



Putting the right criminal justice information in the hands of the right people at the right time and in the right place.

What is CrimNet?

CrimNet is an information system that will connect criminal and juvenile justice systems throughout Minnesota. In the future it is hoped that information from other states would also be integrated.

- CrimNet, like the Internet, is a "system of systems" designed to work and share information with all criminal justice agencies.
- CrimNet is not a software or hardware program, nor is a centralized database. It is a secure intranet system that will link Minnesota's 1,100 criminal justice jurisdictions by using common business practices and a standard computer language.
- Once complete, CrimNet will give Minnesota prosecutors, judges, law enforcement officers, probation and correction officials current and complete criminal history information on suspects and criminals throughout the state.

Why is CrimNet important?

Criminals and suspects can remain free to re-offend simply because a police record in one county does not get to a judge in another county. This means many senseless murders and crimes could have been prevented if only prosecutors, police officers or judges had accurate information. Right now they are relying on 1970's technology – or worse.

CrimNet's Implications for National Security

In the wake of the September 11 tragedy, CrimNet can serve as a cornerstone for the nation's homeland security. By connecting each state's criminal and juvenile justice systems through a common computer language, complete, accurate and timely information can be shared anywhere in the country. States would improve their public's safety and federal authorities would have much improved access to critical information to better safeguard our nation.

For example, Mohammed Atta, suspected ringleader of the September 11 attacks, was pulled over for a driving violation shortly before September 11. The officer let Atta go free because he didn't know that Atta was on a "watch list." Currently, this federal information is not readily available to other levels of law enforcement. With CrimNet, it could be.

When Completed, CrimNet Will Provide Real-Time Statewide Automation of:

- Statewide case processing
- Weapons prohibition information
- Arrest warrant information
- Pre-trial release data
- Electronic fingerprinting and photo images
- Domestic and restraint conditions
- Conviction status on all offense levels
- Post-conviction restrictive probation conditions
- Detention / incarceration data
- Alcohol / driving restrictions
- Juvenile arrests and conviction data
- Total case record, from incident report to outcome, and sanction compliance and completion

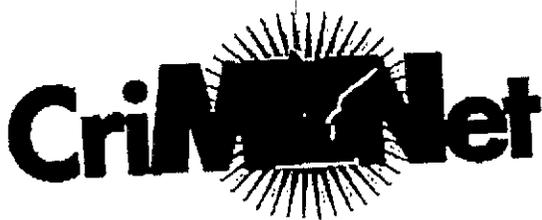
Current Status

Implementation of CrimNet is well underway. Several individual components of CrimNet have been developed and are currently operational. Several pilot projects have been completed, and many more are planned for the near future.

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History of CrimNet

1992 – 1999

The Criminal Justice Information Policy Group, which was established by the Legislature, provided state leadership in studying criminal justice issues. The group identified the need for an integrated criminal justice information system.

2000

The Minnesota Legislature passed Katie's Law. The legislation named after Katie Poirer, a young victim who was abducted and murdered, was a landmark piece of legislation that, among other provisions, funded the "CrimNet down payment." This created a model program that could be used throughout the state. In October of 2000, the model was completed.

2001

Sen. Jane Ranum (DFL-Minneapolis) and Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove) sponsored legislation to allocate the money needed to implement CrimNet statewide. The Legislature appropriated \$27 million for CrimNet.

2002

Implementation of CrimNet is well underway. Several individual components of CrimNet have been developed and are currently operational. Several pilot projects have been completed, with many more beginning in the near future.

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Giving Investigators the Tools They Need to Solve Crimes

In 1999 a woman in Burnett County, Wisconsin reported her \$15,000 diamond ring stolen. The victim suspected her ex-brother-in-law had taken the ring when he was attending a family function. She called her insurance agent, who told her to contact the Minneapolis police department to ask if they could locate her ring in the Automated Pawn System (APS).

The City of Minneapolis implemented the APS to collect information about transactions in pawn and second-hand stores. Law enforcement agencies are welcome to share this data and it has been proven helpful in recovering stolen property. The Minneapolis police department plans to make APS available to every law enforcement agency in the state as part of the CrimNet system.

Two Minneapolis police officers, upon receiving information from Burnett County, checked the APS and found that the suspect had pawned a ring three days after the theft that matched the description of the victim's stolen ring. The ring was held at the pawnshop and an investigator from the county sheriff's office was called to retrieve the ring. After confirming that the ring was indeed the one that was stolen, the two police officers received an arrest warrant and placed the suspect under arrest. The suspect was eventually extradited and charged.

When an offender was checking in with a county corrections office, he insisted that he had not been on probation before. By using an element of CrimNet, the Statewide Supervision System (S3), the office found that the offender had been and was on probation in three other probation jurisdictions.

In another county, an offender was appearing in court for sentencing. The probation officer and attorneys had not yet received complete information on the offender's criminal history. The judge was able to access the S3 via CrimNet, find the history and sentence the offender at the same time. The S3 avoided the need to reschedule the hearing and bring everyone back to court on another day, saving both money and time.

The S3 provides quick access for criminal justice professionals allowing them to:

- find thorough information on all offenders under supervision in Minnesota;
- obtain automated sentencing guidelines worksheets; and
- review the Department of Corrections' prison inmate data.

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The following is an actual example. In 2001, Kerry Dean Stevenson, a convicted criminal with a history of violations against children, was preparing to be tried and sentenced in a metro county for criminal sexual misconduct. In reviewing his case, law enforcement, the prosecutor and the judge had access to only part of his criminal record.

