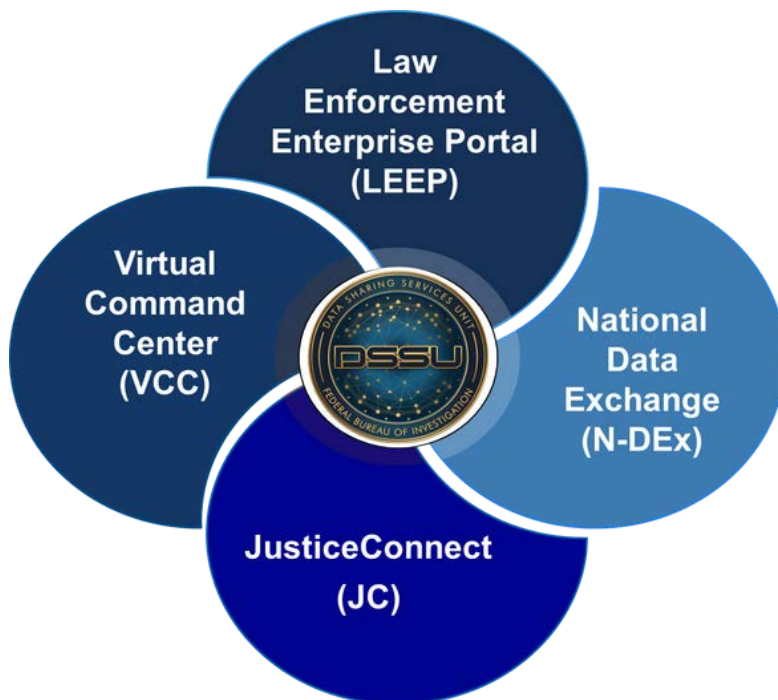# DATA SHARING SERVICES UNIT (DSSU)
NEWSLETTER

A Powerhouse of Resources.

July 2023

DSSU's mission is

to provide investigative resources, access solutions, and data-sharing services needed to advance cross-agency collaboration, strengthen partnerships, and reduce crime. DSSU manages operational and strategic oversight of the following FBI programs:

NEWSLETTER CONTENTS

Found a lead? Solved a crime? Made an arrest?

Tell us how you achieved success using a DSSU Service. Simply click here, to share your story. Upon submission, we will contact you for additional information and work with your agency to draft the story. Selected winners receive an award and will be featured in future newsletters and DSSU marketing materials (upon your agency's approval).

We Welcome Your Feedback

We routinely send surveys and user assessments to our user community to gather constructive feedback, which is used to enhance our programs and services. We encourage you to complete these surveys and share your experiences, suggestions, and successes with us.

LAW ENFORCEMENT ENTERPRISE PORTAL (LEEP)

Secure Access to the Services You Rely On.

LEEP Virtual Learning Opportunities

DSSU is excited to offer multiple virtual learning opportunities!

During the **LEEP Featured Services Series**, we will host a different service each month, where attendees will spend an hour hearing from the service experts in a live online environment.

The Featured Service for July is: N-DEx

The N-DEx System is a national investigative information-sharing system that enables criminal justice agencies to search, link, analyze, and share federal, state, local, and tribal records.

- No fee
- Available 24/7
- Easy web-based access

LEEP also presents a virtual **LEEP Overview (LEEP 101).** The attendees will hear from a LEEP expert about the primary components of LEEP, user tips and tricks, and basic service provider information.

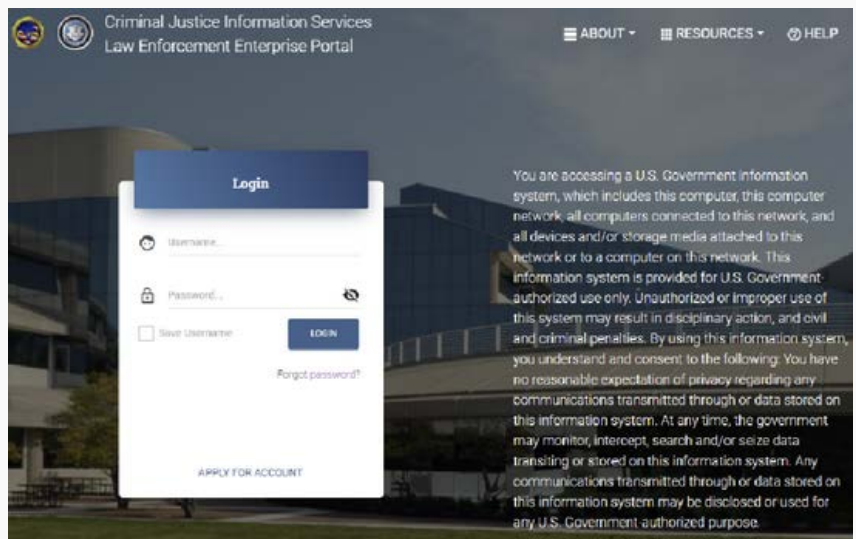Additional details and registration information can be found on the LEEP Home Page in the Latest News section and in the LEEP JC Community of Interest: https://justiceconnect.cjis.gov/communities/community/leep. (Please sign in to LEEP prior to clicking the link.)

