THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO

Technology *and* the Courts

2006 Survey

The Supreme Court *of* Ohio

TECHNOLOGY AND THE COURTS 2006 SURVEY

OCTOBER 2006

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Dear Fellow Ohioans:

The Technology and the Courts 2006 Survey demonstrates that information technology has become the central pathway for communication, research and case management in Ohio courts. Online communication has become so valuable that now 95 percent of Ohio courts indicate they have access to the Internet. Courts are now well-positioned to take advantage of the next generation of Web-based computer software.

According to the 2006 survey, all trial courts in Ohio now use computerized case management systems and are continuing to improve in the use of technology for court reporting and document imaging.

The Supreme Court of Ohio continues to grow in its use of technology in its daily operations, streaming oral arguments live on the Web, accepting online attorney registration and mayor's courts statistics, and recently completely renovating the Court Web site. The Supreme Court is also moving forward with the design and implementation of the first phase of the Ohio Courts Network, which will facilitate electronic sharing of all case information among the courts.

Thank you for your interest in and support of technology in Ohio courts.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Moyer
Chief Justice

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INTRODUCTION

The Supreme Court of Ohio is pleased to issue the results of the Technology and the Courts 2006 Survey. This biennial survey provides a snapshot of the status of court technology in Ohio. To capture the continuously changing nature of technology innovation in Ohio courts, the scope of the survey includes data on the use of the Internet to display information and provide services, commonly used software and planned projects.

In the two years that have elapsed since the release of the 2004 survey results, the use of technology in the courts has continued to increase. This year's survey reflects the expanded use of technology as a tool for the efficient administration of justice by judges, clerks and court personnel.

Most impressive is that, according to the 2006 survey, 100 percent of Ohio trial courts are now automated and only one appellate court remains to be automated at this time.

In an effort to more efficiently administer the survey and gather the results, the Supreme Court again used an Internet-based survey form. Two-hundred-one courts used the Web form to complete the survey. As a result, the Court will continue using and improving this feature in the years to come. The Court extends its thanks to all of the local courts who took advantage of this tool.

The Technology and the Courts 2006 Survey reflects the accomplishments and technology solutions implemented by courts in Ohio. We greatly appreciate the time and effort Ohio judges and court personnel have dedicated to completing the survey. This report is a testament to their efforts and commitment to providing justice for all Ohioans.

Statistics for the 2006 survey are based on 383 responses of a possible 385 from the 372 trial-level courts and 12 district courts of appeals in Ohio and the Supreme Court. The only courts not participating in the 2006 survey were Trumbull County Court, Central Division, and Harrison County Court.

The 2006 survey responses came from 617 jurisdictions within the 383 responding courts, reflecting the fact that many courts have jurisdiction over multiple areas.

For example, a court may have both domestic relations and juvenile jurisdiction but only one administrative judge. In that case, the court is considered a single court with two jurisdictions. (Note: Both Trumbull County Court, Central Division, and Harrison County Court are single-jurisdiction courts.)

Some survey questions, such as those regarding case management systems or Internet use, sought jurisdiction-based data, because, for example, a probate/juvenile court may have a different case management system for each jurisdiction.

	COURTS	JURISDICTIONS
Supreme Court of Ohio	1	1
District Courts of Appeal	12	12
Common Pleas Courts		440
General Division only (CP1)	27	
General Division and Domestic Relations combined (CP2)	54	
General Division and Probate combined (CP3)	1	
General Division, Domestic Relations, Probate and Juvenile combined (CP4)	5	
General Division, Domestic Relations and Probate combined (CP5)	1	
Domestic Relations only (DR1)	19	
Domestic Relations and Juvenile combined (DR2)	7	
Probate only (P1)	16	
Probate and Juvenile only (P2)	63	
Probate, Juvenile and Domestic Relations combined (P3)	3	
Juvenile only (J1)	10	
Municipal Courts (MC)[1]	125	125
County Courts (CC)	41	41
Total Trial and Appellate Courts	**385**	**619**
Mayor's Courts[2]	336	336

Composition of Ohio Courts and Jurisdictions

THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO
OHIO JUDICIAL CENTER

Currently the Supreme Court of Ohio has 350 computers running the Windows XP operating system with Microsoft Office 2003 software. The servers are running Windows 2000 and 2003.

Ohio Judicial Center tenants benefit from several technologies, including:

- Digital audio and video recording capabilities in the Supreme Court courtroom and two Court of Claims courtrooms
- Multimedia-enabled meeting rooms with connectivity to the network and the Internet
- A meeting room equipped for video teleconferencing
- Receivers in all courtrooms for the hearing-impaired
- A classroom with drop-down screens, DVD and VHS players, a sound system and computer hookups
- A computer lab available for training and Ohio Judicial College courses.

Updates to and features of the Supreme Court Web site include:

- Live streaming of oral arguments and other special events as a companion service to the live broadasts available on state public television
- RSS feeds of Supreme Court opinions and news
- Online registration, registration fee payment and viewing of continuing legal education transcripts for attorneys
- Online submission of caseload statistics for mayor's courts with plans to expand this capability to all courts
- Comprehensive redesign of layout and navigation.

SECTION 1
COURT AUTOMATION AND CASE MANAGEMENT

Automated case management systems provide courts with the ability to manage information electronically, using specialty case management systems and general office software. The 2006 survey asked courts to evaluate their case management solutions on a jurisdictional basis.

SECTION 1.0
EXTENT OF COURT AUTOMATION

In 1993, the Ohio General Assembly passed H.B. 405 and S.B. 246, allowing courts to collect filing fees for technology projects, thus enabling them to accrue the needed funds to implement and maintain case management systems. These fees have been the cornerstone of the technology movement for Ohio courts, providing for the automation and maintenance of court procedures and improvements to these vital technologies. By 2006, 100 percent of Ohio trial courts were automated and just one appellate court remained to be automated.

