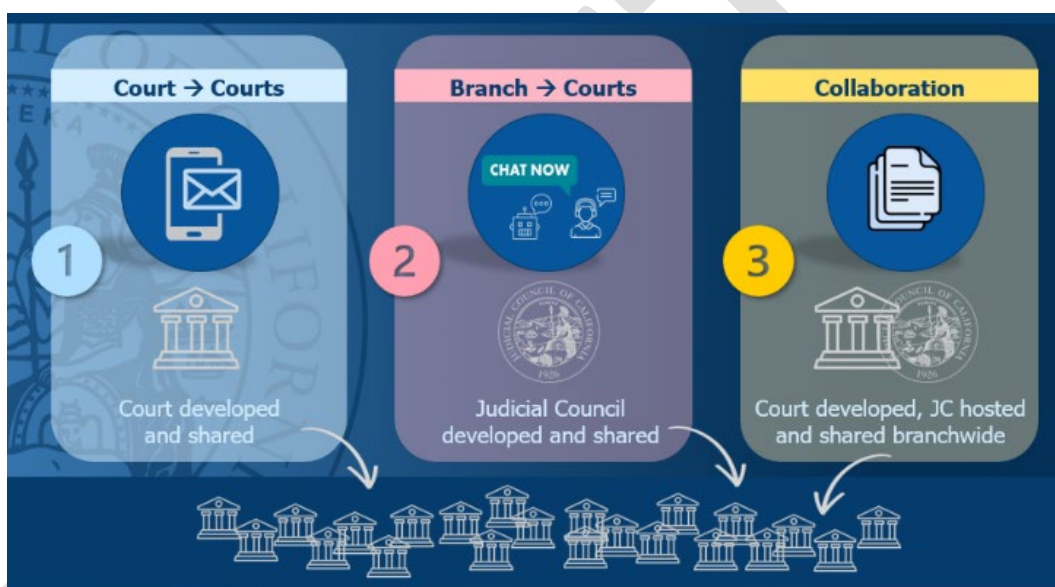
- Ongoing support services to design, develop, deploy, host, and maintain functionality.
- Maintenance for software products, equipment, and associated interfaces.
- Training and development.

Shared Solutions

Shared Integrations

Description

Courts continue to strive to provide consistent digital services to the public and recognize the value in pursuing common products and solutions to do so. Courts can further these efforts by using integration frameworks to help streamline the adoption of common products and solutions. For example, a court or vendor could create a single tool that could be utilized by multiple courts or court systems if it was built to leverage the integration framework. Through this commitment to collaborate and use common integration frameworks, courts are better positioned to share solutions developed by other courts, vendors, or through collaborative efforts.



There are a number of integration strategies in development throughout the judicial branch, and courts have been able to adopt common solutions (e.g., MyCitations, hearing notice reminders, way-finding solutions, etc.) using these standardized frameworks. Although some progress has been made, a continued commitment to further develop and support these standard integration frameworks is needed for courts to be able to adopt more consistent digital services statewide.

Benefits

- Enables courts to adopt consistent digital services developed by courts or vendors.
- Supports efficient adoption of branchwide programs, including those that are legislatively mandated.
- Promotes consistent integration methods for local court integrations and solutions.
- Increases collaboration and sharing amongst the court development community by using established integration frameworks (e.g., CourtStack, Talend, Microsoft, Google, or standard APIs).

Goals and Objectives

- Expand development integration components (e.g., CourtStack VCMS).
- Determine a support model for ongoing development and maintenance.
- Continue communication of the branch priorities and vision for leveraging common solutions.
- Promote information sharing among developers throughout the branch.

Metrics

- Number of courts using shared developed applications.
- Number of shared applications implemented.

Considerations

- Level of commitment by courts to build, integrate, and deploy new products.
- Long-term branch commitment to support and maintenance of the digital ecosystem.
- Courts without developers need support.

Potential Funding Requirements

One-time costs

- Development of the technical foundation and expanded interfaces.
- Deployment of shared products.

Ongoing costs

- Hosted platforms and subscriptions.
- Maintenance and support.

Public and Partner Services

Enhanced Self-Help Services

Description

The California courts are committed to enhancing the digital services and information provided for self-represented litigants who are seeking to resolve their legal issues without an attorney. The primary areas of focus for service enhancements are simplifying instructions and information, assisting with document preparation, and streamlining electronic filing to the courts.

