



CRIMINAL JUSTICE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

AIJA and VSCL Conference

The Future Impact of XML: the CJEP
Experience in Victoria

25 October 2001

Peter Stephenson
IT Project Manager, CJEP



Outline

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

- Project Overview
- Connecting the Justice Process
- IT Architecture
- Criminal Justice - XML Messaging
- Civil Justice - E-Filing & XML
- Some Current Limitations



Background

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

- **1996-98: Project Pathfinder** - major reengineering study of Victoria's criminal justice system
- **1999-2002: CJEP** - \$25 million project involving redesign of key processes, new systems development and legislative change
- **Key stakeholders include:**
 - Victoria Police
 - OPP
 - Corrections Authorities
 - Magistrates' Court
 - County Court
 - VLA
 - Private Practitioners



Objective

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Better Connecting the Justice Process

Improving access, quality and efficiency
in the criminal and civil justice systems

Focus Areas:

- Accused Management
- Brief Management and Disclosure
- Case Listing and Management
- E-Filing
- Justice Knowledge Exchange



Roll-out Approach

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

- Design and development work continues until late-2001
- First pilot trials in October-Dec 2001
- Large scale all-agency pilot to commence in Q1 2002
- E-Filing introduction (Count Court) targeted for Q3 2002
- Progressive training and roll-out over 6-9 months to be completed by Q4 2002



CRIMINAL JUSTICE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Key Design Principles

- **Only enter information once**
- **Simplify transactions, speed up processes**
- **Eliminate duplication in data/systems**
- **Provide timely, accurate information to users**
- **Provide continuum in duty of care for the accused/offender**
- **Help court users make good use of their time**
- **Protect privacy and confidentiality of information**
- **Recognise independence and separation of justice roles**



Key System Components

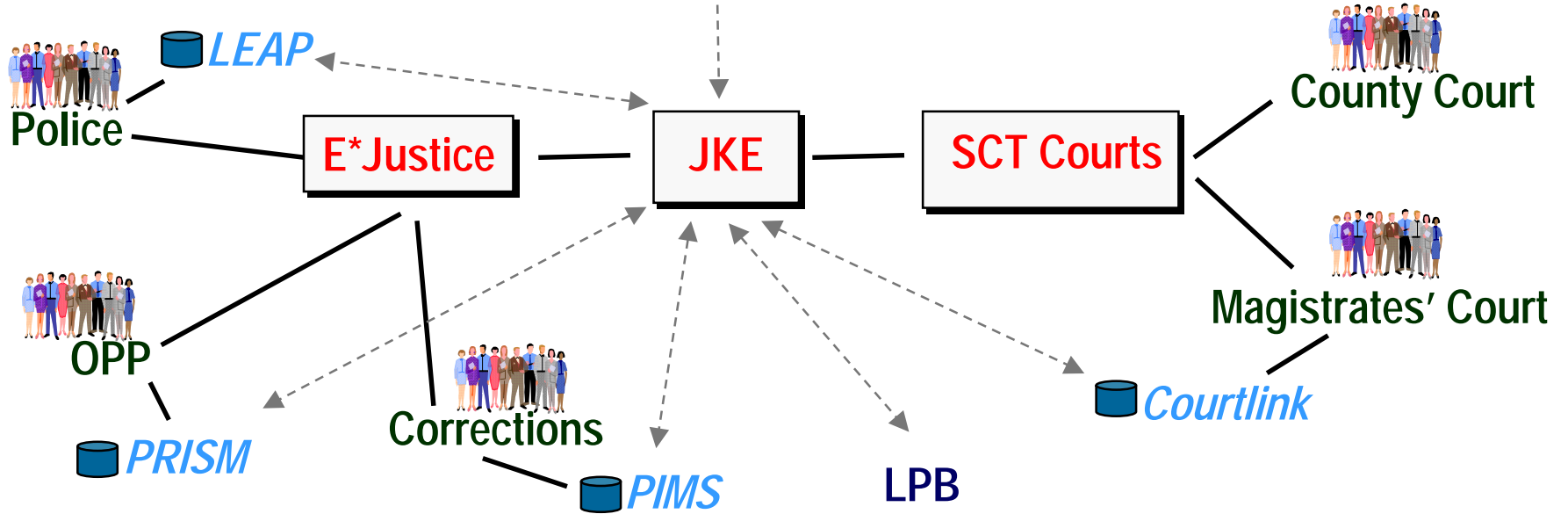
CRIMINAL JUSTICE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

