

Videoconferencing Survey 2010 Results



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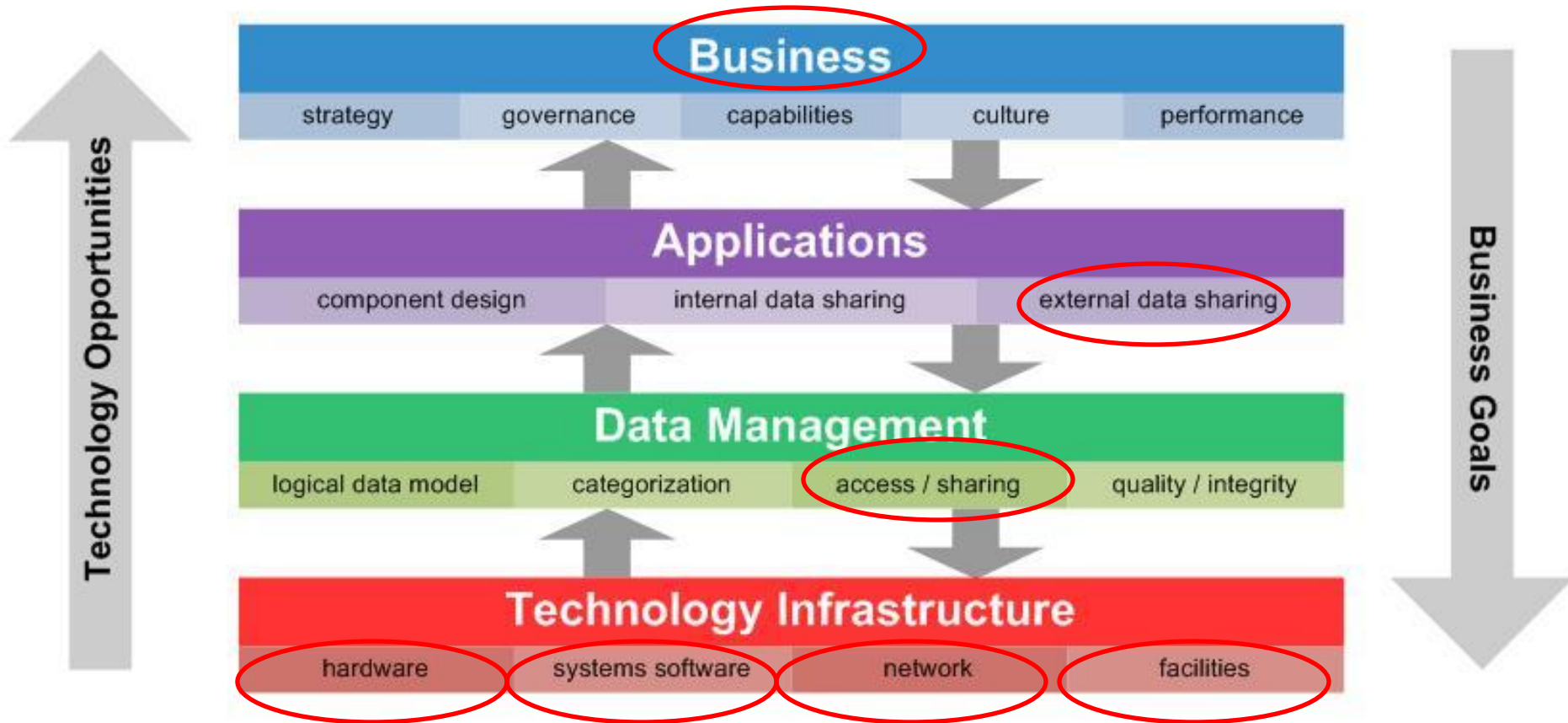
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National Center for State Courts

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<http://www.ncsc.org/>

Court Technology Framework Model



About



- Supported by the State Justice Institute
- 164 responses
- 25 respondents were answering for their entire state / territory
- Full results will be posted with interactive graphics on the NCSC website by end of September

Videoconferencing Statute and Rule Compilation

- 771 rules and statutes compiled
- Organized in a spreadsheet
- Sort state, case type, subject code
- Hyperlinked when available
- Available for download (Excel 2007 and 2003 format) from conference website

Videoconferencing Use

- 7 courts answered more than 20 years
- Impediments?
 - More than 40% list funding as an issue
 - Judicial and attorney buy-in/objections
 - Nearly 20% said there were no objections
- Chambers and training/conference rooms were most often other VC locations
- Education and administrative meetings other use

Videoconferencing Operations

- Supported by IT staff
- State funded VC used for criminal proceedings – others 50/50
- State funded used for crime lab witness and similar
- Local funded primarily for initiating hearings like initial appearance and arraignment
- Approximately half are using VC for civil case matters
- Only a few appellate courts

Potential Use

- Only a few allow for attorney use of videoconferencing (and all those are free)
- Only a couple support document signing
- Only a few use fax or e-mail for documents
- Almost none of the videoconferences are recorded

Reliability & Technology

- VC is very reliable technology
- Downtime is in minutes/hours not days
- Fail-over is not a teleconference
- Digital IP is becoming the dominant connection protocol
- Wiring is a challenge (maybe 802.11n WiFi conversion in the near future?)

Benefits

- Time, staff, and fuel savings were cited as VC technology benefits
- 80% report that VC helps administer justice
- Most have not quantified but those who have report savings of:
 - \$31 million since inception (PA), 30% of travel expenses (UT), 600,000 per year, \$50,000 per year, \$7,500, \$500 per hearing were noted by different courts
 - Easier to get meeting quorum when VC used
 - 24/7 magistrate coverage (VA)