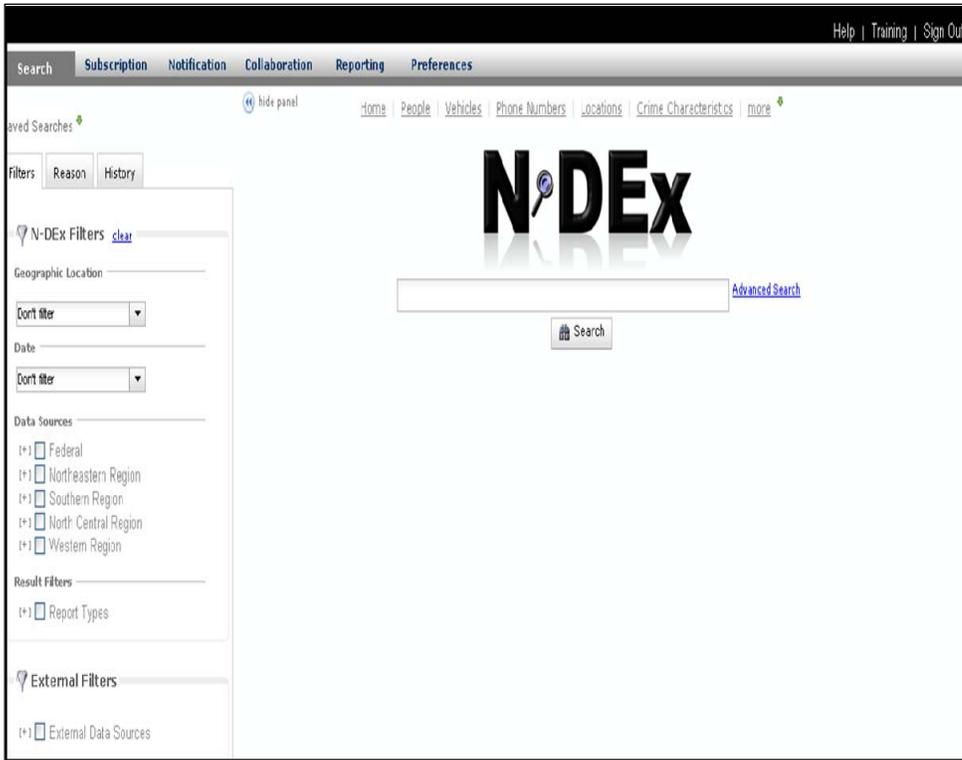




System Update Makes Information Sharing Easier



The simple search page provides users a sleek interface as soon as they log in to the system.

The N-DEx system has now reached its full operational capability, and by doing so has solidly placed information sharing as another tool in the criminal justice toolbox.

N-DEx Program Manager Jeffrey Lindsey says this N-DEx update is “a game-changer for information sharing.” He adds, “The American public at large and the local citizens served by the agencies participating in N-DEx are already seeing benefits from the updated system.”

“The final increment of N-DEx features an improved search interface that will

help our customers access the information they need quickly and easily,” said Daniel Roberts, Assistant Director of the FBI’s Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division. “More effective searches, along with the system’s vast data resources and ability to link information from across and within jurisdictions, make N-DEx a powerful tool.”

New Resources Available

New N-DEx computer-based training modules and an updated User’s Manual are available on the Law Enforcement Online (LEO) home page to provide us-

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PM Ponderings: Thanks! Now let the Real Work Begin?

The N-DEx system has finally reached its full operational capability. Its release has brought to fruition years of effort that encompass countless hours of exertion and significant investments of resources by local, state, tribal and federal stakeholders.

Everyone who has labored in the N-DEx endeavor throughout the years can be justifiably proud of the final version of this tremendously powerful criminal justice information sharing system.

Now that it is available to investigators and analysts in its final format, the system is truly a “game-changer” for information sharing.

The evolution of N-DEx to this point has truly been a testament of collaboration and cooperation in fulfilling a vision. It has been a vision whose fulfillment has been long overdue and the American public at large and the local citizens served by

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System Update (Continued)

ers a crash course in using the updated interface.

These resources are posted under the existing “N-DEx Training Modules” and “N-DEx User’s Manual” links in the Spotlights section in the bottom-right corner of the page.

