

SECTION 3

DESCRIPTION OF THE IDW PROJECT

Pertinent details regarding the IDW project are:

Project Name: Investigative Data Warehouse (IDW)

Account Identification Code: 15-0200-0-1-999,

Project Initiation Date: March 2003,

Project Planned Completion Date: December 2006 (As the Master Data Warehouse¹).

As a single point of entry for accessing investigative data sources, IDW provides FBI users with the capability to readily acquire, store, share, use, disseminate, and protect the information needed to successfully accomplish their assignments and the FBI's overlapping missions in intelligence, counter-terrorism, and criminal investigations.

The IDW system environment consists of a collection of UNIX and NT servers that provide secure access to a family of very large-scale storage devices. The servers provide application, web servers, relational database servers, and security filtering servers. User desktop units that have access to FBINet can access the IDW web application. This provides browser-based access to the central databases and their access control units. The environment is configured so that the FBI analytic and investigative users can access any of the data sources and analytic capabilities of the system for which they are authorized. The entire configuration is scalable to enable expansion as more data sources and capabilities are added.

The FBI currently owns or has access to over 30 information technology systems and well over 100 enterprise level applications that support investigative functions. At the user level, the number of databases containing case-centric intelligence is estimated to be in the thousands, a number that has increased largely due to the lack of an enterprise-wide application for data analysis. The IDW project initiative will ultimately integrate many of the underlying system data sources into a single Investigative Data Warehouse that will support data mining and target searching of both FBI data and data from external sources. The project will also support the selective sharing of data with other Federal agencies as part of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Horizontal Information Sharing Initiative and the Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTFs). The data warehouse capability will permit the abundance of this investigative data to be shared on an FBI-wide basis, providing a complete data picture to analysts and agents.

¹ The Master Data Warehouse is the next generation investigative warehouse which expands the analytical tool capabilities and includes administrative data sets so that the FBI can adequately evaluate return on investment in applying resources to investigative programs.