



# **An Oklahoma Criminal Justice Resource Center White Paper**

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## **The Offender Data Information System (ODIS)**

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## CONTENTS

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<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>OVERVIEW.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>WARRANT COMPARISON CHART.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>PROBLEM STATEMENT .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>PREVIOUS OPTIONS.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>ODIS SOLUTIONS.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>COST .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>SOFTWARE SUPPORT .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>NETWORK INSTALLATION.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>ONSITE SERVERS.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>ONSITE TRAINING.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>SOFTWARE ENHANCEMENTS.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>SUMMARY.....</b>	<b>10</b>

## **Introduction**

*ODIS currently supports:*

*51 Sheriff Offices  
78 Police Departments  
3 Detention Facilities  
1 District Drug Task Force*

This paper highlights the capabilities of the Offender Data Information System (ODIS) and the tremendous positive impact the project has made on Oklahoma Law Enforcement. ODIS has experienced heretofore unparalleled growth and customer loyalty since its inception and is in every sense a leader in Oklahoma local criminal justice integration efforts. A barometer of ODIS success is that since 2004 every agency added to the network has been from word of mouth, without active advertisement or conducting a “cold call sales pitch.” Of course, this approach, coupled with the unique personal service that the ODIS staff provides has resulted in strong personal rapport between the ODIS staff and the leadership, both past and present, of each and every agency in the ODIS network.

Officers see ODIS in use at one agency, begin asking questions and soon call about getting on the system. Also very common is that an officer will leave one agency for another and the new agency does not have a Records Management System (RMS) or their system is not meeting their needs. In many cases, this realization is shortly followed by a phone call to the Oklahoma Criminal Justice Resource Center (OCJRC) for an ODIS estimate. Because of ODIS’ growth and its ability and (more importantly) desire to work in conjunction with other system automation enhancements now available in the state, Oklahoma Law Enforcement has never been better situated to take advantage of the imminent boom in criminal justice data integration.

## **Overview**

*ODIS was the first local records management system to offer inter-connectivity to ALL its users and remains the largest such project in the state.*

Before calendar year 2000 information and data sharing between Oklahoma local law enforcement agencies could best be described with the words “minimal, or non-existent.” The only state sponsored information distribution system available to local agencies at this time was the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (OLETS). Unfortunately, even with OLETS in place at 77 county sheriff offices, and a few major police departments, this left more than 600 law enforcement agencies without a reliable information sharing solution. Unfortunately, even with its availability, OLETS did not offer a local records management option. To fill the gap, many agencies acquired stand alone RMS systems that were not compatible with the agency next door, much less one a hundred miles away.

Quite a few private RMS’ existed but only a few agencies could afford any system with more than rudimentary capabilities. Even the most mundane internal law enforcement software system, cost from \$30,000 to \$100,000, well outside the reach of the majority of

Oklahoma law enforcement agencies. In short, an affordable integrated statewide RMS system simply did not exist. This left many agencies to piece together their own system, use word processor templates, or simply continue using paper as their primary means of capturing incident reports, booking records, warrants, citations, and criminal history data.

Into this environment, the OCJRC set in motion the ODIS project. In 1999, using start up funds provided by the Byrne Memorial Grant Fund, the OCJRC began development on the Offender Data Information System (ODIS). Recognizing the growing importance and capabilities of the internet, Microsoft Internet Explorer and other budding web based applications; the OCJRC launched an aggressive, far ranging plan to bring a capable, interconnected (and most important – affordable) RMS system to Oklahoma Law Enforcement.

*Lockdown was a DOS based jail management only initiative of the OCJRC.*

Officially launched in January 2001, with the transition of 4 Lockdown agencies to ODIS, the project grew quickly. ODIS rapidly became the fastest growing Law Enforcement database management solution in the state. In addition, the program that began as a jail management module, evolved to encompass Incident Reporting, Citation Management, Municipal Court Processes, Warrant Management, and Civil Process, just to name a few. Further, all the new functions were added at the request of the member agencies and with their input and review.