Search and Results Improvements

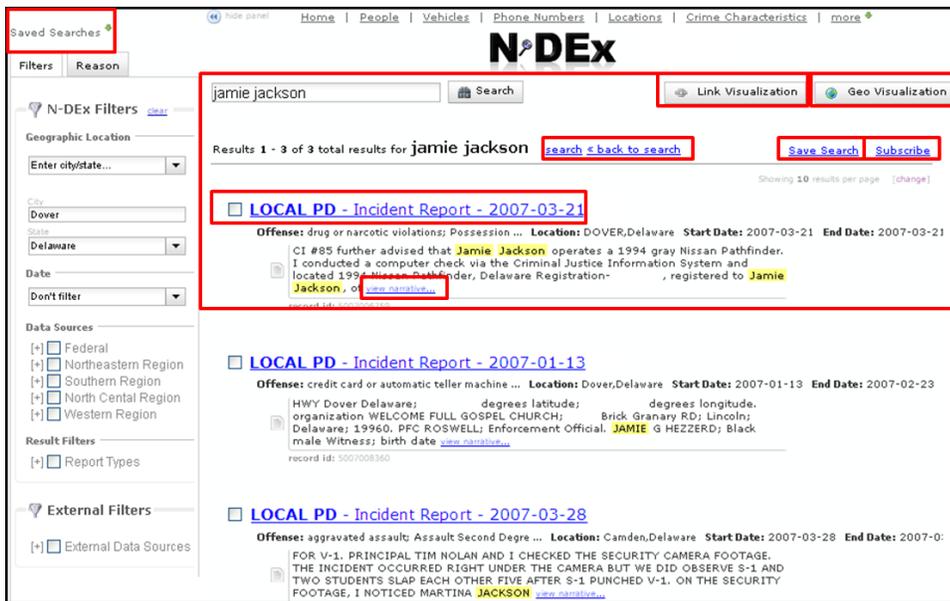
Users will immediately notice the visual changes as soon as they log in to the system. The N-DEx home page now looks sleek and simple while the interface allows users to search all N-DEx fields, both structured and unstructured, from the main search tab on the homepage.

Instead of a variety of fields across the length and width of the page, the new version of N-DEx features a set of handy filters along with a Reason and History tab. The filters may be used on any search and may be applied to the results as well.

Don’t worry, though. All of the normal N-DEx functionality still exists, but it can be accessed easier via the tabs in the gray bar at the very top of the page and the targeted search links that reside above the N-DEx logo.

Search times have decreased significantly. Where a portal or direct access search would normally have required 20 to 35 seconds, searches now take less than a second to return results.

After a user clicks the Search button, results are now displayed in a more commercial looking format. Users will also notice that each result contains a small part of the narrative



View of the N-DEx Results Screen. Note the sections highlighted in red. From left, they allow the user to access saved searches, examine a specific record, quickly jump to link visualization or geovisualization, return to the main search, save the search, subscribe to searches on this subject, display the full incident report, and display the narrative.

(a snippet) that is expandable by clicking the document icon to the left of the description. The complete record is visible after the user clicks the record link.

In addition to the new look, N-DEx will be using what is referred to as an Integrated Person Entity View. This view displays all information N-DEx has on a specific person. This includes biographical identifiers, residences, business addresses and known associates.

N-DEx only displays unique information while suppressing duplicate information for a clean display. Users also have the ability to click on links to view each record that builds this composite view of a person.

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PM Ponderings (Continued)

the agencies participating in N-DEx will greatly benefit from the efforts.

Although this is a significant milestone, the delivery of this update does not mean that N-DEx is a fait accompli. Much has been achieved, yet much remains to be accomplished. Much more data needs to be acquired and

many more users need to have access to the system. To reach these ends, the partnerships and collaboration that brought N-DEx to this point will need to continue and even be expanded.

Fortunately, success often begets more success and individuals, agencies, and organizations that are the stakeholders

of N-DEx have universally indicated their intention to continue their advocacy and efforts for the program.

So, on behalf of the Program Management Office, I offer our sincere and heartfelt thanks for all you have done for N-DEx... and for all you will do in the time ahead. ■

System Update *(Continued)*

Issues We Are Addressing

As with any major update, there are still some issues the N-DEx Development team is addressing.

To facilitate data synchronization between the former and new systems, data ingestion was halted on December 18, 2010. Approximately 95 percent or more of previous data has been migrated to the current system configuration. Data that has been provided to the Program Office since December has been queued, and the backlog will be ingested within approximately four weeks.

N-DEx was developed using Mozilla's Firefox browser. It is the recommended browser at this time to ensure the best user experience.

N-DEx supports Internet Explorer versions 7 and 8, so most users will not experience any problems using them.

However, the N-DEx Development Team is working through some issues with Internet Explorer, especially functionality associated with specialized

N-DEx roles such as Source Data Administrator, Training Administrator, Automated Processing Administrator, User Administrator, and other administrative roles.

If a user encounters a browser issue, clear the browser's cache. If this does not help, contact the CJIS Help Desk.

Searches using map filters and geo-visual displays rely on map layers provided by an Internet source.

To use this capability, the user's browser must be capable of reaching arcgis.com. If a user experiences problems with maps on N-DEx, they should contact their local IT department or the CJIS Help Desk as special browser settings may be necessary.

N-DEx requires Java2 Runtime Environment (JRE) 6 Update 23 (or higher) for displaying Link Visualizations. If a user experiences problems with displaying Link Visualizations, they should contact their local IT department or the CJIS Help Desk to ensure compliance with this requirement.

As always, if anyone experiences problems and needs assistance, do not hesitate to call the CJIS Help Desk.