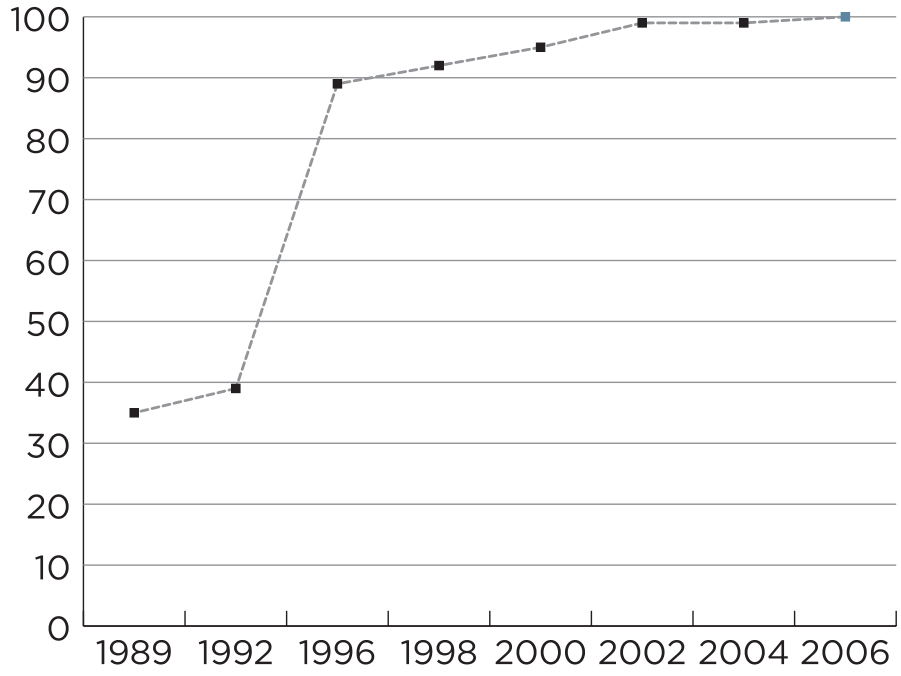


Table 1.0 History of Automation of Ohio Courts

SECTION 1.1
QUANTITIES OF EQUIPMENT

Courts were asked to report the number of personal computers, terminals, servers and printers they use. Three hundred fifty-eight courts responded to this question, so the following numbers are a low estimate of the amount of hardware currently in the environment. Survey results indicate that Ohio courts use 11,893 personal computers, 1,478 terminals, 880 servers and 6,070 printers.

SECTION 1.2
NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO USE COMPUTERS

Three hundred fifty-eight courts reported that of an estimated 11,868 employees, 11,179 routinely use computers.

SECTION 1.3
STATUS OF CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Once case management systems are implemented, it is important to keep the technology current. Three hundred seventy-nine courts responded on behalf of 564 jurisdictions, indicating that 217 jurisdictions have upgraded their systems within the past two years; 188 jurisdictions have not been updated in the past two years; 159 jusridictions did not indicate an upgrade date.

SECTION 1.4
SATISFACTION WITH CASE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

Case management systems used by Ohio courts are primarily vendor-developed solutions. Most jurisdictions are satisfied (236) or very satisfied (182); 102 are somewhat satisfied; 29 are not satisfied with their systems. Ten did not answer the question.

SECTION 1.5
SATISFACTION WITH CASE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE VENDOR SUPPORT

Courts rely on vendors for maintenance and support of case management systems and were asked to evaluate the level of support they receive. Most jurisdictions are satisfied (211) or very satisfied (211); 87 are somewhat satisfied and 34 are not satisfied with their vendor support. Twenty-one did not answer the question.

SECTION 2
REPORTING TO AGENCIES

Courts are required to report information to the Supreme Court of Ohio and justice system partners, such as the Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, the Child Support Enforcement Agency and the Ohio Department of Health. Case management systems offer options to assist courts in the preparation of such reports.

SECTION 2.0
CASE MANAGEMENT REPORT PREPARATION

Courts were asked to report the methods by which their case management systems prepare and provide information to other agencies.

	Direct View	On Paper	Diskette	Online
Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation	24	131	73	49
Bureau of Motor Vehicles	19	77	145	114
Child Support Enforcement Agency	65	102	7	14
Department of Health, Vital Statistics	21	95	7	8
Department of Youth Services	23	80	8	15
Supreme Court of Ohio	28	297	12	23
None	17	13	11	10

Table 2.0 Case Management Report Preparation

SECTION 2.1
REPORTING TRENDS – BUREAU OF CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION & INVESTIGATION

The number of courts using case management systems to produce printed reports for submission to the Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation has increased steadily since 2000. Courts are moving away from submitting data on diskette and toward submitting these reports online.