The courts continue to seek opportunities to meet the broadest needs in the most consistent manner, while also seamlessly connecting those in need of assistance to local court solutions and resources.

Benefits

- Expands access to digital services for self-represented litigants.
- Prepares litigants for visiting court self-help centers and participating in court hearings.
- Reduces errors on legal forms and documents filed with the court.
- Achieves economies of scale through statewide materials and resources.
- Streamlines service delivery through easy-to-use digital services that include online chat support.
- Provides access to mobile-friendly self-help resources.
- Improves satisfaction with the court experience overall.

Goals and Objectives

- Complete transition to redesigned, statewide self-help site with new content.
- Increase collaboration efforts between state and local content owners and technical teams to provide consistent and expanded digital self-help services.
- Continue to improve guidance and options for completing and submitting forms online.
- Identify opportunities to streamline interactions from branchwide self-help resources to local court information and services.
- Align digital self-help services with language access technology and other virtual court services.
- Continue to develop content and increase local capabilities to expand chat services.

Metrics

- User satisfaction statistics (reported through the “Was this helpful?” survey).

- Number of services improved based on long-range satisfaction surveys.
- Number of tasks completed/not completed on the site.

Considerations

- Coordination with related initiatives (e-filing, intelligent chat, intelligent forms, and language access).
- Collaboration with self-help and technical resources at the branch and local court levels.

Potential Funding Requirements

One-time costs

- Initial design, testing, development, deployment, and integration of expanded services based on a phased rollout.

Ongoing costs

- Maintenance of new e-services, and maintenance and updating of forms, information, resources, and instructional materials.

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Public and Partner Services

Remote Appearances

Courts throughout California currently conduct proceedings in person, remotely, or in a hybrid fashion. The user experience can be significantly improved by successfully expanding technology. California courts are committed to increasing remote access and upgrading technology to improve the court experience.

Courts will need to adopt business practices that support remote appearances (e.g., electronic signatures, evidence, etc.). Internal court departments will need to collaborate on local solutions, which can then be shared statewide.

Benefits

- Enhances in-person and remote courtroom experiences by providing high-quality audio, video, operational, and technology solutions.
- Increases options for court appearances.
- Provides more convenient access for those with challenges related to competing life demands, physical location, or other circumstances, such as childcare, work, school, illnesses, disabilities, transportation, custodial status, out of state or county locations, juvenile cases, state hospitals, etc.
- Reduces transportation costs for inmates.
- Provides inmates the ability to maintain their housing and/or treatment.

Goals and Objectives

- Identify and expand remote appearance solutions.
- Share technical solutions and operational best practices locally and statewide.
- Identify necessary legislative changes or revisions to rules of court to eliminate barriers for increased remote appearances.
- Maintain and expand easy-to-use solutions for self-represented litigants (e.g., mobile devices, public computers, court kiosks).
- Streamline remote appearances and gain court efficiencies through electronic workflows and solutions (e.g., electronic signatures, electronic evidence).

Metrics

- Number of courtrooms with remote access capabilities, by county.
- Number of courtrooms not equipped to provide remote access, by county.
- Number of courtrooms needing upgrades, by county.
- Number of courtrooms upgraded, by county.
- Number of hearings held with remote participants per case type, by county.
- Number of counties with online instructions for the use of remote appearances.

- Number of litigants participating remotely per case type, by county (if available).

Considerations

- Court user’s access and ability to use remote technologies.
- Impact of remote appearances on court staff duties.
- Willingness of the court and parties to participate in remote appearances.
- Collaboration and cooperation with stakeholders (e.g., facilities, interpreters, court reporters, bar associations, justice partners, advisory bodies).
- Changes to legislation.
- Court’s ability to uphold courtroom decorum.

Potential Funding Requirements

One-time costs

- Courtroom audio and video systems.
- Bandwidth/network upgrades.
- Facility upgrades.
- Assistance for those without access to technology.

Ongoing costs

- Annual maintenance and licensing for hardware and software.
- Staffing needs.

Public and Partner Services

Electronic Evidence Management

Description

Most courts throughout the state require that electronic evidence be submitted using physical storage media (e.g., flash drive). However, in today's electronic world, the demand for electronic alternatives is increasing; therefore, the physical storage requirement is quickly becoming impractical and inconvenient for both the litigants and the court.

With the adoption of remote and hybrid court appearances, courts must continue to evaluate related laws, rules, and business processes to increase access for litigants, without creating an undue burden for the court. A key area for evaluation is for the submission, management, presentation, and storage of electronic evidence.

