

A black and white photograph showing a wooden gavel and a pair of metal handcuffs resting on a computer keyboard. The gavel is positioned diagonally, with its head towards the bottom left. The handcuffs are open and placed to the right of the gavel. The keyboard keys are visible in the background, creating a grid-like pattern. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the textures of the wood and metal.



CRC Press
Taylor & Francis Group

Introduction to Criminal Justice Information Systems

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CRC Press

Taylor & Francis Group

Boca Raton London New York

CRC Press is an imprint of the
Taylor & Francis Group, an **informa** business

CRC Press
Taylor & Francis Group
6000 Broken Sound Parkway NW, Suite 300
Boca Raton, FL 33487-2742

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CRC Press is an imprint of Taylor & Francis Group, an Informa business

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Printed on acid-free paper
Version Date: 20160105

International Standard Book Number-13: 978-1-4987-4881-0 (Hardback)

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This book is dedicated to my father, who was a great source of encouragement throughout my life. He always knew that I could achieve things even when I didn't think I could. I am sure he is looking down at me today with a big smile and saying, "See, I told you that you could do it." Thank you, Dad.

Preface

During my lifetime, there were two events that influenced my future in information technology. In 1966, while I was in high school, I took a personal typing course, not realizing how important knowing how to type would become in our information technology age. Then in 1972, as I was preparing to graduate from college and had put off taking a math course until my final quarter at California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, California, I was granted permission to substitute that math course with a computer science programming course. These two events became critical to my future and my contribution to criminal justice information systems.

In 1976, I transferred from the patrol unit to the planning, training, and research unit in the police department I was working for at the time. The first task the chief of police assigned me was to prove with empirical data that our department was in need of additional police officers. That is when I designed a patrol workload study that measured not only the number of calls for services we handled on a given shift but also the time consumed in handling these calls for service and other officer-generated activity. Here is where I put to use that computer science course that I took in my last quarter in college. I went to the city engineer and told him what we needed to do, and together he and I wrote a program on a Hewlett Packard 9830 Programmable Calculator in a new language called BASIC. The program captured the data pertaining to each call, and from this information, we were able to confirm that the officers spent 94% of their time on calls for service and officer-generated activities and 5% on administrative activities, leaving no time for unobligated patrol.

The Law Enforcement Assistance Administration declared the Patrol Workload Study a National Exemplary Project. The importance of this study is that I was asked to chair the National Steering Committee for the nation's first generic police record management system known as Police Operations Support System Elementary (POSSE). POSSE became the standard that is at the base of all record management systems to this day. Since these early days, I have had the pleasure of helping to implement

information technologies in criminal justice agencies throughout the United States.

Criminal justice information systems have come a long way since the early days. Information technology permeates every aspect of the criminal justice environment as it does our everyday lives. The intent of this book is to provide an overview of the various software systems and technologies used in today's criminal justice environment and to suggest where this technology will evolve to in the future.

Acknowledgments

Professionally, I want to thank Paul Wormeli for his assistance in providing information used in this book. Paul is a pioneer in criminal justice information systems, and together we have implemented hundreds of criminal justice information systems across this nation. Together we have also conceived new technologies that public safety agencies use today but have no idea where the concepts that gave birth to these technologies came from. Paul has led the nation in promoting criminal justice information systems and continues to be a visionary in this field.

I also would like to thank the following firms for contributing the product examples used in this edition:

- CrimeStar Corporation: a software firm that provides computer-aided dispatch, police records management systems, field mobile computing systems, and jail management systems.
- Microfirm Software Corporation: a software firm that provided the various screen samples from their prosecutor information system.
- PTS Solutions: a software firm that provided the various screen samples from their court management system.

Personally, I also want to thank my family for their support and understanding throughout the many years while I traveled across the country implementing information technology systems for justice agencies and for their patience with me on vacations when I was working in support of these agencies.

Author



Dr. Ralph E. Ioimo was a deputy chief of police in Simi Valley, California. He assisted the nation in establishing the first standardized police records management system and has participated in state and national steering committees on public safety automation. He has lectured at numerous state and national conferences and symposiums on public safety technology issues and published in both trade and academic journals on a variety of information technology issues. Dr. Ioimo was also the first executive director of the Integrated Justice Information Systems (IJIS) Institute in Ashburn,

Virginia, and has been involved in helping the U.S. Department of Justice in defining and guiding the future IJIS direction. Dr. Ioimo also brings his extensive law enforcement experience, technology consulting experience, and academic background together to provide unique approaches to system implementation consulting.

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