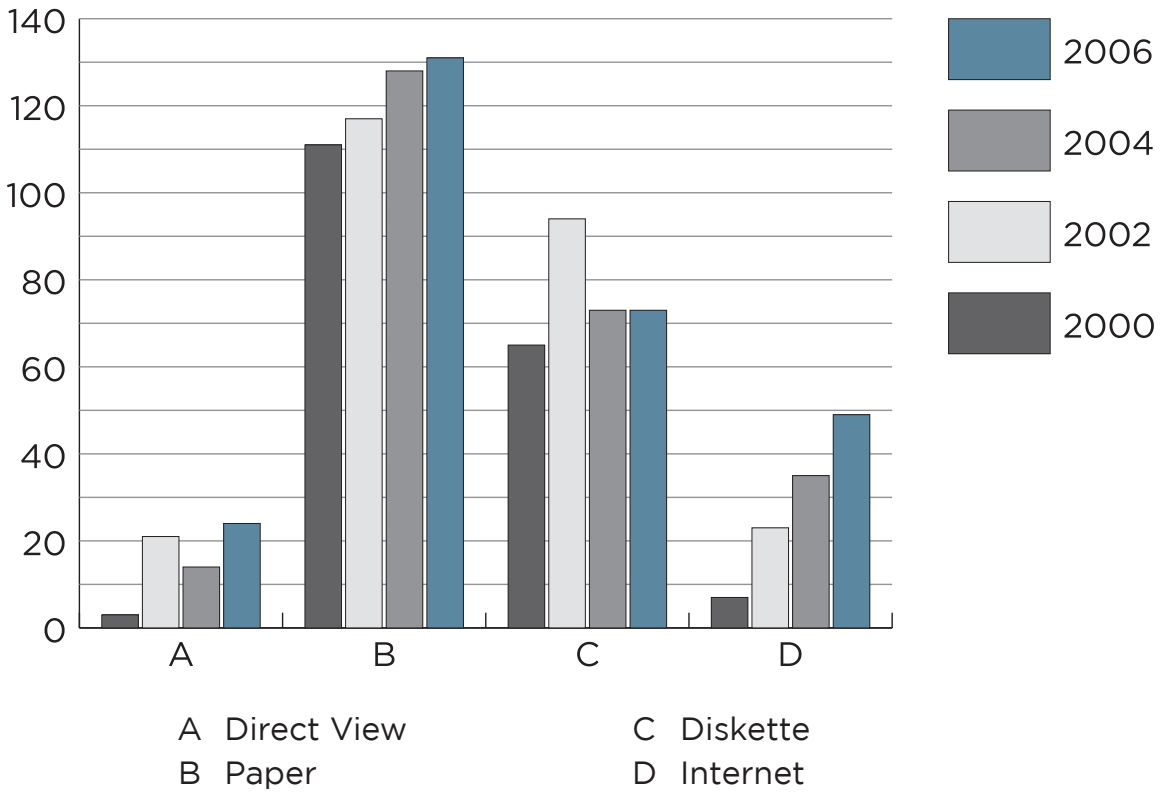


Figure 2.1 BCI&I Reporting Trends

SECTION 2.2
REPORTING TRENDS – BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES

The number of courts using case management systems to directly view, produce printed reports and prepare reports on diskette for the Bureau of Motor Vehicles has decreased since 2002. Courts have instead begun to submit these reports online.

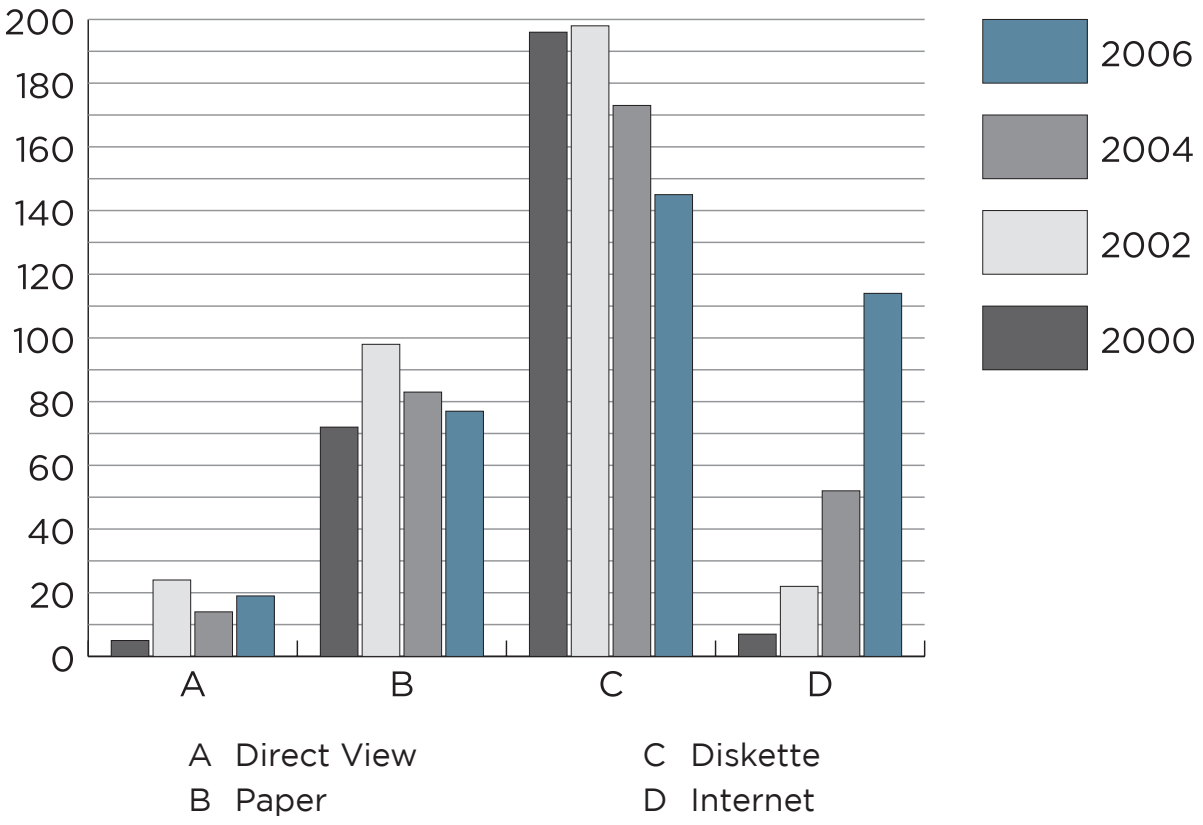
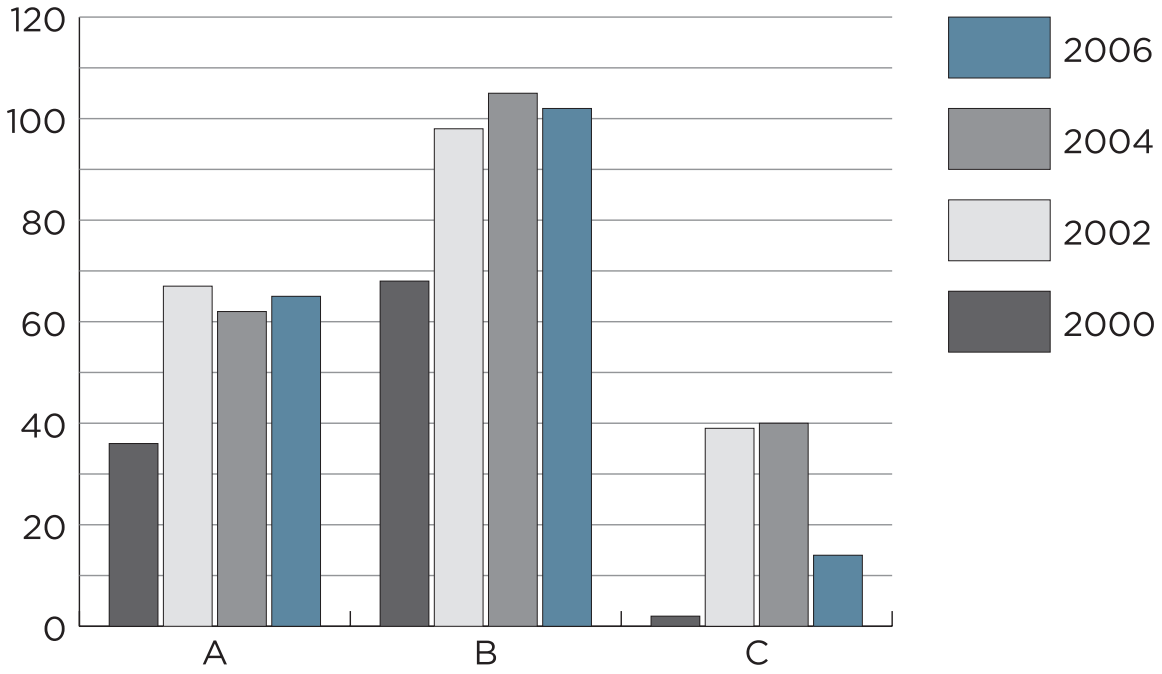