- Civil Filings
- Civil Judgments
- Case Lists

- Civil Filings
- Civil Judgments
- Case Lists
- Prosecution Briefs

General Public

Legal Practitioners





How CJEP Uses XML

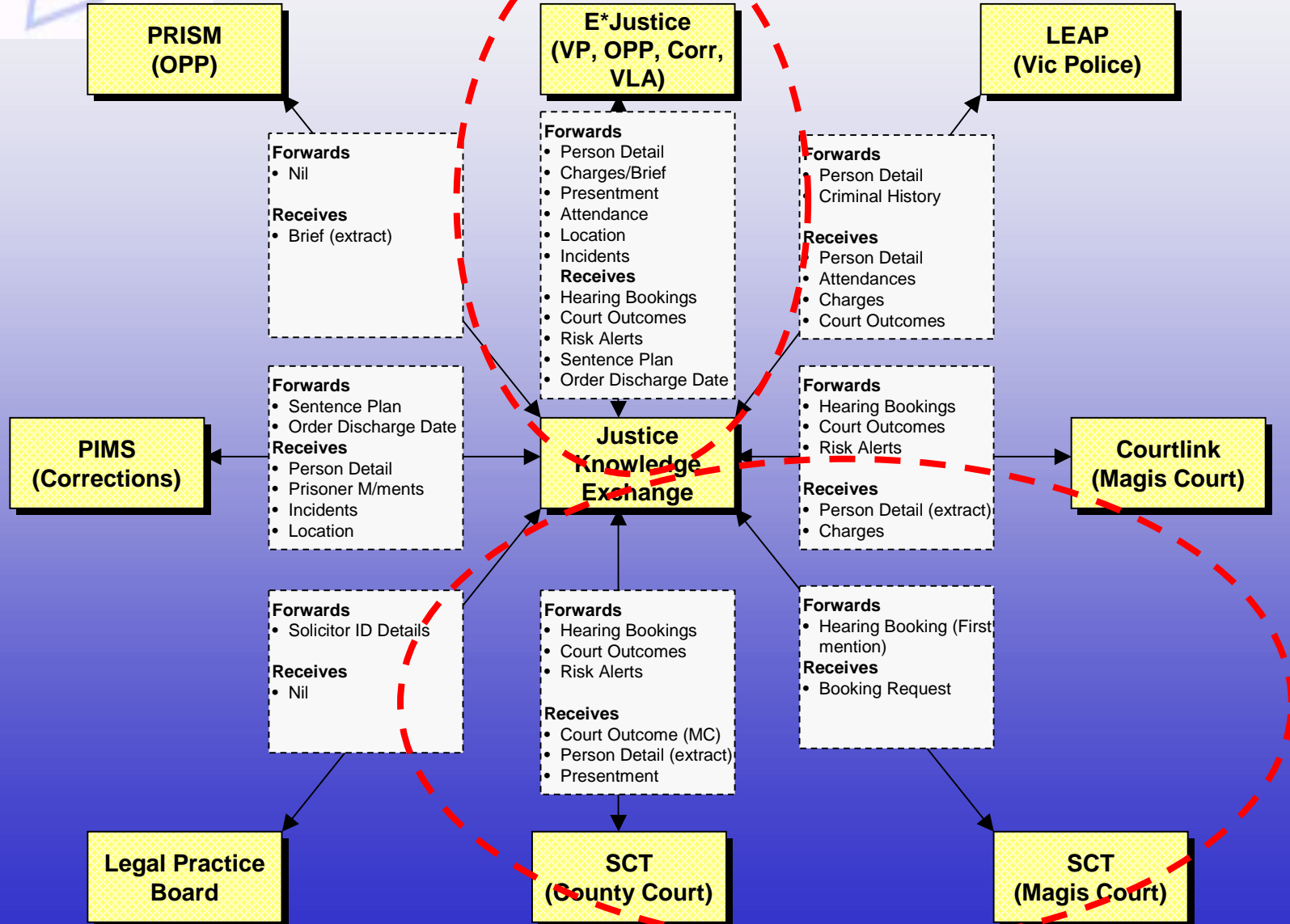
CRIMINAL JUSTICE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

- Primarily used to facilitate interchange of data between systems in the CJEP Integrated Environment
- The centre-piece is the Justice Knowledge Exchange (JKE)
 - middleware product called 'webMethods'
 - at its core is an information broker written in a language similar to XML
 - added to this core are 'translators' which accept messages from sending systems and translate them into messages which can be read by receiving systems
- XML translators are used by the JKE to talk to E*Justice, SCT Courts, Electronic Brief Web Interface and E-Filing Web Host.



Key XML Interfaces

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM





E-Filing in Civil Matters

- **Utilise Internet (browser-based) technology for filing of documents**
- **Service to be run by a web-hosting company on a commercial, fee for service basis**
 - no start-up costs or proprietary software to be installed
- **How it works:**
 - solicitor lodges documents on Web host database
 - sends XML file with file document/case data
 - creates case in SCT system
 - populates data fields and adds document to SCT Document Library
 - creates cover sheet document
 - sends back XML file to Web Host updating status
- **Capability to provide a common front-end for lodgment with other Victorian Court jurisdictions**



CRIMINAL JUSTICE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Limitations to Use of XML

- Cannot replace major 'legacy' systems quickly (eg. LEAP, Courtlink) - because of replacement cost and effort
- Not suited to translating from these 'legacy' code systems to middleware
- Cannot purchase major end user applications 'off the shelf' in XML yet (like E*Justice, SCT)
- Hungry user of bandwidth - more costly on infrastructure support costs
- Standards are not robust - need to be careful not to over-invest
- ...but future improvements and extensions in these areas will emerge over time.