LEEP's New Login Screen

On July 11, 2023, www.cjis.gov will have a new look.

The user will enter their userID and password on the same screen. The user will no longer have to answer challenge questions, although the one-time password will still be required.
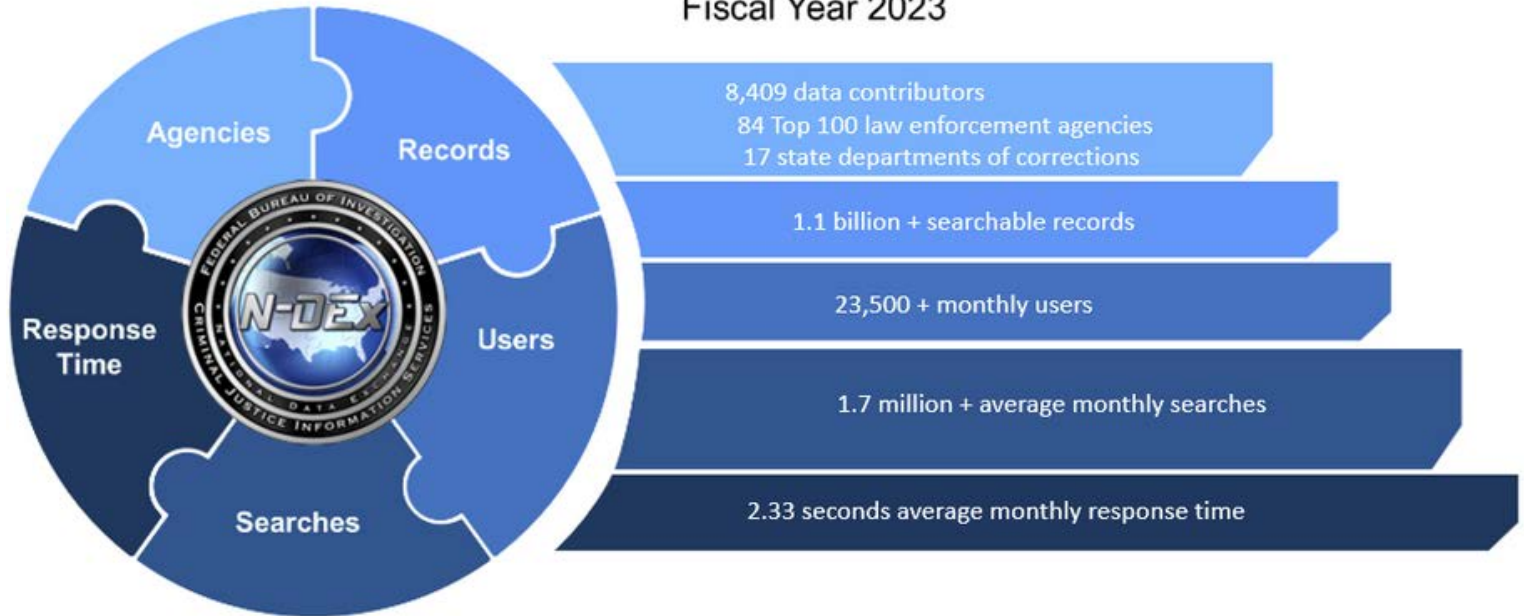
NATIONAL DATA EXCHANGE (N-DEX)

Information. Connections. Results.

N-DEx System Participation
Fiscal Year 2023

8,409 data contributors
84 Top 100 law enforcement agencies
17 state departments of corrections

1.1 billion + searchable records

23,500 + monthly users

1.7 million + average monthly searches

2.33 seconds average monthly response time

General User Guide Update

The latest *FBI N-DEx System General User's Guide March 27, 2023 Version 7.0* has been released. This resource can be located on the N-DEx System or www.fbi.gov/ndex.