Table 2.2 BMV Reporting Trends

SECTION 2.3
REPORTING TRENDS – CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

Reporting methods to the Child Support Enforcement Agency have stayed fairly consistent since 2004, although online submission has decreased. By far, most reports are still submitted on paper.



A Direct View
B Paper
C Internet

Table 2.3 CSEA Reporting Trends

SECTION 2.4
REPORTING TRENDS – OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Although vital statistics reports for the Ohio Department of Health are still prepared by most case management systems as printed documents, more courts have moved toward direct viewing of information than in the past.

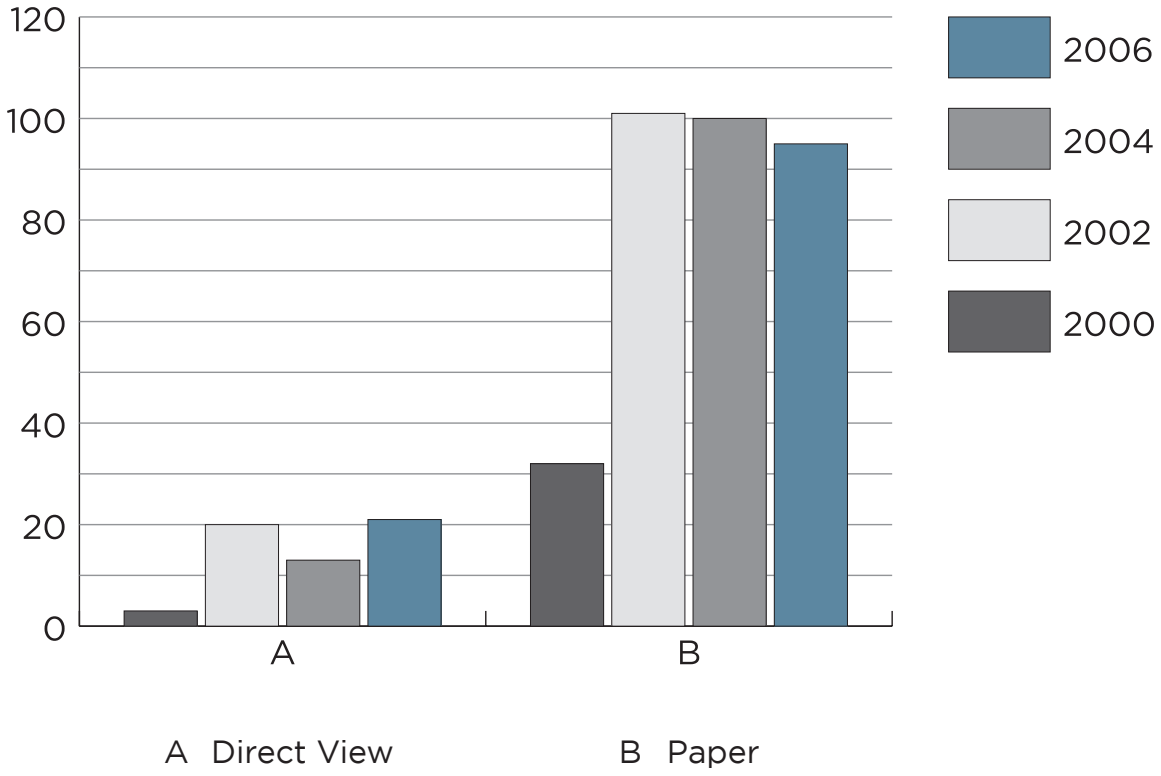


Table 2.4 ODOH Reporting Trends

SECTION 2.5
REPORTING TRENDS – THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO

Sup. R. 37 requires courts to report caseload statistics to the Supreme Court of Ohio. Presently these reports are accepted by fax or U.S. mail. While some case management systems can generate these reports and forms, it remains the responsibility of court personnel to print and submit them.

The 2004 survey asked courts if they would use an electronic submission option for reporting caseload statistics. A majority reported that they would, and in response, the Supreme Court Office of Information Technology developed electronic communications availability using Web services for both municipal and common pleas general division courts. Web services for the remaining divisions of common pleas courts will be completed in 2006.

SECTION 3
SOFTWARE IN THE COURTS

Courts use a variety of software products to complete daily operations. From database solutions to jury management tools, these products meet the business needs of courts. While this survey polled courts about the use of various products available on the market, the results are not to be interpreted as an endorsement of any specific product. Many courts indicated using more than one product in any given category.

SECTION 3.0
DATABASE PRODUCTS

Databases are used by courts for maintaining records on cases, personnel and other court management items. The 2006 survey asked courts to report on the database products they use that are not a part of their case management systems; however, it appears that typically the database products in use are those used by case management systems, such as FilePro or Microsoft SQL Server.

SECTION 3.1
OFFICE SUITE PRODUCTS

Office suite products are important tools that serve many functions, from word processing to financial transaction tracking. Though there are many options currently on the market, courts reported on the use of the products at right (Table 3.1).

