§ 12.2

Integrated Databases
Systems Talking to Systems

In the most sophisticated jurisdictions, databases between court systems (such as dockets, hearing schedules, court personnel schedules) and non-court governmental systems (such as police records, property titles, and administrative agency information) are integrated and able to share information, and in some cases interact with it.

Integrated Justice Networks
The perfect example of an integrated justice network is a police officer who gives a speeding ticket, with a date and time for the defendant to appear in court. The computer used by the officer (wirelessly, of course) in his patrol car is able to "talk" to the court's database, allowing not only for the date and time to be set at that moment, but also automatically informing the court's system to expect that defendant.

Such a network saves vast amounts of time and results in reduced human error (when compared to more antiquated multiple user-input systems). Such integrated networks spider out from the courts to other governmental entities that have a relationship to the judicial system, and which would benefit from an almost real-time ability to interact.

Computerized Case Management Systems

Most courts have implemented or are implementing case management systems that provide real-time, single user updating. This means that only one user (usually the court clerk) needs to input information, and not multiple users on multiple systems.

For example, if a hearing date is altered by the court, when the clerk enters the new date, the judge, prosecutor, and all attorneys are automatically notified, and all court-administered calendars are updated. However, every court seems to have different priorities and requirements, resulting in different software and programs from county-to-county, and sometimes from court-to-court.

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§ 12.3

The Tech Friendly Courtroom

It's Not Just PowerPoint Anymore

TRIAL PRESENTATON SOFTWARE

Today's "connected" courtroom incorporates multimedia tools for use by attorneys, and sometimes by the court itself. These tools enable trial lawyers to give presentations, show juries accident reconstruction schematics, play video depositions of witnesses, and even present exhibits in a digital format.

PowerPoint is still the most widely used trial presentation product, and it is easy to learn. Other more complex presentation software tools not only provide the ability to create demonstrations, but also allows for the creation of databases and deposition management (such as viewing and searching transcripts). Having these tools in one bundle has obvious advantages. But they can also be quite expensive. But good news: it will not be your decision!

A FEW NOTES ABOUT POWERPOINT

This pioneer in presentation software, *PowerPoint* is still a relevant and useful tool for making presentations to the court and to a jury. *PowerPoint* lends itself to linear presentations, meaning there is a start point and an end point with the rest in the middle. It makes it especially effective for storytelling, but not for popping in and out for individual pages or documents. *PowerPoint* is affordable and easy to create and use. It is also able to be exported to many other trial presentation software systems. However, it has its limits as a trial presentation software tool. Demonstrations are fixed at trial, and thus impossible to adjust "on-the-fly" during a presentation. Demonstrations must be prepared in advance of the trial.