ICWA eMESSAGING
SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

ASSUMPTIONS:

- Tribes and bands possess a wide range of information technology capabilities at the tribal level
- Current manual process is cumbersome and expensive
- Oftentimes case workers and ICWA specialists do not have an existing relationship with tribes and bands – especially when they are out of their state

ARCHITECTURE

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SACWIS

ICWA Switch

Tribe A, Band A

Tribe A, Band B

Tribe B, Band C

Tribe B, Band D
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FEATURES

- The system is loosely coupled which minimizes system dependencies. It minimizes assumptions about the level of technology on the tribal side.
- This design is based on Service Oriented Architecture. One of the most critical capabilities offered through SOA is that the systems use standardized interfaces.
ARCHITECTURE DETAILS

- SACWIS
  - Functionality would be embedded within the state SACWIS system to facilitate communication with a tribe
  - The Case worker or ICWA specialist would use SACWIS system to document possible tribal enrollment and trigger the electronic notification.

- ICWA Switch
  - The ICWA Exchange switch is managed and maintained by a third party entity that is not specifically associated with any particular
  - The switch is responsible for the correct routing of notices to the appropriate tribe based on the tribal enrollment information included in the message from the SACWIS system
  - The switch manages messages regardless of the source or target systems
  - The system is sophisticated enough to be able to transform messages to the tribes based on technological capabilities. For example, if a tribe currently uses a case management system the message transmitted from the switch would use the standardized XML interface. On the other hand, the system would also know to generate an appropriately formatted message if tribal capabilities are limited to email.

- Tribal System:
  - Wide differences exist in the technological capabilities of tribes. The message end-point may consist of a COTS case management system, custom, email
  - Receipt of notification message would trigger process to determine tribal enrollment
  - Tribal enrollment status and tribal intervention determination would be transmitted back to ICWA specialist