SECTION 3.2
ANTIVIRUS PRODUCTS

Because computer viruses are easily transmitted, antivirus software is critical for maintaining the integrity of computer systems. Although there are still courts without such software, the number has decreased approximately 53 percent since 2004.

COURTS REPORTING IN 2006	DATABASE
116	Microsoft SQL
91	FilePro
76	Microsoft Access
34	Oracle
8	Raining Data (PICK)
2	Progress
69	None
25	Other
42	Unknown

Table 3.0 Database Products

COURTS REPORTING IN 2006	OFFICE SUITE PRODUCTS
344	Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, etc.)
143	WordPerfect/Corel
40	Microsoft Works
13	Lotus Notes
2	None
8	Other
3	Unknown

Table 3.1 Office Suite Products

COURTS REPORTING IN 2006	ANTIVIRUS PRODUCTS
202	Norton/Symantec
67	McAfee
35	eTrust
29	Trend Micro
6	Inoculateit
5	AVG
4	Panda
9	None
13	Other
10	Unknown

Table 3.2 Antivirus Products

SECTION 3.3
REPORTING PRODUCTS

Most courts indicated that their reports were generated using a tool integrated with their case management software packages. Although 125 reported having no reporting software, many of those may in fact generate reports through their case management tool (Section 2).

COURTS REPORTING IN 2006	REPORTING TOOL
121	Part of case management system
117	Crystal Reports
5	Affidavit Maker
126	None
17	Other
28	Unknown

Table 3.3 Reporting Products

SECTION 3.4
JURY MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY

Jury commissions and clerks of courts are requiring automated processes to support the management of jury selection, maintenance and related reporting requirement functions. Jury management software lets courts integrate various aspects of jury management, such as printing qualification questionnaires and summonses, and tracking juror pools. In the 2006 survey, 199 courts (52 percent of those responding) reported using jury management software.

SECTION 3.5
JUDICIAL SCHEDULING TECHNOLOGY

Judicial scheduling software offers an integrated approach to tracking, updating and preparing court calendars. Typically, this software is a part of the case management software, as reported by 237 courts. Forty-one courts indicated they use some alternate form of judicial scheduling, while 109 courts reported using no scheduling software at all.

SECTION 3.6
NETWORK/OPERATING SYSTEM PRODUCTS

To function, a personal computer requires an operating system, or software that manages its programs. Courts typically use more than one computer for business operations. To facilitate data sharing among multiple computers and devices such as printers and other hardware and software, a network is required. A network is the link among computers, devices and other tools that allows for shared services. The computer containing the data shared over the network is called the server, and it requires an operating system of its own.

The most popular server operating systems reported in the 2006 survey were Microsoft Windows and UNIX. The most commonly used personal computer operating system reported in the 2006 survey was Microsoft Windows.

COURTS REPORTING IN 2006	SYSTEM
238	Microsoft Windows (NT, 2000, 2003)
127	UNIX
35	Novell
23	AIX
18	Linux
18	VMS
11	OS/400
1	Mac OS
4	Other
39	Unknown

Table 3.6a Server Operating Systems

COURTS REPORTING IN 2006	SYSTEM
380	Microsoft Windows (95, 98, 2000, ME, XP)
1	Mac OS
12	Other
6	Unknown

Table 3.6b Personal Computer Operating Systems

SECTION 4
TECHNOLOGIES TO IMPROVE COURT OPERATIONS

Courts are continuously seeking new technology solutions for all consumers of court information to enhance efficiency and the delivery of services. More and more courts are using technology every day. From the initiation of a case to its conclusion, no aspect of the legal system has been unaffected by technology.

SECTION 4.0
SUMMARY OF TECHNOLOGIES IMPLEMENTED TO IMPROVE COURT OPERATIONS

The Technology and the Courts 2006 Survey asked courts to report on a wide variety of current technology solutions. (See table, next page.)

Comparing the 2006 responses with data from past surveys, it appears that the use of the following technologies is decreasing:

- Analog audio court reporting
- Analog video court reporting (VHS)
- Voice command transcription.

It also appears that the use of the following technologies is increasing:

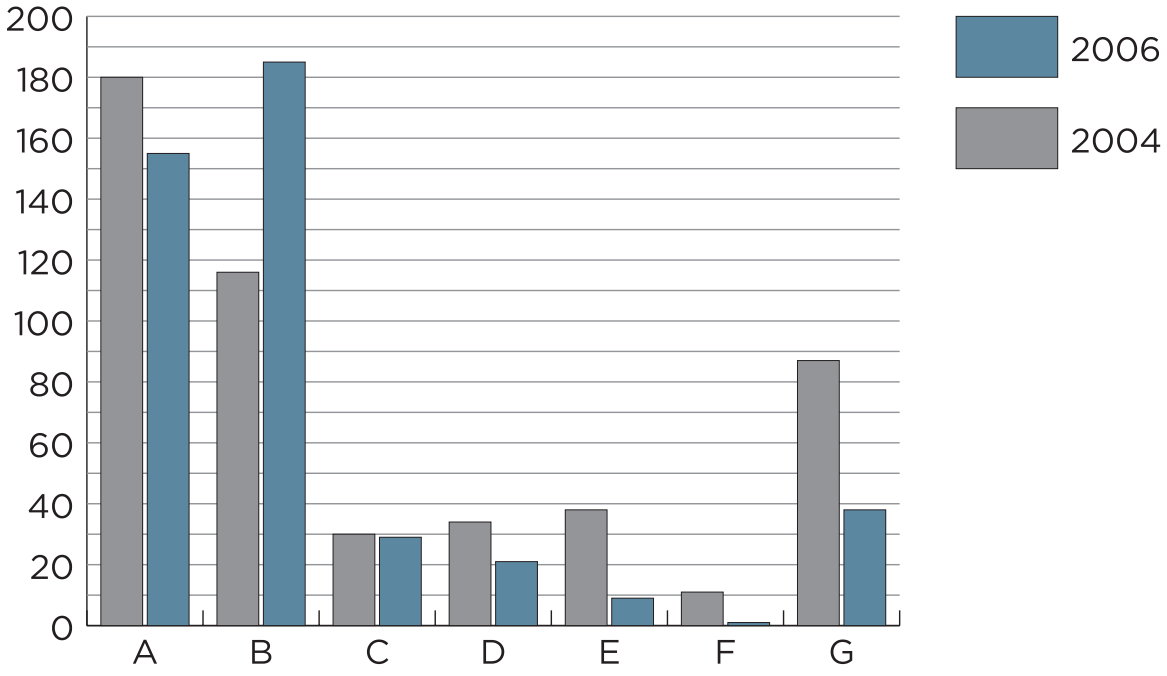
- Public access to case records
- Web site with general Information
- Digital court reporting
- Document imaging/management
- Video arraignments
- Local justice community access to case records
- Integrated multimedia courtroom.