His criminal record indicated:

- 10 different names used as aliases
- 7 different birth dates

Year	Convictions	County
1984	DWI	Hennepin
1986	Indecent Conduct	Hennepin
1988	Indecent Exposure	Hennepin
1989	Indecent Exposure	Hennepin
1991	Aggravated Violence - Drivers License Suspended	Hennepin
1997	Criminal Sex Conduct, 4 th degree	Hennepin

But this was only part of the story. Stevenson had actually been convicted of many other crimes that could significantly impact the prosecution's case and the sentence handed down from the judge.

Information that was missing:

Year	Convictions	County
1983	Indecent Conduct	Hennepin
1985	Indecent Conduct	Anoka
1986	Indecent Conduct	Ramsey
1986	DWI	Hennepin
1987	Indecent conduct	Anoka
1987	Indecent conduct	Anoka
1989	Gross Misdemeanor DWI	Pine
1992	Indecent Conduct	Anoka
1993	Indecent Conduct	Ramsey
1993	Indecent Conduct	Ramsey
1993	Indecent Exposure	Hennepin
1993	Escape from Custody	Hennepin
1994	Theft by Check	Ramsey
1997	Criminal Sex Conduct, 5 th degree	Ramsey
1998	Criminal Sex Conduct, 5 th degree	Hennepin
2000	Criminal Sex Conduct, 5 th degree	Anoka

This happens nearly every day. The state's 1,100 law enforcement agencies cannot share information to ensure they have complete records of a suspect or to connect a suspect with unsolved crimes in other parts of the state. Fortunately, the prosecutor in the case was able to obtain this additional criminal information in time for Stevenson's trial and sentencing.

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Myths vs. Facts

MYTH	<i>Minnesota already has everything from mug shots to fingerprints stored in a computer system.</i>
FACT	Currently, we do not. Under today's system, a county sheriff who wants to know if a person he has detained has any previous arrests or warrants pending from other counties or jurisdictions in the state would have to call each jurisdiction separately to find the information. With 1,100 jurisdictions, this important research rarely occurs. However, much like an Internet search engine, CriMNet will soon allow that sheriff to type in the suspect's name and get his or her entire criminal history.
MYTH	<i>CriMNet will increase the already heavy burden on local law enforcement.</i>
FACT	Local law enforcement officials will benefit from better technology and are often the most ardent supporters of CriMNet. The current system is inefficient and increasingly ineffective, making their job harder and more frustrating. By using CriMNet, local law enforcement will have more success fighting crime.
MYTH	<i>Those applying for jobs that would place them in close proximity to vulnerable populations (children, the elderly, etc.) are weeded out by a thorough background check.</i>
FACT	Because many criminal histories are incomplete and not integrated into a system available to all appropriate personnel, a woman with convictions for abusing senior citizens in Brainerd may be able to get a job in a St. Paul nursing home because her St. Paul record is clean. The reality is that, despite the efforts of employers to keep dangerous people away from their vulnerable populations, some criminals slip through the cracks. CriMNet will seal up those cracks, and allow law enforcement agents to see a person's complete history, regardless of where a conviction occurred. In addition to being more thorough, background checks using CriMNet will take less time, allowing hiring decisions to be made more quickly and confidently.

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MYTH	<i>Personal information will be available to too many people.</i>
FACT	Only information on suspected or convicted criminals will be available through CrIMNet. The only people who would be allowed to see it would be law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges and probation and corrections officials. CrIMNet will just allow for better tracking and data collection of information such as fingerprints, photographs, warrant, probation and conviction status, and weapons and alcohol/driving restrictions.
MYTH	<i>We can't afford CrIMNet.</i>
FACT	We can't afford <u>not</u> to build CrIMNet. Minnesota currently spends nearly \$2 billion per year on criminal justice for a system that simply is not complete, accurate or current. More than 100,000 convictions are not on the books because they are "lost" and we "lose" nearly 23,000 more every year because some piece of information is inaccurate or incomplete. The investment in CrIMNet is estimated at \$260 million over six years and will make our criminal justice system more effective and efficient. What will Minnesotans receive for this investment? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o More efficiency for local law enforcement, prosecutors and courts. Using today's outdated technology, tracking down criminal histories can be time consuming. CrIMNet makes criminal histories readily accessible. Also, with more data available on suspects, judges will have the information they need to issue arrest warrants and police officers may be more effective in recovering stolen property. o A safer Minnesota, with criminals held and punished appropriately. The price of allowing just one criminal to remain free and re-offend is too high.
MYTH	<i>Law enforcement personnel have access to a person's complete criminal history when making an arrest, preparing a case or during sentencing.</i>
FACT	False! Our crime fighters are constrained by the lack of complete information as they seek to protect the people of Minnesota. Many convictions do not make it on to a person's criminal record, leaving prosecutors to try cases and judges to make sentences with insufficient, inaccurate or incomplete information. Their efforts would be aided, and Minnesotans would be better protected, if they had the best information possible. When operational, CrIMNet will allow all appropriate personnel to see the information they need to best protect Minnesotans.
MYTH	<i>CrIMNet is simply a technology issue – if everyone gets the same computer systems or software the problem will be solved.</i>
FACT	CrIMNet is an "enterprise model" that entails more than just the consistent use of data and technology. While it will be important for each jurisdiction to use technology and data that allow them to interact with one another, it also means the use of consistent business practices by each jurisdiction throughout the state criminal justice system, none of which is in place today. For example, each sheriff's office and police department will have to collect and record the same information from people who have been arrested. The same would be true for the judicial and corrections systems. Therefore all of the criminal's information must be uniformly entered and maintained.