Although some courts have created local solutions to meet some of the immediate electronic evidence demands, very few courts have had the opportunity to participate in pilot programs to explore more comprehensive approaches to managing electronic evidence. Expanded pilot programs and collaboration opportunities are needed to make further progress in this area.

Benefits

- Provides the ability to securely receive and view electronic evidence.
- Allows for use of electronic evidence in remote and hybrid court appearances.
- Establishes effective practices for accepting, presenting, and storing electronic evidence.
- Reduces the need for and cost of physical evidence storage.
- Simplifies access across courts by providing consistent solutions for all court users.

Goals and Objectives

- Launch electronic evidence pilot projects statewide.
- Pursue opportunities to streamline procurement activities (e.g., master service agreements).
- Propose changes to related rules and statutes impacting the use of electronic evidence.
- Establish a forum or user group for courts to share technology solutions, recommended standards, best practices, and retention strategies.

Metrics

- Number of pilots/projects completed.
- Number of solutions identified (could include master service agreements as applicable).
- Number of courts accepting electronic evidence (per litigation type).
- Number of exhibits admitted electronically (per litigation type).
- Number of exhibits received by the court from self-represented litigants.

Considerations

- Solutions should consider all external stakeholders (e.g., law enforcement and justice partners) and all levels of courts.
- Roles and responsibilities for ownership and storage of electronic evidence should be clearly delineated.
- Clear rules are needed to identify the point in time when the clerk of the court is responsible for maintaining electronic evidence (i.e., upload, mark, admit).
- Necessary equipment and/or support to display evidence should reside with the proper entity/party, and rules can vary by court.
- Evidence management systems must have proper security measures in place.

Potential Funding Requirements

One-time costs

- Appropriate interoperability between case management and electronic evidence systems for basic case information.
- Acquisition of technology solutions to support pilot projects.

Ongoing costs

- Expanded cloud capacity for electronic evidence.
- Maintenance of technology solutions.
- Implementation of new policies and business practices by court staff.
- Staff support for user groups and forums to promote collaboration.

Public and Partner Services

Language Access Technology

Description

In 2015, the Judicial Council adopted the *Strategic Plan for Language Access in the California Courts*,² which focused on equal access to justice for people of all languages. In California more than 200 languages are spoken, and the state has 7 million limited-English-proficient (LEP) residents and potential court users. Implementation of this plan recommends the appropriate use of technology throughout the branch to enhance language access. California Courts Connected is an initiative that leverages technology to develop core digital systems to meet the court service needs for all court users. Efforts to enhance language access for all LEP court users through technology include video remote interpreting (VRI), California Court Translator application (voice-to-text) language services, multilingual websites, and self-help services and other technological solutions to aid supporting language access, are critical components of this vision.

Courts will continue to leverage technology to expand access to services to all court users in their own languages.

Benefits

- Provides increased, accurate, and timely access to court services.
- Enhances the court's ability to communicate with LEP users.
- Promotes fairness to LEP users.
- May reduce the costs and constraints associated with human translation.
- Increases public trust and confidence in California courts.

Goals and Objectives

- Expand the availability of language services for courtroom proceedings and services outside the courtroom.
- Increase normalization of technical translation alternatives to in-person translation services.
- Continue to modernize courtrooms in support of language services.
- Continue to enhance all online services to support language access.
- Improve the quality of language services through user testing and evaluation of service effectiveness.

Metrics

- Number of proceedings involving VRI.
- Number of courts using voice-to-text technology.

² Judicial Council of Cal., *Strategic Plan for Language Access in the California Courts* (2015), www.courts.ca.gov/documents/CLASP_report_060514.pdf.

- Efficiencies from the court user perspective tied to VRI or voice-to-text technology.
- Number of interactions with multilingual online services, by language (if available).

Considerations

- Remote proceedings with many iterations, such as remote participation by multiple participants and/or interpreters, through VRI, telephonic appearances, or hybrid (some in person, some remote), requiring solutions that consider multiple variables.
- Relay interpreting and nonspoken communication systems such as sign language, which require unique or additional solutions and can be integrated into projects at early stages.
- Ability to accurately and consistently collect statewide remote access data and satisfaction surveys that integrate language access.
- Availability of funding to support ongoing use of technological improvements.
- Collaboration between the groups working on remote video and language access programs to share best practices and lessons learned.
- Adequate internet bandwidth and fidelity to provide quality language service solutions.