COURTS REPORTING IN 2006	TECHNOLOGY
272	Public access to case records
230	Web site with general information
189	Facsimile filing
185	Digital audio court reporting
160	Credit card payment of court costs and fees at the courthouse
158	Document imaging/management
155	Analog/cassette tape audio court reporting
142	Public access to case records
119	Video arraignments with local detention facilities
214	Local justice community access to case records
91	Public access to case documents
75	Local justice community access to case documents
50	Multimedia courtroom
48	Video hearings with local detention facilities
36	Public access to case documents
29	Digital video court reporting
28	Electronic payment of court costs and fees online
21	Real-time court reporting
20	Video conferencing
19	Electronic signatures generated from the court
12	Video arraignments with state correctional facilities
11	Electronic filing with data directly input into the case management system
10	Video hearings with state correctional facilities
9	VHS tape court reporting
9	Electronic receipt of traffic citation information
6	Electronic signatures received by the court
5	E-mailing case files to clerk's office
1	Voice command transcription

Table 4.0 Summary of Current Technologies

SECTION 4.1
TRENDS – COURT REPORTING

Courts are moving away from VHS and analog recording and toward digital recording methods. Digital technology is faster than audio tape recording, which stores dialogue on tapes and requires courts to make copies for distribution, often a lengthy process. With digital recording technology, hearings can be copied to a CD in a matter of several minutes. There has been a significant increase in digital audio recording since 2004.



A Analog audio
B Digital audio
C Digital video
D Real-time court reporting
E VHS
F Voice command transcription
G None

Figure 4.1 Recording of Court Proceedings

SECTION 4.2
TRENDS – DOCUMENT IMAGING/MANAGEMENT[3]

Imaging technology has become of more and more interest to courts as the need for storage space increases and the number of filings continues to grow.[4] The number of courts using imaging technology has continued to increase over the last 10 years, with a more than 50 percent increase in the number of courts using document imaging since 2004.

Courts understand the importance of integrating imaged documents with the corresponding case files. Ninety courts are using imaging systems integrated with their case management software to create an electronic case file.

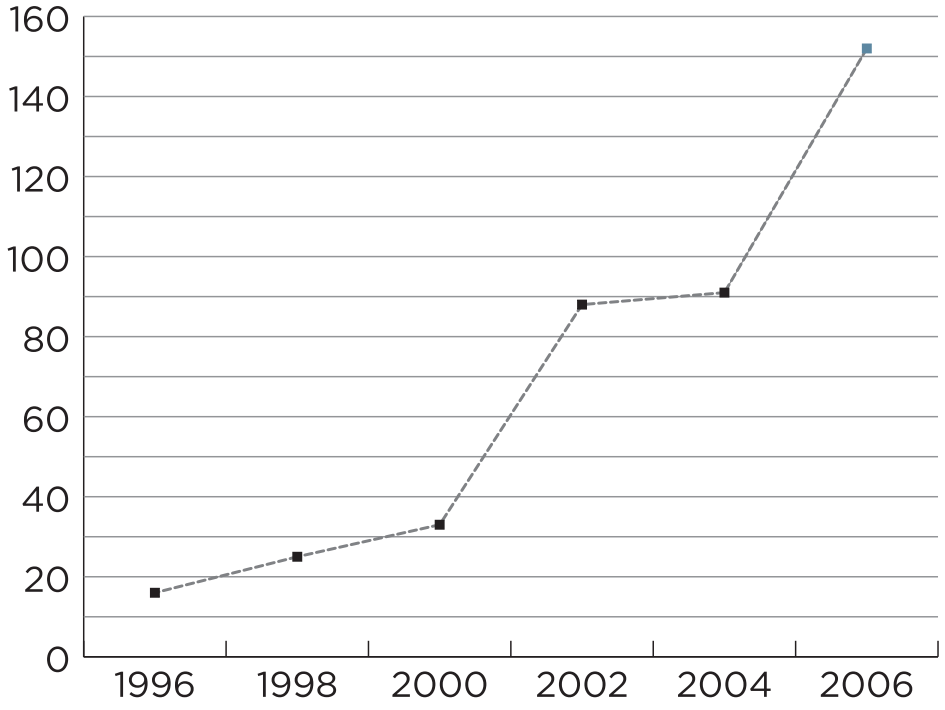


Table 4.2 Ohio Courts with Imaging Systems

SECTION 4.3
TRENDS – VIDEO CONFERENCING

Another technology that is gaining in popularity is the use of video conferencing equipment for arraignments and hearings. Courts have continued to express interest in implementing it as a way to cut costs and expedite the arraignment and hearing processes. After a small decline in 1998, the number of courts using video arraignment technology has continued to grow. In 2006, 127 courts (see Figure 4.3b, right) reported conducting video conferencing for a variety of purposes.