*ODIS Contains:*

*2 million names  
635,000 pictures  
142,500 warrants  
370,000 booking records  
782,000 incident reports  
384,000 citations  
1500+ registered sex and violent crime offenders  
5,000 users*

Increasing at an average rate of 15-20 agencies a year, at the end of October 2007 the ODIS network boasted a total strength of 132 agencies (51 Sheriff Offices; 78 Police Departments; three County Detention Facilities and one Drug Task Force – District 1). Each agency maintains their local criminal database, and just as importantly, shares their information with every other agency on the network. This database consists of over 2 million party names, 635,000 pictures, 368,000 booking records, 782,000 incident reports, 142,500 active warrants and over 1500 registered sex and violent crime offenders.

As service to the law enforcement agency has always been the driving force behind the project the OCJRC worked to secure the cooperation of the Department of Corrections and the Oklahoma Tax Commission. Both agencies granted ODIS access to their information data systems, thereby becoming a strategic force multiplier for Oklahoma Law Enforcement. In addition, potential future working relationships with OSBI, OHP, DHS and DTF promise to add even more utility to the system.

## WARRANT COMPARISON CHART

<b>Software Systems</b>	<b>OLETS</b>	<b>ODIS</b>
<b>Type of Warrants</b>	Felony warrants only	County Warrants; Municipal Warrants; Felony Warrants; Misdemeanor Warrants; Bench Warrants; Cost Warrants; Traffic Warrants
<b>Party Data</b>	All party data is entered by hand	Party data from existing database may be used and any interlinks are updated in the ODIS system for future use. Manual entry is also possible.
<b>Warrant Entry Method</b>	Single page with type in entry	Single page with fill in the blanks and drop down lists to limit misspelled words and other simple avoidable mistakes. A list of state statutes is available by key word search, or title and section number, as well as user definable local ordinances.
<b>Search Methods Available</b>	Must search by party name, no statistics or other administrative search options available.	May search by party name or any identification number in the system. Also, warrant statistics for clearance rates and number per month or per year are available along with warrant detail lists for an entire agency. The capability to conduct a real time search for local warrants against current active ODIS booking records across the network also exists. Anytime a name is searched in ODIS, no matter the reason, a warrant check is performed. Also, during release from jail another warrant check is performed automatically. Local agencies may also search inactive warrants on their local system.
<b>Network Connectivity</b>	NCIC through an approved OLETS terminal.	Any computer on the ODIS network has access to any warrant in the system.

*Even though ODIS & OLETS normally did not duplicate functionality or services, some cross talk did exist, such as the ability to enter and share warrants.*

*This chart presents a short summary of how these two major statewide law enforcement software systems handled warrant management.*

*When looking at the chart it is important to remember that the two systems worked best in concert with each other. OLETS was keyed to link with NCIC while the main purpose of ODIS was local law enforcement database management.*

## **Problem Statement**

Even with this unmatched success, ODIS is often seen, by detractors and those outside of local law enforcement as an oddity or semi relevant. The needs of the local law enforcement agency are often subordinated to state or national interests and detractors often overlook or downplay the success of the ODIS network. Characterized by some critics as a surplus system the depth and breadth of the application is oft times disregarded. Few non-ODIS users realize the full capabilities of the system, and most troubling; dismiss out of hand the irreplaceable benefits of ODIS to both local and state law enforcement, and the tremendous synergy created by the application.

## **Previous Options**

### *ODIS Modules:*

*Incident Reporting*  
*Probable Cause Affidavit*  
*Protective Order*  
*Property Room Inventory*  
*Pawn Ticket Tracking*  
*Field Interview Report*  
*Citation Management*  
*Court Management*  
*Warrant Management*  
*State Statute List*  
*Local Ordinance Management*  
*Collision Report*  
*Sex Offender Tracking*  
*Violent Crime Tracking*  
*Radio Log*  
*Civil Process Management*  
*Jail Management*  
*SS # Inmate Reporting*  
*VINE Link Interface*  
*LIVESCAN Integration*  
*Employee Records*  
*Transportation Records*  
*Vehicle Maintenance*  
*Agency Event Calendar*  
*Inter Agency Messaging*  
*Car Tag Records*  
*(via OK Tax Commission)*  
*DOC Records Listing*  
*(via Department of*  
*Corrections)*

As stated above, before the advent of ODIS, local law enforcement depended on third party records management systems (RMS) that were not tailored for Oklahoma criminal justice needs. Third party RMS' tended to be expensive, with little, or no, real time support. Other solutions offered little in the way of local records management, were complicated to use, and contained little customization options. Many agencies had multiple computer applications, one to record arrests, one for bookings, another for warrants, and another for report writing or property inventory, etc. These multiplicities lead to data duplication, the need for familiarization in copious program interfaces, and duplication of work. The by-product of which often led to forcing the officer to spend more time in the office than on the street.

