

# INFORMATION and JUSTICE FOR ALL



RELIABLE

CREDIBILITY

INNOVATIVE

secure

law enforcement

CRITICAL DATA

Niets

Commitment





JUSTICE

COLLABORATION

Public Safety

 **Nlets**

Connection

access

INFORMATION SHARING



LETTER from the PRESIDENT

Wendy Brinkley  
Acting President & 1st Vice President

Since 1967, Nlets has been serving the interstate communication needs of the criminal justice community. In recent years, Nlets has expanded its scope to include launching acclaimed programs, conducting groundbreaking research, and providing exciting new programs, capabilities and services to our membership. Throughout its history, Nlets has diligently worked to develop innovative strategies and initiatives to provide secure, reliable connections that facilitate millions of data exchanges, which serve every justice and public safety user transcending jurisdictional and technological boundaries, in the United States, Canada and beyond.

Valuable information necessary to identify and apprehend perpetrators and to keep citizens safe is often spread across disconnected databases and paper files in thousands of agencies at various different levels of jurisdiction. In many cases, criminals who have been stopped by the police are missed when local law enforcement data searches are unable to access information that is stored outside of their own systems. Most of these databases are not integrated and, therefore, the information is not shared. If this disparate data was fully integrated and subject to state-of-the-art analysis tools, creating a seamless data grid that could be queried in real time, law enforcement agencies would be much more effective in both preventing crime and solving open cases. This data sharing initiative can only be achieved through a collaborative effort to which Nlets is dedicated and committed.

As criminal justice professionals, it is our duty to do all we can to provide the necessary tools and information to combat crime and violence. As an internationally recognized leader of collaboration, information sharing and innovative technologies, Nlets continues to leverage partnerships and regional information technologies to address and anticipate public safety issues. I hope you find the 2008 Nlets Annual Report interesting and informative.



Steven E. Correll  
Executive Director

There are building years and there are breakthrough years. Each is important in the cycle of growing and sustaining growth in a corporation with an important critical mission. For Nlets, 2008 was a building year even in the current fiscal situation we all are working through. Nlets is in a sustained growth mode, steadily extending new and innovative services while supporting legacy needs, and bringing all customers forward together for seamless information sharing.

In 2008, our continually growing customer base used our systems more than ever before for data exchanges never previously offered over technology more secure, redundant and robust than ever before envisioned. Our capabilities expanded, as did our customer base and revenue. These go hand-in-hand and are a cornerstone of our strategic plan for steady and sustainable growth in the past several years and into the future.

The past year has seen a number of advancements for information sharing, including projects such as: the Nlets Interstate Sharing of Photos (NISP) that facilitates the inter-state exchange of driver license and corrections photos; the Criminal History Information Exchange Format (CHIEF) project that provides for the transmission of standardized criminal history Rap Sheets; and, the welcoming of our first regional partners (CapWIN and ARJIS), allowing justice professionals to share regional data among themselves in order to better achieve their missions.

future  
LETTER from the DIRECTOR  
EXECUTIVE  
sustainable  
growth

Many projects also continue to progress behind the scenes: improving Nlets software to make systems modular, secure and more capable; and, administrative projects to allow for the efficient and cost effective purchase of equipment and services that follow strict accounting guidelines while ensuring the most sensible use of resources.

2008 was a building year that Nlets spent preparing for the next opportunity to enhance needed data to serve the justice and public safety community of the United States, Canada and beyond. Enclosed in this Annual Report you will find information on the accomplishments of Nlets and our goals, message and plans for the future. In the year ahead, there is much to do and many opportunities before us. I am pleased with what we accomplished in 2008 at Nlets. We started the year strong and we ended the year strong. I expect nothing less for 2009.



# MISSION<sup>AND</sup> VISION

secure

INNOVATIVE

CONNECTED

RELIABLE

## Mission

The mission of Nlets is to provide, within a secure environment, an international justice telecommunications capability and information services that will benefit to the highest degree, the safety, the security, and the preservation of human life and the protection of property. Nlets will assist those national and international government agencies and other organizations with similar missions that enforce or aid in enforcing local, state or international laws or ordinances.

## Vision

Nlets' vision is to continue to be the premier provider of the network, system and services that will support and encourage a totally standardized, integrated, international justice system. Acting primarily as a network provider and, to the degree required, a data warehouse, Nlets will endeavor to serve every stratum of the justice and public safety communities.







# RELIABLE

## The Calm during the Storm

On February 5th and 6th of 2008, coinciding with the presidential primary elections and caucuses, the Super Tuesday tornado outbreak tore through the southern United States and the lower Ohio Valley. Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, and Tennessee were among the affected regions where voting locations were forced to close early due to the severe weather. Eighty-seven tornados touched down over the course of forty-eight hours. The outbreak was the deadliest in over ten years. Damages were estimated at over \$500 million. In the midst of unquestionable chaos, and throughout all of 2008, Nlets remained literally unaffected.

# RESPONSE

Sustainability

Critical Data

REPORT

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*redundant and robust than ever*  
*before* **envisioned.**

## Nlets Stats

The monthly message switch transactions for 2008 reflect the following activity:

	SYSTEM TRANSACTIONS
Jan	64,086,575
Feb	62,596,120
Mar	71,990,078
Apr	69,325,328
May	69,878,402
Jun	68,553,754
Jul	74,315,408
Aug	74,438,774
Sept	69,436,067
Oct	72,473,038
Nov	65,352,275
Dec	66,556,086
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>829,001,905</b>

In 2008, system uptime was 99.99%.



