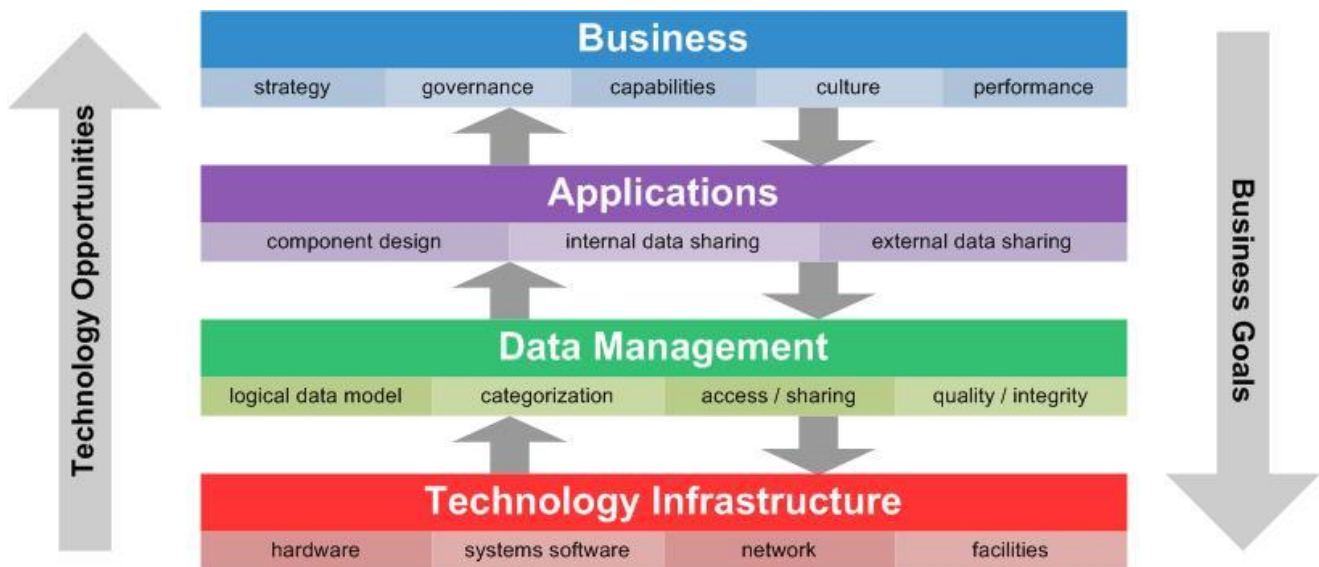


Court Technology Framework (“CTF”)

This document provides an overview of a concept called the Court Technology Framework (CTF). The CTF is being developed by the Joint Technology Committee (JTC) and the National Center for State Courts as a tool to provide context for existing, and identification of possible new, technology standards initiatives for the courts community.

The CTF is a concept that is still being developed and, as such, is very much a work in progress. Consequently, the JTC encourages readers of this document to share any thoughts, ideas, or other feedback they may have to further development and objectives of the CTF.

CTF Illustration



CTF Goals and Objectives

The Court Technology Framework (“CTF”) seeks to provide guidance to courts by:

1. Providing an organized view of the increasingly complex landscape of court technology solutions,
2. Promoting alignment of IT initiatives with business goals,
3. Defining a standard set of components and interfaces that make up a comprehensive court IT environment, and
4. Helping courts more readily identify opportunities for improved efficiency and/or cost savings through the use of technology.

CTF Layer and Category Definitions

Layer / Category	Definition
Business Layer	<i>Defines how the court achieves its purposes through organization, operations, services and functionality.</i>
Strategy	<i>Defines the mission statement and sets forth the purpose of the enterprise; describes the goals, a state of being that the domain business units are attempting to achieve in pursuit of the mission; establishes objectives, specific program initiatives created to achieve goals. Identifies short-range and long-range action plans that the domain and business units will undertake to achieve the mission, goals and objectives. Guidance examples: NCSC Resource Guide: Strategic Planning and Court Trends and IT Strategic Planning</i>
Governance	<i>Establishes the formal structure for decision making within the domain and between the domain and external entities. Formal structures have both a degree of permanency and dynamics in terms of positional membership in the decision making structures. IT Governance is very much a part of the formal decision making process. Guidance examples: Key Elements of An Effective Rule of Court on the Role of Presiding Judges in the Trial Courts and The NCSC Court IT Governance Model</i>
Capability	<i>Describes the types of business services rendered by the domain and the method of delivery of those services. Defines functions of the business units in terms of specific business processes and identifies IT service components that support those processes. Guidance examples: Consolidated Case Management Functional Standards, Technology Standards</i>
Culture	<i>Describes the psychology, attitudes, experiences, beliefs and values of the domain. In courts, it has been referred to as “local legal culture” – the prevailing norms and personal motivations of judges, attorneys, court personnel and other stakeholders. Guidance examples: Court Cultures and Their Consequences and Trial Courts as Organizations by Ostrom et al.</i>
Performance	<i>Measures success to which the domain and its business units are operating effectively (indicators of quality and outcomes) and efficiently (indicators of quantity and economics, i.e., cost per case). Guidance: High Performance Courts, CourTools, Trial Court Performance Standards, Court Performance Measures in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases</i>
Interactions between Business and Applications Layers	<i>Defines how business processes are mapped to workflow and functionality provided by applications in order to achieve desired outcomes relating to business goals.</i>
Applications Layer	<i>Defines software applications to support business functions and manage data, including standards and best practices relating to application design and information sharing.</i>

Layer / Category	Definition
Component Design	<i>The organization of applications into logical components that each support a specific business function and are able to communicate with other components in a manner that promotes reuse and reduces complexity of applications.</i>
Internal Data Sharing	<i>Defines methods and standards used to achieve interaction between applications and application components.</i>
External Data Sharing	<i>Defines methods and standards to implement information sharing with justice system partners, the public and other stakeholders requiring access to court data.</i>
Interactions between Applications and Data Management Layers	<i>Defines information models and mechanisms used by applications to store and retrieve data.</i>
Data Management Layer	<i>Defines the development and execution of architectures, policies, practices and procedures that properly manage the full data lifecycle.</i>
Logical Data Model	<i>Defines a representation of a court's data, organized in terms of a particular data management technology.</i>
Categorization	<i>The classification of stored data for its most effective and efficient use. Data can be classified according to value or how often it needs to be accessed.</i>
Access / Sharing	<i>Identifies the security of access to a court's data. Who is qualified to access, update and modify court data. Issues of privacy are generally addressed in this aspect of data management.</i>
Quality / Integrity	<i>Defines the state of completeness, validity, consistency, timelessness and accuracy of court data for a specific use.</i>
Interactions between Data Management and Technology Infrastructure Layers	<i>Defines the relationship of data with the technology practices of a court architecture.</i>
Technology Infrastructure Layer	<i>Defines the technologies designed by a court to the support business functions. This includes hardware, software and network standards, as well as considerations for security and facilities management.</i>
Hardware	<i>Identifies all of the physical components of a computer system.</i>
Systems Software	<i>Defines the computer software that manages and controls the computer hardware supporting data management and application functions.</i>
Network	<i>The grouping of two or more computer systems linked together through a interconnected network. This would include Internet, Wide Area Network, Local Area Network and wireless.</i>
Facilities	<i>The physical property a computer system and associated components are housed. It generally includes redundant or backup power, network connections and security devices.</i>