COURTS REPORTING IN 2006	USE
118	Video arraignments with local detention facilities
48	Video hearings with local detention facilities
20	Video conferencing
12	Video arraignments with state detention facilities
10	Video hearings with local detention facilities
258	None
6	Other

Table 4.3a Uses of Video Teleconferencing Equipment

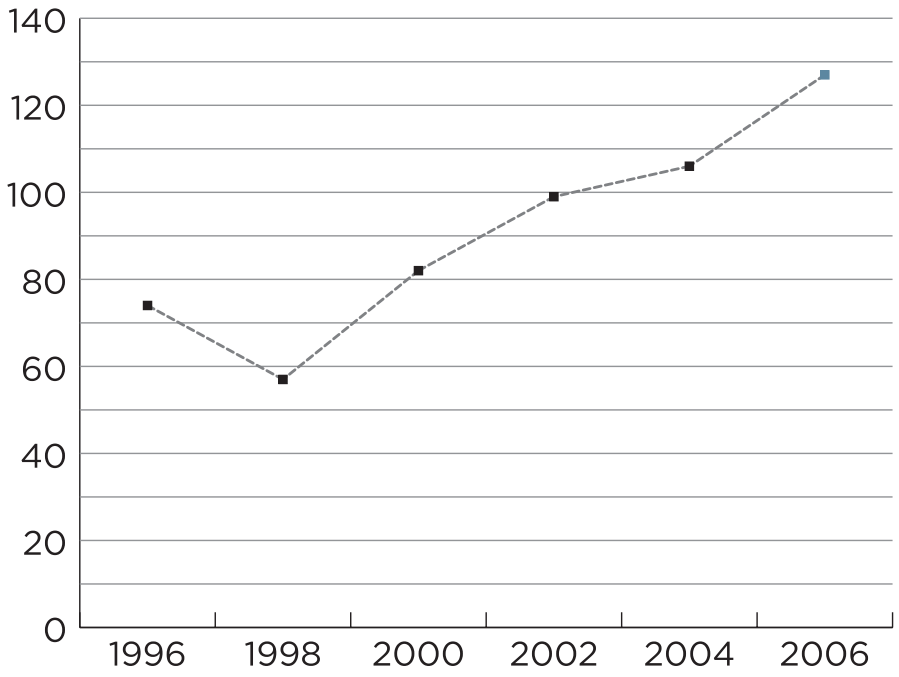


Figure 4.3b Courts Using Video Teleconferencing Equipment

SECTION 4.4
TRENDS – MULTIMEDIA-EQUIPPED COURTROOMS

The implementation of multimedia presentation equipment in courtrooms has slowly increased over the last four years. There are now 50 courts using this technology. More and more practitioners are interested in using slide presentations, digital photography and video reenactments during trials. It is expected that as the demand from practitioners for this type of technology increases, the number of multimedia equipped courtrooms will increase even more.

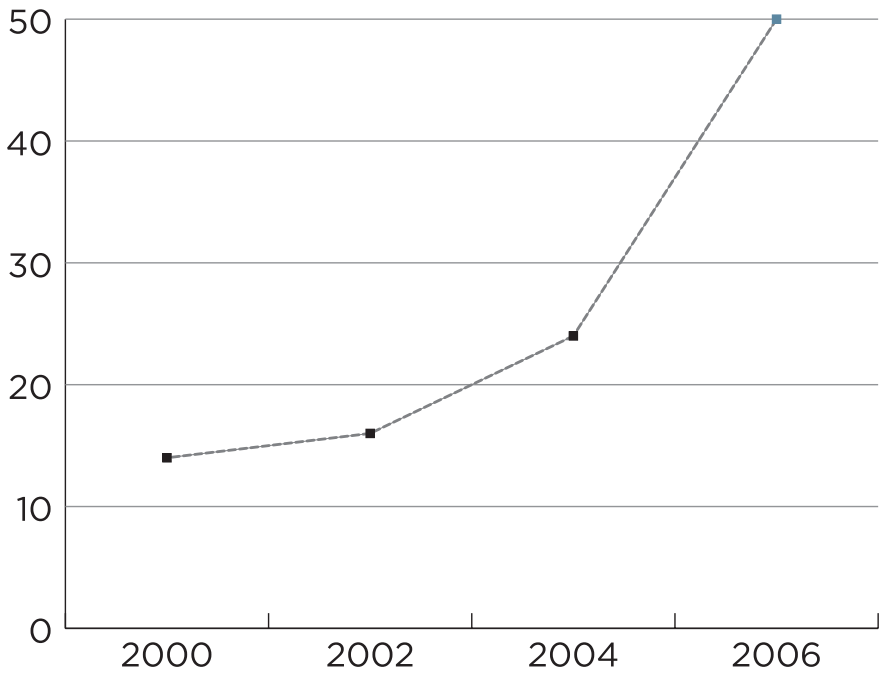
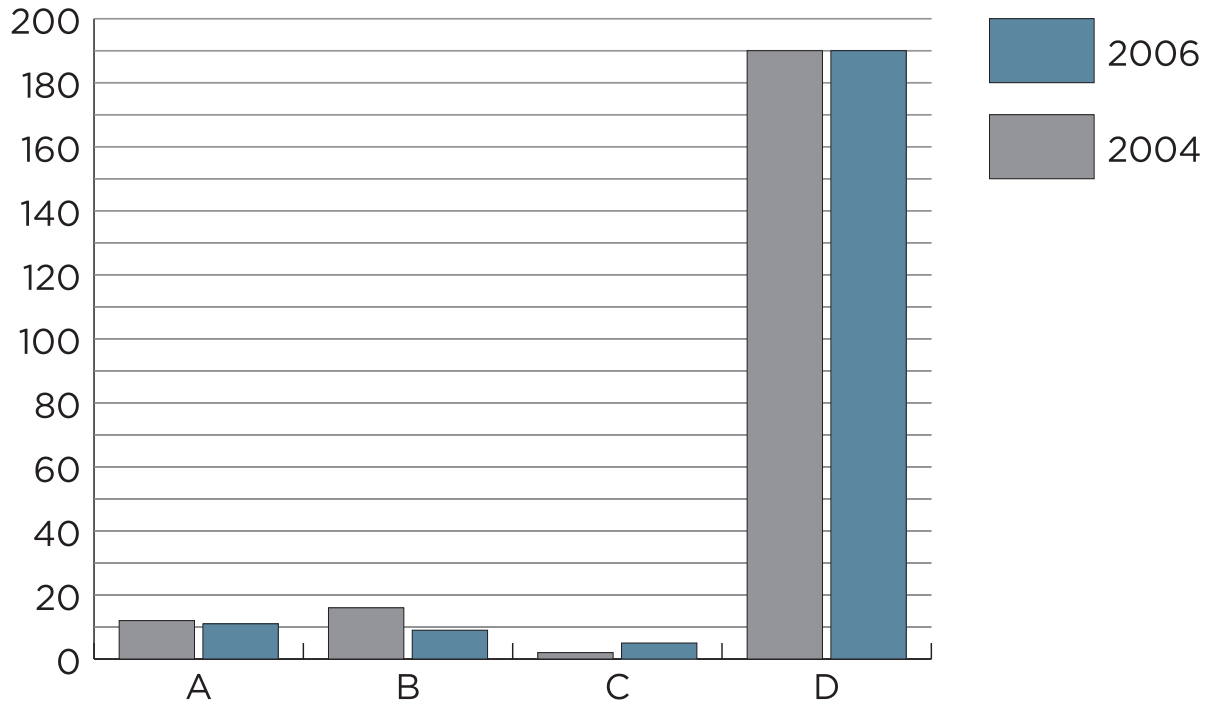