# SECURE



## AES Encryption

Current security standards require devices transmitting criminal justice information to protect the data with a minimum of 128 bit encryption. The Nlets network far exceeds existing requirements and utilizes a 256 bit Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) to protect Nlets data in transit. A device capable of checking one billion keys per second ( $10^{18}$ ) would require  $3 \times 10^{51}$  years to exhaust the 256 bit key space. This is longer than the age of the universe 13,000,000,000 ( $1.3 \times 10^{10}$ ). This encryption standard, in conjunction with Nlets' utilization of a private MPLS network, makes Nlets the most secure network possible for transmitting criminal justice information.

## MPLS

Multi Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) provides a second reliable means of data transportation between Nlets and its remote agencies, establishing a fully-meshed private network. Nlets deployment of MPLS relies on the Cisco 2800 Series Integrated Service Router. MPLS enables Nlets to provide nearly full T1 services to all members at a lower cost than the legacy fractional T1 connectivity.

## Vulnerability Analysis

To identify and further reduce risk, Nlets provides added value to partnering agencies by offering on-site vulnerability assessments. Nlets sends a survey, conducts a site tour, assesses risk, and makes the appropriate and conservative recommendations. Nlets utilizes the assessment results to regulate devices that interact with the Nlets' network and any internal device used to transport criminal justice information. The Nlets network adheres to the concepts of *Defense in Depth* and *Policy of Least Privilege*. Nlets requires that all endpoints be protected, believing the network is only as secure as its weakest link, and that connectivity must occur in the smallest window possible.

critical  
data

*Vulnerability Management*

With the **astronomical cost** of losing precious information...even the rarest **chance** of failure has a **safety net**.

response

RISK ASSESSMENT



### The Power of a Photo

A North Carolina State Highway Patrol trooper was involved in one of the pilots of NISP (Nlets Interstate Sharing of Photos). In the first two weeks of the pilot, he stopped a vehicle just west of Raleigh for speeding on I-40. The individual said he had left his driver's license at home and gave the trooper a name and date of birth. The violator produced a citation for speeding that he had received earlier in the night in Greensboro, North Carolina. An officer in Greensboro had stopped the individual and run the name and date of birth through the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles. The query came back as a valid driver's license.

So, the state trooper ran the name and date of birth a second time, this time requesting an image through the DMV. The image did not match the driver. The trooper confronted the violator and found that he had used his brother's name and date of birth. The violator had an outstanding warrant for a parole violation. He was arrested and properly charged in both Raleigh and Greensboro.

This is a great example of the power of a photo that can be delivered down to the patrol car. Individuals give the wrong name and date of birth every day on the street. Without the corresponding image, this violator would have simply been charged for speeding and sent on his way, with no consequences for parole violation or providing false information during a traffic stop. The images and other critical information Nlets provides for these officers will save lives and make the criminal justice system more effective in serving our communities.

CONNECTED



LOCAL

International

National

REGIONAL

*Nlets' connectivity*  
*knows* **no limits**  
*or* **boundaries.**



experience

innovation

MOVING AHEAD

## PLANS *for the* FUTURE



*Nlets has* **discovered** *many*  
**untapped** *opportunities to do more*  
*with the* **technology**, *capability and*  
*governance Nlets already possesses.*

Nlets, The International Justice & Public Safety Network, was created by the principal law enforcement agencies of the states over 40 years ago. It is now the pre-eminent interstate law enforcement network in the nation for the exchange of law enforcement information. Despite how far we've come, we still have immediate plans for future growth. We have positioned ourselves as a national leader of technology to accomplish great things for justice and public safety information sharing – and we don't plan on stopping.

Nlets has discovered many untapped opportunities to do more with the technology, capability and governance Nlets already possesses. For example, by switching to a Multi Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) network, we now provide greater bandwidth, full network meshing capabilities and lower costs – all to allow images, FBI backup and improved capability and control. We also recently upgraded all routers (primary and backup) to Cisco 2811 routers with 3G wireless capability – making Nlets three levels deep in network redundancy from a single point of failure. While these improvements will help perfect our information sharing capacity, there can be many services and needs that go beyond information transfer and exchange, such as disaster recovery site hosting, hardware/software hosting, and technical consulting services.

Our goal for this upcoming year is to sustain controlled growth to provide new, related services both proactively and in response to changing customer needs thereby expanding our membership and strategic partner base. We are looking forward to growing and improving our already superior services.



# MOVING AHEAD

## forecasting

innovation

# PARTNERSHIPS

Nlets would like to acknowledge our strategic partners in this report and thank them for their continued support of law enforcement and first responders. These partnerships support our core business by serving the needs of our members and allow qualified organizations to securely and appropriately utilize the national and international reach of Nlets for the benefit of the justice and public safety community. With your continued support, we are all looking forward to a future full of expansion and innovation.

## Strategic Partners



Nlets would like to acknowledge and thank our new Regional-Associate members for their commitment to making regional data available. We would also like to thank our federal funding partners for their commendable effort to provide grant monies that ultimately allow organizations like Nlets to further support the states.

## Regional-Associate Members



## Federal Funding Partners



Nlets is grateful to our member agencies that provided content or images for this annual report.

## Thank You to:

California Department of Justice  
Florida Highway Patrol  
Michigan State Police  
Ohio State Highway Patrol  
United States Army  
United States Postal Inspection Service



*As technologies, content and devices  
continue to **evolve**, the  
only limit on the **opportunity**  
for information sharing is our  
**imagination.***



CREDIBILITY

RELIABLE

secure law enforcement

**Nlets**





623.308.3500  
[press@nlets.org](mailto:press@nlets.org)  
[www.nlets.org](http://www.nlets.org)