"N-DEx is a great tool when all of the standard practices have been exhausted. It really captures the ability to get to that non-standard information on the periphery, and deep dive into the extra case information once the big ideas didn't yield any results. I would classify it as a treasure trove of random, but extremely helpful information to give new leads to my cases using state, local, and federal data that isn't culminated anywhere else in one place. After utilizing all the standard systems and protocols, it gives me hope that we're not quite through yet. I have solved many cases now with N-DEx information that I wasn't able to locate anywhere else, even after I had found it in N-DEx. It's just another tool in the toolbelt, but it's highly underutilized, and a breadth of information. I always consider that the worst that can happen is I don't find anything, but after you've done the normal system searches, what are you going to do now if you don't try?"

Bryan T. Johnson
FBI Laboratory Division

NATIONAL DATA EXCHANGE (N-DEX)

Information. Connections. Results.

2022 Excellence in Information Sharing Award
The N-DEx System assists in finding individuals in Bloods Gang case

In 2021, an FBI Baltimore Field Office (FO) intelligence analyst worked a large-scale Bloods Gang case which had ties to the entire east coast. Through investigation, the Baltimore FO identified a threat to life for an individual with no known identifiers, other than an alias street name. A confidential source provided vague information about someone posting a police report on social media connected with the threat to life. The analyst observed information in the social media post to identify several possible subjects. The analyst narrowed down the subjects and searched the names through the FBI's National Data Exchange (N-DEx) System. The N-DEx System returned records shared by the South Carolina Department of Corrections, which revealed the street name of one of the individuals identified in the social media post. The analyst located and provided the true identifiers of the person who had a "hit" out on him to the case agent who ultimately notified the correctional institute and FBI Atlanta. The analyst stated, "Without the N-DEx System, the identification would have been further delayed, potentially jeopardizing a life. Without the information provided by the N-DEx record, more investigation into the identified individuals to determine their aliases could have delayed the notification of the threat to life."

Left to right: FBI CJIS Division Liaison Specialist Belinda Cumpston, FBI Special Agent Charles Neagle, FBI Tactical Specialist Nelson Collins, FBI Intelligence Analyst Alyssa L. Ruisard, and FBI CJIS Division Liaison Specialist John Tittle. Not shown: FBI Special Agent Justin Nwadiashi.

VIRTUAL COMMAND CENTER (VCC)

Secure Real-Time Collaboration.

INTELLIGENCE BRANCH
OFFICE OF PARTNER ENGAGEMENT — SWATTING VCC

National Common Operational Picture (NCOP): SWATTING VCC

NCOP is a VCC for SWATTING events nationwide. The FBI's Office of Partner Engagement (OPE) created and manages this VCC to meet partner requests for a centralized sharing point. It became operational on May 1, 2023, and is used to create a real-time common operational picture of SWATTING events from beginning of incident to closeout for awareness, trends identification, and collaboration.

The NCOP VCC is open to all law enforcement agencies and fusion center partners who have access to LEEP and wish to participate in tracking and sharing information regarding SWATTING calls and incidents in respective jurisdictions.

VCCs are supported by a team of liaison specialists who provide virtual (and/or in-person) training and operational support to requesting agencies. A 24/7 Help Desk also provides continuous assistance to LEEP/VCC users as needed.
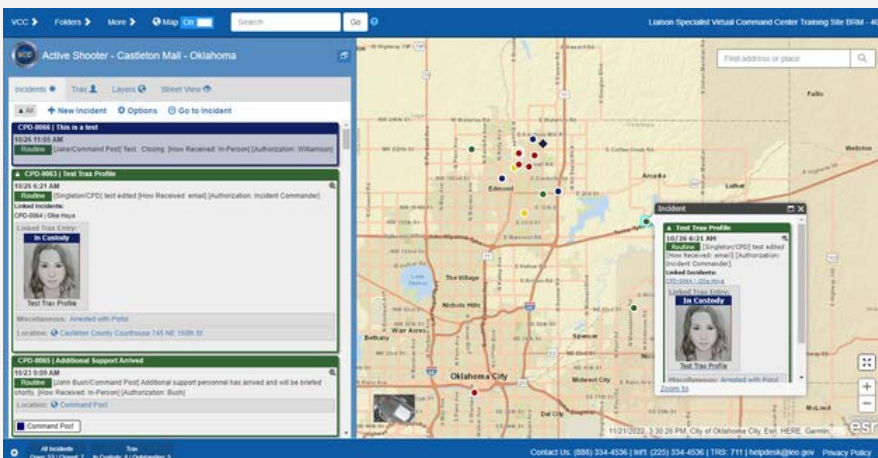
Accessing the SWATTING VCC:

If you do not have LEEP access, please go to www.cjis.gov and click the Apply for Account button to apply for a LeepID Account.

