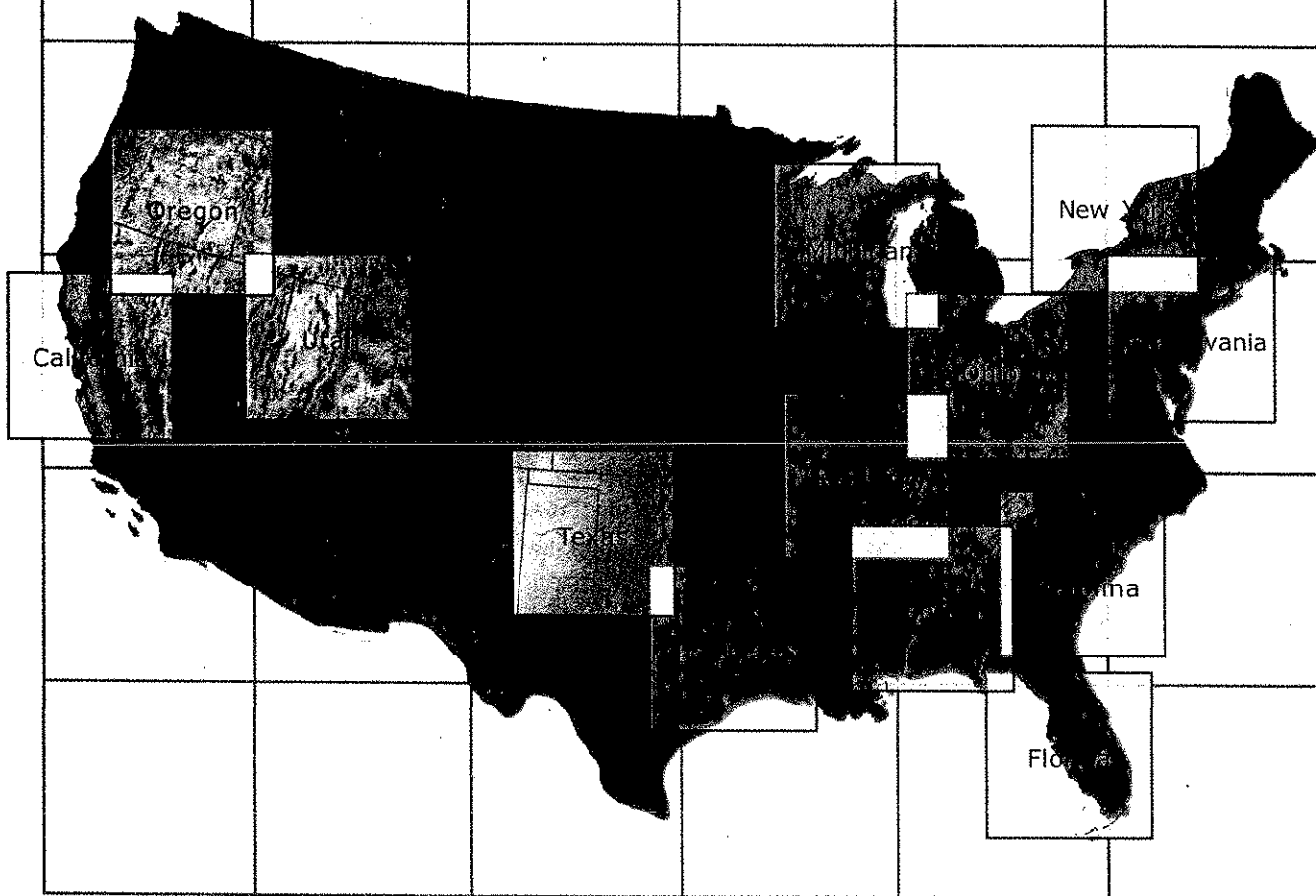


M A T R I X

Multistate Anti-Terrorism Information EXchange



MATRIX Project—a pilot effort to increase and enhance the exchange of sensitive terrorism and other criminal activity information between local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies

MATRIX—Multistate Anti-Terrorism

The Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, initiated funding for a pilot, proof-of-concept project titled the Multistate Anti-Terrorism Information Exchange (MATRIX). The MATRIX pilot project was initiated in response to the increased need for timely information sharing and exchange of terrorism-related information among members of the law enforcement community.