Potential Funding Requirements

One-time costs

- Hardware, software, telecommunications infrastructure, and implementation services, if not currently available.

Ongoing costs

- Annual maintenance, lease, licensing, or expenses for hardware and software.
- Translation of court forms, documents, signage, and online services required to support language access.
- Training, education, and promotion of language services to the public.
- Training and education of court staff and judicial officers.

Security & Infrastructure

Network Infrastructure

Description

The judicial branch recognizes that courts need modern software to operate efficiently and provide access and services to the public. There is an underlying foundation of interconnected devices, referred to as the “network infrastructure,” that enables this access. The network infrastructure is made up of all of the hardware, software, and connectivity and management systems needed for court staff and various stakeholders to securely access court applications and services.

As interconnected systems have evolved, the focus has shifted from local area network (LAN) and wide area network (WAN) solutions that have traditionally provided connectivity within buildings to also include internet-based (cloud) systems. The branch recognizes that this complex, interdependent network infrastructure must be high performing, well-managed, and protected in this new reality.

Benefits

- Provides a secure, robust, and scalable network foundation to operate efficiently and provide access to digital services.
- Increases wireless access for all users.
- Provides equipment standards and network redundancy to increase resiliency in the event of an outage.
- Provides a stronger defense against cybersecurity threats.
- Enables use of cloud-based services.

Goals and Objectives

- Evaluate and design new technology solutions that increase network performance through upgraded connectivity and equipment.
- Achieve cost savings through the procurement of standard equipment and installation services for all courts.
- Provide wireless coverage throughout court facilities.
- Maintain fast, reliable, and redundant internet access throughout the branch.
- Provide enhanced solutions and implement best practices to secure the network infrastructure.
- Provide technical network infrastructure management training.

Metrics

- Number of courts that have:
 - Deployed replacement equipment through the branch technology refresh program;
 - and

- Redundant internet connectivity.
- Number of Judicial Council–offered network training classes and the number of courts participating.

Considerations

- Aligning funding requirements with equipment lifecycle replacement needs.
- Rural court locations may have limited connectivity options.
- Network infrastructure requires collaboration between facilities services and information technology.

Potential Funding Requirements

One-time costs

- Replacement of hardware and installation services.

Ongoing costs

- Hardware and software maintenance.
- Training.
- Managed security services.

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Security & Infrastructure

Modern Hosting Solutions

Description

The past decade has seen a substantial shift from organizations having their core computer systems hosted in local data centers on their physical premises (on-prem) to adopting modern hosting solutions that use the internet and subscription-based services (cloud) to manage these systems. As hosting models have evolved, a variety of cost-effective options have emerged to support the courts' transition from traditional data centers to modern hosting solutions. The branch will continue to pursue proven strategies such as consolidation, virtualization, and secure private and public cloud networks that support modern data center management and streamline application delivery.

Benefits

- Ensures that resources are used effectively.
- Addresses courts' current and future needs.
- Provides branchwide strategic alignment.
- Provides a strategy for business continuity and disaster recovery.
- Reduces ongoing dependency, maintenance, and support of local infrastructure hardware and facility requirements (e.g., electrical, cooling, and space).
- Reduces dependence on outdated technologies.
- Provides a versatile environment that enables new services to be more rapidly deployed to better meet the needs of the public and consumers of judicial branch services.
- Offers the ability to rapidly obtain needed infrastructure capacity in emergency and nonemergency situations.

Goals and Objectives

- Determine opportunities for deploying or building new applications using secure cloud-optimized and cloud-native design principles.
- Utilize the [structured hosting matrix](#) to identify potential use cases for cloud computing.
- Align modern hosting strategies with [California Courts Connected framework](#) for consistency.
- Ensure that the modern hosting strategy is consistent and complies with the branch IT security road map.

Metrics

- Number of statewide applications transitioned to hosted platforms.
- Number of courts that have transitioned services to a modern hosting solution.

Considerations

- Availability of Judicial Council and court staff resources to plan, develop, and transition to modern hosting solutions for judicial branch entities.
- Availability of expertise to assist judicial branch entities in their transition to next-generation hosting.

Potential Funding Requirements

Ongoing costs

- Hosting services that are shared across the branch.
- Direct billing to the courts for court-specific services.