## **ODIS Solutions**

**ODIS presents an agency with the ability to house all their database information in one application which utilizes a shared user interface. Since all the software required for the client machines already reside on the local system, this architecture results in fewer resources devoted to program support and training. This, in turn, results in lower initial costs for the agency and robust, sustainable support for the hardware and software they dedicate to the project.**

## **COST**

As is often the case with local law enforcement the viability of the software solution is directly connected to the cost involved in

acquiring the product. With most software companies this meant that only the wealthiest agencies could manage to procure an acceptable system, and even then cuts had to be made to become “economically feasible.”

*ODIS offers the most cost effective Criminal Justice Records Management program in Oklahoma. Often the install costs are only 10% to 20% of a private software solution.*

As an example, the Jackson County Sheriffs Office received a bid for services from a software company for a jail management system that included the server, one workstation, the training for three (3) personnel and six months of support. The total cost equaled more than \$55,000, and was in fact, the cheapest of the private vendor solutions.

The OCJRC was able to install the entire agency, provide a server, three workstations (plus all adjacent equipment), train all their personnel, and provide support for less than \$10,000. Many factors made this possible; the programming had been already accomplished, a federal grant paid for much of the equipment, and the cost per hour for state employees was much less than private sector contractors.

When, grant money expired in 2005 many people expected that the program would suffer without the federal funding, and that new agency installs would decrease or cease all together. However, installations continued at an invigorated pace and agencies were still able to see the value of the product. Even with agencies now paying all of their installation costs, ODIS maintained its reputation as the most “Bang for the Buck” RMS in Oklahoma. In fact, overtures from several out of state departments have been denied so that the OCJRC could focus on Oklahoma.

### **Software Support**

*ODIS provides full software and network support and free system updates when available.*

One of the keys to a successful software system is the support provided by the vendor. Other vendors support many types of software, often not related to law enforcement. The company would then only offer support for a limited amount of time. After an introductory period, they then might charge per individual call or even charge the caller per minute for the support. Then to add insult to injury, most of the private party vendors will charge for any revisions to the system, some to the tune of \$10,000 to \$20,000 per update.

The OCJRC provides for all ODIS support. To keep client costs low, they use integrated products such as NetMeeting and Terminal Services to provide direct support to the agency. The agencies are able to call directly to ODIS support, and programmers are on staff and available to fix any issues that arise. Most problems are fixed with one call, and even more complex problems are usually resolved within one working day. Going far beyond the normal

vendor/client relationship, the OCJRC expands basic software support to assisting the agency maintain their network and in many cases becomes a de-facto IT staff resource for the agency.

Further, any and all ODIS software updates are provided free of any additional charges to all ODIS agencies. Finally, the software is not “piecemealed.” When the agency obtains ODIS they get the entire system, with access to all functions, with perpetual updates for the entire system, not just bits and pieces.

### **Network Installation**

*All law enforcement agencies in Seminole County are supported by one central 911 dispatch center running ODIS. ODIS in turn gives the dispatch center access to the database of each Police Department and the Sheriffs Office in the County.*

The OCJRC decided that trusting the system architecture to contractors, part time staff, or local network “administrators” would not fit the needs of the system. Therefore, OCJRC personnel have personally installed each agency, built each network configuration and error tested each computer to ensure ODIS compliance. An added benefit has been that when support is required, OCJRC personnel are already familiar with the local network and any nuances that might escape an outside party.