- ◆ The MATRIX pilot project is an effort to increase and enhance the exchange of sensitive terrorism and other criminal activity information between local, state, and federal agencies.
- ◆ The project leverages and integrates existing and proven technology to provide a new capability to assist law enforcement in identifying and analyzing terrorist and other criminal activity, and appropriately disseminating it to law enforcement agencies nationwide in a secure, efficient, and timely manner.

Organizational Structure

The organizational structure for implementation and operation of the MATRIX pilot project ensures each participant a voice in the project administration. The MATRIX pilot project has been awarded a \$4 million budget by the Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice, for:

1. Database integration
2. Hardware
3. Software
4. Network support to a multistate coalition of law enforcement agencies

Thirteen states have been selected for inclusion in the pilot project, with the desire to expand the system nationwide once the pilot testing is completed and the success of the concept documented.

The project has three primary objectives:



Use data mining and data integration technology to improve the usefulness of information contained in multiple types of document storage systems


The MATRIX project is implementing data mining capabilities to integrate disparate data from many types of Web-enabled storage systems to identify, develop, and analyze terrorist activity and other crimes for investigative leads. This capability will facilitate integration and exchange of information within the participating states to include criminal history, driver license data, vehicle registration records, and incarceration/corrections records including digitized photographs to be integrated with millions of public data record entries. It will facilitate integration and exchange of information with other states, as well as within the participating states. The use of data mining technology will save countless investigative hours and significantly improve the opportunity for successful conclusion of investigations.

Data Security

Information submitted by a state may only be disseminated in accordance with restrictions and conditions placed on it by the submitting state, pursuant to the submitting state's laws and regulations. **Information will be made available only to law enforcement agencies, and on a need-to-know and right-to-know basis.** Data access permissions will be conditioned on the privileges of the user making the inquiry.

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Provide a mechanism for states to become nodes on the RISS secure intranet (riss.net) for electronic information exchange among participating agencies

The communications backbone for the MATRIX project is the Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) network called riss.net, which is an existing secure network with a proven track record of transmitting sensitive information among law enforcement agencies. In addition to linking the six regional RISS center resources, this network currently provides connectivity for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas, United States Attorneys' Offices, other federal agencies, and several state law enforcement systems. This network is based on standards that will allow other state and federal systems to interoperate. The riss.net system represents a cost-effective solution and a way to rapidly implement the project.

Each of the 13 participating MATRIX state agencies is establishing electronic connection as a node on riss.net. End-user accounts will be enabled for authorized participating state and local law enforcement agency users in each state. This connectivity will allow secure communications with other participating agencies, as well as the RISS centers, and allow secure access to the Web-enabled document storage systems.



Encourage the exchange of information via secure state Web sites

For networking and information sharing to be effective, data must be made available over the network to authorized users.

Utilizing the access controls employed by the RISS system, secure Web sites are being created and deployed for each state to enable information to be disseminated to the appropriate audience. These Web sites provide a familiar vehicle for MATRIX participants to post and review anti-terrorism and alert information.

This system will ensure that state and local law enforcement officers—the individuals most likely to come into direct contact with terrorists or other criminals—have the best information (accurate and complete) available to them in a timely manner. It will also provide a mechanism for local officers to report important information they collect “on the street” back to state and federal authorities. **Implementation of this pilot capability represents an important component of an overall prevention strategy, critical to United States homeland security.**

The *MATRIX* pilot project integrates existing and proven technology to provide a new capability to assist law enforcement

For more information:

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