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Security & Infrastructure

Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity

Description

From wildfires, earthquakes, pandemics, and ransomware attacks, there is no shortage of disasters that can disrupt an organization. The courts are no exception; therefore, it is vital that the branch continue to promote an effective disaster recovery strategy for court technology systems to be restored in a timely manner in the event of a disaster. Having a disaster recovery strategy addresses the court's ability to recover the technology systems needed for courts to operate and provide access and services to the public. A court's disaster recovery strategy should be aligned with the broader organizational Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) to ensure that in addition to technology, courts have comprehensive plans to resume services to the public when needed.

The degree of disaster recovery preparedness varies amongst courts. The branch will continue to pursue modern technologies to effectively deploy and maintain scalable disaster recovery solutions.

Benefits

- Reduces disruption of essential court functions and services to the public.
- Ensures essential court records and systems are secure and can be recovered in a timely manner.
- Extends recovery capabilities and shortens recovery time by using modern, scalable solutions.
- Promotes adoption of common solutions through collaboration and information sharing.

Goals and Objectives

- Simplify the approach to implementing disaster recovery solutions.
- Validate critical court services and applications, their hosting location, and acceptable data loss and recovery time.
- Implement solutions that meet desired requirements.
- Strengthen incident response plans that identify the technical recovery steps and communications required in the event of a disaster.
- Conduct education sessions for courts interested in design, implementation, and ongoing testing strategies.

Metrics

- Number of courts that have a disaster recovery plan for critical services and applications.
- Number of courts that have an incident response plan.
- Number of education sessions conducted.

Considerations

- Reference work products and solutions from the [Disaster Recovery to Cloud Roadmap report](#).
- Lessons learned from Judicial Council and courts' implementation of disaster recovery solutions.
- Communication and buy-in from stakeholders.

Potential Funding Requirements

One-time costs

- Design and implementation of disaster recovery solutions.

Ongoing costs

- Maintaining disaster recovery solutions.
- Annual testing of disaster recovery and business continuity for defined systems and applications.

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Security & Infrastructure

Identity Management

Description

Branchwide identity management provides a secure central location to manage and protect digital identities. The solution allows the public and internal court users to use a single username and password to access digital services throughout the courts.

Benefits

- Improves the experience by using a single account, instead of multiple usernames and passwords to access court services.
- Enables self-service account management.
- Protects access to court resources and personal information.
- Reduces development efforts by using a standardized identity solution.
- Streamlines justice partner access to court services.

Goals and Objectives

- Develop identity management governance for the judicial branch.
- Provide implementation guidelines for courts and vendors.
- Ensure that service providers adhere to judicial branch requirements.
- Enable identity management for branch-developed digital services.
- Establish an ongoing maintenance and operational team.

Metrics

- Number of digital services using the identity solution.
- Number of registered accounts.
- Number of times used to sign in.

Considerations

- Microsoft Azure Identity Services are required for adoption.

Potential Funding Requirements

One-time costs

- Staff to implement and integrate identity management solution.
- Professional services to implement and integrate identity management solution.

Ongoing costs

- Monthly active user subscriptions.
- Platform hosting and operational costs.
- Staff for ongoing maintenance and support.

Security & Infrastructure

Branchwide Information Security

Description

With increased use of technology and remote access solutions come increased security risks to courts throughout California. One of the judicial branch’s strategic objectives is to establish a sustainable information security program to support the reliable delivery of services to judicial branch entities and their customers. The judicial branch continues to invest in a secure, scalable, and robust technology infrastructure as a foundation to providing digital services. This program will accomplish its mission through the use of information security governance, policies, standards, guidelines, and services that protect the judicial branch’s information assets and the security interests of the users of branch services.

The Information Technology Advisory Committee’s security workstream, now in progress, will develop further recommendations to achieve these goals and ensure alignment with ongoing development of judicial branch security standards.

Benefits

- Enhances security and data reliability.
- Improves collaboration, data sharing, and decisionmaking.
- Provides more effective risk management.
- Provides clear security guidelines for all judicial branch entities.
- Creates baseline policies as a foundation to measure effectiveness.
- Ensures consistent application of security controls across the branch.
- Provides a central point of contact for judicial branch entities to address IT security needs.

Goals and Objectives

- Update implementation road map for addressing evolving security strategies and tools.
- Create an overarching strategy for educating courts on information security best practices, risk management, and incident response.
- Continue to provide ongoing branchwide information security assessments, to assess court security environments and prioritize activities within the security road map.
- Propose additional proactive risk management tools and tactics, including end point management and incident response.

