
Court Automation in Ohio

Results of the 1998 Court Technology Survey

The Supreme Court of Ohio
Technology Policy and Planning



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Introduction

Chief Justice Thomas Moyer created the Office of Technology Resources to assist the courts in their information technology needs. Since 1993, the Supreme Court of Ohio has offered technical assistance at no cost to Ohio's trial and appellate courts. To date, nearly 200 appellate, common pleas, municipal and county courts have invited the Office to aid them in their computerization efforts.

To aid in this effort, a survey concerning technological issues is sent to the trial courts of Ohio every other year. The following pages include summarized highlights of the most recent survey, which was conducted in 1998. All 370 of Ohio's trial courts participated. It is our hope that you find this information insightful.

Should you want additional information, please feel free to contact Marlane Nibert or Christian Selch toll free at 1-800-826-9010.

Ohio's 370 Trial Courts

Composition

25	Common Pleas Courts: General Division (CP1)
56	Common Pleas Courts: General Division and Domestic Relations (CP2)
7	Common Pleas Courts: General Division, Domestic Relations, Probate and Juvenile (CP4)
17	Common Pleas Courts: Domestic Relations (DR1)
7	Common Pleas Courts: Domestic Relations and Juvenile (DR2)
16	Common Pleas Courts: Probate (P1)
64	Common Pleas Courts: Probate and Juvenile (P2)
1	Common Pleas Courts: Probate, Juvenile and Domestic Relations (P3)
9	Common Pleas Courts: Juvenile (J1)
118	Municipal Courts (MC)
47	County Courts (CC)
1	Environmental Courts *
2	Housing Courts *
370	Trial courts in Ohio

(*) *Although the housing court and environmental court are divisions of the municipal court, for purposes of superintendence they are counted separately.*

Extent of Automation

92%	of Common Pleas Courts (CP1) are automated (23 of 25)
86%	of Common Pleas Courts (CP2) are automated (48 of 56)
71%	of Common Pleas Courts (CP4) are automated (5 of 7)
100%	of Common Pleas Courts (DR1) are automated (17 of 17)
100%	of Common Pleas Courts (DR2) are automated (7 of 7)
94%	of Common Pleas Courts (P1) are automated (15 of 16)
89%	of Common Pleas Courts (P2) are automated (57 of 64)
0%	of Common Pleas Courts (P3) are automated (0 of 1)
100%	of Common Pleas Courts (J1) are automated (9 of 9)
98%	of Municipal Courts (MC) are automated (116 of 118)
89%	of County Courts (CC) are automated (42 of 47)
100%	of Environmental Courts are automated (1 of 1)
100%	of Housing Courts are automated (2 of 2)
92%	of Ohio's trial courts are automated (342 of 370)

Providing Access to Court Information

Providing Public Access

Of the 342 courts that are automated:

- 260 provide public access with a **public-access terminal** at the court
- 50 provide public access with **modem dial-in** capabilities
- 3 provide public access via the **Internet**

Providing Agency Access

Of the 342 courts that are automated:

- 236 provide **printed reports** to other agencies
- 201 provide **direct access** to their systems to other agencies
- 176 provide **data files on tape or diskette** to other agencies
- 34 **transmit data files** directly to other agencies' systems

Agencies That Receive Access

Of the 342 courts that are automated:

- 196 have systems that provide information to the **Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles**
- 184 have systems that provide information to the **Supreme Court of Ohio**
- 161 have systems that provide information to the local **Prosecutor's Office**
- 159 have systems that provide information to local **Law Enforcement**
- 154 have systems that provide information to **Adult Probation**
- 89 have systems that provide information to the local **Treasurer's Office**
- 76 have systems that provide information to the **Child Support Enforcement Agency**
- 73 have systems that provide information to the **Treasurer of State**
- 47 have systems that provide information to the **Department of Youth Services**
- 43 have systems that provide information to the **Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation**
- 34 have systems that provide information to the **Department of Health, Vital Statistics**
- 20 have systems that provide information to local **Boards of Education**

Technologies Used

Electronic Legal Research

Of the 342 courts that are automated:

- 239 use legal research software on **CD-ROM**
- 89 use legal research software on the **Internet**
- 73 use legal research software by **dial-up modem**

Electronic Court Reporting

Of the 370 courts:

- 275 use **audio tape** for court reporting
- 55 use **computer-aided** court reporting software
- 36 use **video tape** for court reporting
- 33 use **real-time transcription** court reporting software

Imaging

Of the 342 courts that are automated:

- 25 have document imaging systems

Bar-Coding

Of the 342 courts that are automated:

- 16 have bar-coding systems

Video Arraignments

Of the 370 courts:

57 conduct video arraignments

Facsimile Filing

Of the 370 courts:

152 allow fax filing

Internet

Of the 342 courts that are automated:

110 have **Internet access**

27 have a **web page**

Email

Of the 342 courts that are automated:

78 have email

Supporting the Technology

The Supreme Court of Ohio, Office of Technology Resources

Of the 370 courts:

- 88 have requested assistance with **acquiring new systems**
- 35 have accessed the Supreme Court of Ohio **web page**
- 27 have requested **technical consultations**
- 27 have requested **assistance with specific technologies**
- 23 have requested **vendor dispute resolution services**

Maintenance and Support of the Systems

Of the 342 courts that are automated:

- 92 rely on a **non-technical court employee** for primary system support
- 86 rely on their jurisdiction's **data-processing department** for primary system support
- 57 rely on a **technical court employee** for primary system support
- 55 rely on the **court management software vendor** for primary system support
- 43 rely on a **for-profit service provider** for primary system support
- 14 rely on **another agency** not specifically mentioned for primary system support
- 6 rely on **some other arrangement** for primary system support

Year 2000 Compliance

Of the 342 courts that are automated:

- 211 indicate they have no written confirmation that their systems are year 2000 compliant

Automation Plans in the Near Future

Of the 370 courts:

- 173 indicate they plan an automation initiative within the next two years

The Supreme Court of Ohio

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