

Summary:

Standardized Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) provides critical data about offenders and facilitates statistical analysis and evaluation. During the 1990's, a National Task Force on Increasing the Utility of the Criminal History Record recommended the creation of a standard transmission format for the interstate sharing of criminal history information, and subsequently a Joint Task Force (JTF) on Record of Arrest and Prosecution (RAP) Sheet Standardization was formed to develop that standard. This effort produced an eXtensible Markup Language (XML) based transmission specification that has been adopted by the FBI and states across the nation.

Nlets has been uniquely postured to help the states implement the standardized RAP Sheet using the JTF specification. The standardization of state data flowing through NCIC's Interstate Identification Index (III) system has provided an innovative way to derive researchable content from merged multi-state RAP Sheets. The national RAP Sheets, acquired from the state criminal history repositories and the FBI via the CHRIS Query Process, are collated, merged, and extracted by the CHRIS Information Services System.

Overview:

In response to a CHRIS query, one or more criminal history messages containing state and federal records on the queried subject are transmitted over Nlets. The response is immediately stored in a database and associated with a CHRIS Subject ID. Part of this process involves identifying and storing the message's format (text or XML) and message type. The CHRIS Harvester Process is then initiated and, depending on message format and type, an appropriate parser is utilized. The parsing program fetches structures and identifiers from the message content.

To date, Nlets has completed the "legacy text" parsing methodology for all states and the III Index. NIEM extracting is complete, and all XML states' data is provided in the extract. Nlets created parsing instructions using an open-source tool called AnTLR (Another Tool for Language Recognition). Once message content is parsed, the harvested data elements are written to the CHRIS database, extracted into a delimited export format, and transmitted to BJS via the CHRIS Export Process through SFTP. The parsing logic has been refined to incorporate fixes and enhancements noted by BJS and Nlets during testing.

Objectives:

- Provide BJS with the capability to request and/or obtain an individual's electronic criminal history record to determine the most up-to-date criminal history information.
- Provide BJS the capability to request and/or obtain multiple electronic criminal history records at one time.
- Complete the CHRIS parsing code for all 50 states.
- Complete the environmental configuration, testing, and documentation of the CHRIS System.
- Develop a State CHRI Data Sheet for each state.
- Provide BJS with CHRIS records and data extracts resulting from sample State Identification Numbers (SIDs) provided by BJS, utilizing the CHRIS Query/Harvesting/Export process as defined in the BJS-Nlets- FBI CHRIS Security Plan.
- Ensure all data received by BJS from Nlets is maintained in such manner as to meet Federal data confidentiality and privacy requirements and prevent dissemination to unauthorized individuals, in accordance with the CHRIS Security Plan.

Benefits:

In recent years, the federal government's need for information from state, local, and tribal justice agencies has increased in terms of the quantity and the complexity of data required, and in terms of the speed with which information must be provided. The development and implementation of information sharing architectures and services will support and enhance BJS' capacity to comply with information needs arising from recent the implementation of various federal legislation.

Improved information services will also support the BJS administration of the National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) and other programs that provide grants to states, tribes, and territories for the purpose of improving the nation's criminal history records, and to facilitate and report on recidivism research.

Finally, improved information services and access to criminal history records will enhance the BJS capacity to inform evidence-based policy and practice regarding efforts to reduce recidivism at national, state, and local levels.