Final Words

"From the beginning, N-DEx has been developed with input from a host of state and local law enforcement professionals. The net result, as delivered in this final increment, is a powerful and relevant tool that will solve and prevent crimes across the nation in a way not previously possible." said Mark Marshall, President of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and Chief of Police for Smithfield, VA.

Stephen Morris, Deputy Assistant Director of the CJIS Division, said the development of the N-DEx system represents a tremendous effort on the part of the N-DEx staff to ensure that those who protect our Nation have the information they require. "Meeting the real-world needs of the law enforcement, criminal justice, and intelligence communities we serve is the goal that continues to guide the N-DEx program." ■

Corrections Update

In 2009, the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division Advisory Policy Board, a body of local, state, tribal and federal criminal justice agencies that act as an advisory body regarding CJIS systems governance to provide shared management input on FBI Systems policies, endorsed N-DEx as a vital member of the CJIS family of systems.

The APB also affirmed N-DEx is the national strategy for sharing criminal justice incident and related data. It also affirmed all criminal justice agencies should participate in using the system and submit their data.

Since then, the N-DEx PO has focused primarily on helping law enforcement agencies share data through N-DEx. Since the latter part of 2010, the PO has added another facet to its work – identifying what the term "criminal justice agencies" actually includes and where they fit in so

that these organizations, like their law enforcement counterparts who are already participating may reap the benefits of sharing data and searching the N-DEx System.

To that end, the PO held a summit in late 2010 at the FBI CJIS Division to empanel a group of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) from the incarceration, probation, and parole disciplines to provide clarification in defining the selection process for identifying personnel who will be permitted use of the N-DEx System.

As a result of those in-depth discussions, the N-DEx PO developed a list of acceptable uses including: law enforcement investigation, pretrial release investigation, intake investigation, correctional institution investigation, pre-sentence investigation, supervision investigation, and data management.

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Corrections Update

(Continued)

Additionally, the PO included a list of the types of agencies that should be granted access, including: Prosecuting Attorneys Offices, Pretrial Service Agencies and Pretrial Release Agencies, Correctional Institutions, Probation and Parole Offices, Local, County, State, or Federal agencies that are classified as criminal justice agencies by statute but do not fall into one of the aforementioned categories.

The PO is also working with SMEs to determine what percentage of their work force would need access to the system.

One SME, Mike Coleman, Director of Security for the West Virginia Department of Corrections stated, “the WVDOC envisions that only a bit more than one percent, or 20+ of about 2,000 employees with job-related needs would initially be approved by my office and the Commissioner of Corrections for access.

“This number might grow over time to about two percent or so of our personnel as we become more attuned to the N-DEx System...to that end, the expanded usage list and proposed acceptable uses of N-DEx... are a step in the right direction.”

In March, 2011, these results were formally presented to the APB so the PO might officially develop supporting policy to outline access to the N-DEx system.

The APB agreed that access to N-DEx should include the greater criminal justice community, and a motion was made to forward the vote on to the Subcommittee for approval in June, 2011.

Look for another Corrections update in the next edition of the N-DEx Newsletter. ■

Statistics *(as of 4/4/2011)*

Total Records	79,675,069
Registered Users	4,265
Individual Agencies Contributing	27
System Availability (Monthly)	—

State/Local Data

Alabama — ULTRA	272,880
California — ARIES	55,264
California — ARJIS	1,489,952
California — LASD	3,321,890
Delaware — DELJIS	561,763
Kansas — KIBRS	1,438,282
Kentucky — KSP	1,176,028
Michigan — MIDEX	4,684
Missouri — MSHP	105,681
Nebraska — NCJIS	122,872
New Jersey — NJSP	2,127,680
New York — NY-DEX	34,994
Ohio — OLLEISN	4,345,045
Oneida Indian Nation	107
Oregon — ONIBRS	571,685
Tennessee — CRMS	104,919
Texas — T-DEX	44,254,911
Virginia — Hampton Roads	6,131,856
West Virginia — HCOS	3,496
Wisconsin — WIJIS	6,377

Federal Data

Air Force OSI	5,675
ATF	85,338
BOP	6,118,729
DEA	3,241,487
FBI	609,417
JABS	3,431,364
USMS	52,693

N-DEx Data Integration Update

Recently, the N-DEx Data Integration Team received and tested data samples from Marietta, Georgia; Oklahoma and the DC Metro region. This data has been through initial inspection and the team is awaiting use of the N-DEx non-operational environment for further testing.

The team also received a hard drive from the Southern California Law Enforcement Information Exchange for ingestion on the N-DEx operational environment. ■

N-DEx Contacts

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Helpful Information

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 N-DEx Training ~ SSA L.C. Jennings **304.625.3141** N-DEx e-mail Address **ndex@leo.gov**
 N-DEx Public Web Page: http://www.fbi.gov/hq/cjisd/ndex/ndex_home.htm

***Send Your N-DEx Success Story
to the
Program Office***

Email: ndex@leo.gov