Once you have your LeepID Account, you will need to request access to the SWATTING VCC:
- Log into LEEP.
- Select the VCC service from the LEEP home page.
- On the VCC home page, on the left-hand side under "VCC Access" banner, select "Find VCCs".
- In the Search bar, type "SWATTING" which will return the "OPE National Common Operational" Picture.
- Under the title, click on "Request VCC Access".

The 24/7 Help Desk:
- Phone: 888-334-4536
- Email: helpdesk@leo.gov

Did you know...

The VCC is available to **any** law enforcement/criminal justice users who have access to LEEP to include:

- Federal
- State
- Local
- Tribal
- Territorial

It can be used to manage **any** events happening in your area such as:
- Law Enforcement Operations
- Special Events (e.g. 4th of July celebrations, marathons, etc.)
- Critical Incident Response (e.g. Active Shooters, Kidnappings, etc.)
- Natural or Man-made Disasters

VIRTUAL COMMAND CENTER (VCC)

Secure Real-Time Collaboration.

Metropolitan Nashville Police Department

THE METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Metro Nashville Police Department has been using the VCC since 2012. "We have used this critical tool during several events for data tracking, situational awareness, and resource needs (e.g. additional manpower or equipment needs)." The VCC provides a common operating picture, creates a timeline of events, and assists in tracking key personnel, ensuring Metro Nashville Police Department is always in a state of readiness.

Julie Dicke
Madison Precinct

168

**Number of VCC events
in the last 5 years**

31

**Number of VCC events
as of May 17, 2023**

JUSTICECONNECT (JC)

Create. Collaborate. Share.

Launching the New & Enhanced Cyber Shield Alliance on JusticeConnect

You are invited to join Cyber Shield Alliance (CSA) now on JusticeConnect.

This community is geared toward law enforcement (LE) officers and investigators seeking information on cyber-related incidents and toward cyber-security professionals protecting LE network infrastructure.

CSA is an FBI cybersecurity partnership developed for LE to receive and share cyber-related information, promoting KNOWLEDGE, COOPERATION, and VIGILANCE among LE partners. The primary purpose of CSA is to enable agencies to proactively defend and counter cyber threats against their networks and critical technologies while providing LE investigators and officials with the critical cyber information they require.

In building CSA on JusticeConnect, we were able to maintain all the capabilities and resources that were available on LEEP while making significant improvements in the process. CSA on JusticeConnect now has enhanced features and upgrades, including resources not previously available and significantly more in-depth information and documents up to the Unclassified/Law Enforcement Sensitive and Traffic Light Protocol Amber levels.

The increased functionality provided by shifting to JusticeConnect improves the user experience by simplifying their ability to find the information they need and facilitating a more active membership in the Community. All this is now available and can be accessed via the same CSA icon on the LEEP home page!

Accessing CSA on JusticeConnect:

1. Establish a LEEP account. (If you do not have a LEEP account, you can apply for one by navigating to cjis.gov and selecting "Apply for an Account.")
2. After logging on to your LEEP account, navigate to your profile, click "Yes" next to "Participate in JusticeConnect," then click "Submit."
3. Once you have access to JusticeConnect, go to the LEEP home page and find the CSA icon and click to open.
4. Once on the CSA home page, click "Join this Community" to obtain full access.
5. Once your CSA access is approved, you will have access to all community applications on CSA, including all documents, information, and training opportunities available to the CSA community.

DISTANCE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Register, Join, and Learn

We are pleased to offer distance learning opportunities for the DSSU service, N-DEx. Sessions last approximately 60 minutes and provide a variety of information. These sessions are for new and experienced users. As our systems continually evolve, we invite you to periodically join in to view the latest updates to N-DEx.

Use the link below the icon to view and register for the next available sessions. Bookmark the link to check in for new sessions monthly.

LEARN