*Osage County Sheriff Office currently services four remote operating locations from a central command center using a network created by the ODIS staff.*

The network exists because of the innovative use of both software and router based Virtual Private Networks and firmware internet tunnels. This robust architecture also allows agencies to access ODIS from vehicle mobile data terminals, emergency command centers, and unimpeded access from authorized remote operating locations.

### **On-Site Servers**

*The onsite server structure has helped decrease agency downtime and increased local agency flexibility.*

The OCJRC chose to place servers in each agency. One of the main complaints from agencies was the fact that many systems required an internet connection to access a remote server for information retrieval. Of course this created the situation that when the internet failed (for whatever reason) the agency lost access to their RMS. With a server on site, an agency would always have access to their local information. They would always be able to complete reports, run a dispatch log, book and release inmates, and check local warrants.

As occurs during a natural disaster, or severe weather, the first things to fail are often the internet and/or local phone service. At a time when they would need access most, an agency might be cut off. An on-site server solves this critical situation.

### **Onsite Training**

*The OCJRC has instituted a very successful onsite training program. Every OCRJC sponsored training includes live hands on training with a specially configured computer lab.*

One of the primary ways to ensure that an agency gets a positive start to a new computer program is to provide adequate training. Before ODIS began, when an agency bought a new system, they normally received limited training or travel to a remote training site was required, making the agency incur further indirect installation costs (i.e. travel and per diem costs for personnel that went to the trainings). Finally, the impetus for training the rest of the staff then shifted to the personnel the agency sent to the trainings.

*For those agencies which require, or simply want, further update training, it is provided free of charge at the OCJRC offices on a quarterly basis.*

With ODIS, every agency receives on-site training and can send as many people as they wish to each training session. To make the training sessions more user friendly, the OCJRC compartmentalized the training so that the agency did not have to send everyone to every training session. Finally, the OCJRC staff secured CLEET accreditation for each training session to add further value to the agencies.

### **Software Enhancements**

*Nearly every module in the ODIS application has been created, or at the very least enhanced, from recommendations and requests by the user agencies.*

From early on, the member agencies have taken the lead on the subject of system expansion. This approach has lead to a exceptionally synergistic approach to application development. When an agency requests a new feature or function the OCJRC polls client agencies to first ascertain that the need is real and is of benefit system wide. A study is conducted to find out how the clients would use the product and how ease of use and utility can be most logically merged into the existing system. Warrants, Citations, Radio Log, and Incident Reports are all modules that were created from direct input of the agencies using the application.

*The OCJRC automatically transmits the monthly Social Security Report for member agencies.*

A recent prime example of this partnership approach is the current integration with the OSBI Livescan system. Previously, agencies that operated the Livescan system would have to actually book the inmate into two separate systems, one to fulfill the need for local booking record histories, the second to fulfill OSBI reporting requirements. Now, ODIS agencies can record the booking in ODIS and then port the information directly to the Livescan system add a digital mug shot and finger print, and complete the booking without duplicating work or information.

*The OCJRC supports the Oklahoma State Attorney General's Office - Victim Information Notification Everyday (VINE) project by transmitting inmate data directly to the VINE servers without manual interface.*

## Summary

***The ODIS project continues to evolve and move forward according to the vision of those running the project. Today, the system is one of the quietest success stories in Oklahoma. The project continues to encapsulate the goals of the grant project that created it. It exists to serve the needs of the Oklahoma criminal justice system and to give the end user the most affordable access to the tools and information needed to complete their mission.***

***The ODIS team continues to take pride in the relationships it has developed with the member agencies and their command staff. The agencies are not just clients, but are in fact, partners. This reality has been demonstrated many times in the past such as at CJIS meetings when a Grant approval vote was taking place, or the OCJRC required support to document the success of the system.***

***The command staff at each agency recognizes the fact that the more successful the project becomes, the more information will be available to the network. This, in turn, makes them more proficient in their jobs, and more importantly, it makes the job for the cop on the street, safer. The larger the ODIS footprint becomes, the smaller the margin of error exists that a bad guy will slip through a loophole in the system.***

***The ODIS staff is free to react quickly to issues that arise from agency installations to network emergencies. It is a testament to the maturity and stability of the software and network infrastructure that a staff of six supports the largest native Criminal Justice Records Management System in Oklahoma.***