Metrics

- Number of courts participating in the security awareness program.
- Number of courts participating in branch endpoint management program.
- Number of hours of security-related education taken by branch employees.
- Number of annual security assessments.

Considerations

- Ability of courts to keep up with constantly evolving security protocols.
- Aligned policies, procedures, and standards that can be leveraged by individual courts.
- Availability of and funding for security awareness training for employees, executives, and judicial leaders.
- An understanding that information security is an ongoing program requiring maintenance and support and not a one-time, discrete project.
- Difficulty for some courts to fund additional and ongoing expenses for information security (including business continuity and disaster recovery programs) out of their existing budgets.

Potential Funding Requirements

Ongoing costs

- Maintenance of an effective information security program.

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Data & Governance

Modernize Rules and Legislation

Description

The courts must ensure that laws support the adoption of new and existing technologies to modernize delivery of services. Proposals for changes may originate with judicial branch advisory committees or workgroups, courts, judges, attorneys, government entities, or the public.

Benefits

- Improves and increases public access to the courts.
- Offers greater convenience in conducting court business and obtaining services.
- Ensures continued security of branch information and assets.
- Provides potential savings in time, resources, and expenses.
- Aligns with branch efforts to expand self-help and language services.
- Improves communication and information sharing between courts and justice partners.
- Improves overall courtroom experience.

Goals and Objectives

- Create and update rules, standards, and guidelines in areas in which new technologies affect court operations and access to the courts.
- Modernize statutes, rules, and procedures to permit and enhance the use of technology.
- Translate laws and requirements to procedures modernized by technology.
- Address legislative proposals with data analytics.

Considerations

- Proposals for rules, legislation, and branchwide policies follow established schedules.
- Legislative proposals are subject to approval by the Legislature and the Governor.
- Seek and address public comment on proposals.
- Judicial Council staff support is required throughout applicable review and approval processes.
- Effective communication and implementation of changes and initiatives.

Potential Funding Requirements

One-time costs

- None.

Ongoing costs

- Staff support and committee member time for the development, review, and approval process of specific proposals.
- Implementation of policy, rule, and legislative changes by individual courts.

Data & Governance

Data Analytics: Governance and Sharing

Description

Data analytics can help inform, enhance, and transform the way the judicial branch operates to increase access to justice, provide fair and timely case resolution, and improve court operations. Technical advancements in data analysis tools have made data analytics easier and more accessible than ever before, creating an opportunity for the judicial branch to make data-informed decisions that enhance business practices and operations. The key to data analytics is determining what is relevant to represent the work of the judicial branch, as well as enhancing and expanding programs and services that serve the people of California.

The Data Analytics Advisory Committee is working on areas of policy and governance, as well as performance measures, studies, and methodologies to measure and report on court administration, practices, and procedures, including workload assessments.

Benefits

- Helps courts respond to requests for statewide data with one voice.
- Increases agility in responding to requests for data.
- Provides a mechanism to perform “what-if” analysis on potential changes in legislation, alternative business practices, and model policies.
- Identifies caseload trends that may impact court operations resource allocation.
- Facilitates court scheduling to promote the efficient use of court resources in alignment with the needs of the public.
- Helps courts more accurately analyze juror summons response and usage rates, potentially saving state residents substantial time and transportation costs.
- Helps courts analyze hiring trends, attrition, and associated management and budgetary impacts.

Goals and Objectives

- Monitor progress of data analytics pilot and expand associated training and implementation resources to additional courts.
- Explore options for leveraging technology solutions to execute the branch’s data analytics projects and programs.
- Explore options for leveraging shared solutions developed by the branch and vendors to supply standardized data.
- Generate data to support short- and long-term planning.

Metrics

- Number of courts deploying data analytics pilot solution.

Considerations

- Accuracy and reliability of the data.
- Leveraging common business processes and solutions will contribute to more effective data analytics efforts.
- Courts will need to continue to invest in the resources needed to engage in meaningful data analytics efforts.
- Outcomes from the Data Analytics Advisory Committee.

Potential Funding Requirements

One-time costs

- Software, hardware, and services for data analytics tools.
- Staff training to implement appropriate data collection and analytics practices.

Ongoing costs

- Software and hardware maintenance.
- Software programming and integration services for effective implementation of data analytics tools.
- Staffing to support data collection and analytics.

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