Table 4.4 Multimedia Courtrooms

SECTION 4.5
TRENDS – FILING METHODS AND DIGITAL SIGNATURES

Traditionally, case filings have been submitted on paper. Over the last 12 years, courts have started to explore the use of other technologies to expedite the submission process. By far, the most popular alternative filing method is facsimile filing.[5] The adoption in 2000 of the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (R.C. 1306) and revisions to the relevant rules of court in 2001 empowered courts to accept digital signatures and electronic filings.[6]



A E-filing (data input directly into case management system)
B Electronic receipt of traffic citation information
C Case filings e-mailed to clerk's office
D Facsimile filing

Table 4.5 Filing Methods

SECTION 5
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT

Technology requires ongoing maintenance and support. It is important to have resources available to stay current on technology, fix problems as they arise and plan for routine maintenance to ensure that systems function properly. As the functionality of these systems increases, so will the need for support.

SECTION 5.0
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT METHODS

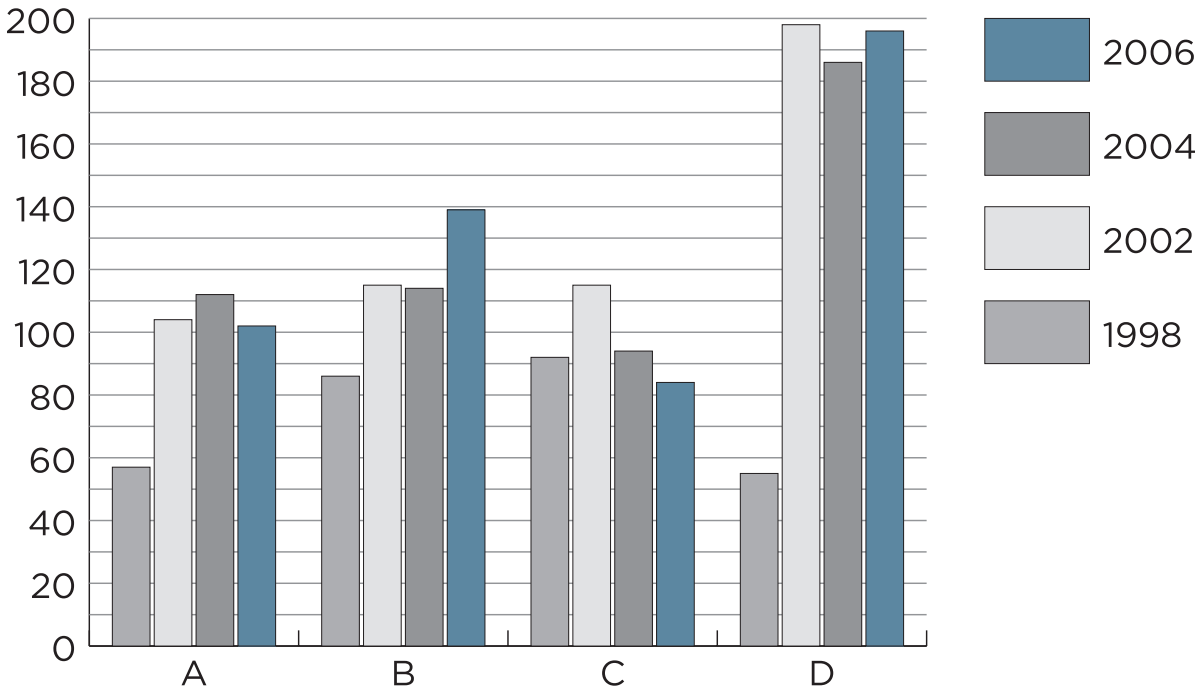
Courts were asked to report the methods of information technology maintenance and support they use. Often courts receive support from more than one source. While it may be ideal for a court to have a dedicated systems administrator, many courts do not yet have technology personnel on staff.

COURTS REPORTING IN 2006	METHOD
196	Support contract with case management vendor
139	Full-time, local governent information technology staff
102	Full-time systems administrator, court employee
84	Staff person with necessary skills to assist as needed
63	Support contract with local vendor
41	Local paid consultants
34	Local vendor support based on time and materials
23	Supreme Court Technology Services Section
15	Part-time systems administrator (court employee)
7	Unpaid individual trusted by court
5	Part-time local government information technology staff
2	Local unpaid consultants
6	None

Table 5.0 Information Technology Support in Ohio Courts

SECTION 5.1
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT METHODS

In 2006, 102 courts reported having a full-time systems administrator, a 78 percent increase since 1998. This reflects that information technology maintenance and support has become increasingly important to courts.



A Full-time systems administrator
B Full-time local government information technology staff
C Court employee with information technology skills
D Support contract with case management system vendor

Figure 5.1 Comparison of Information Technology Support in Ohio Courts

SECTION 6
INTERNET ACCESS AND WEB-BASED SERVICES

SECTION 6.0
COURTS WITH ACCESS TO THE INTERNET

In 2006, 367 (95 percent of those responding) of Ohio courts reported having access to the Internet.

SECTION 6.1
TRENDS – INTERNET ACCESS

Today the number of courts with access to the Internet is more than double the number with access in 2000. Courts are increasingly finding that the Web resources available are an asset for daily operations.

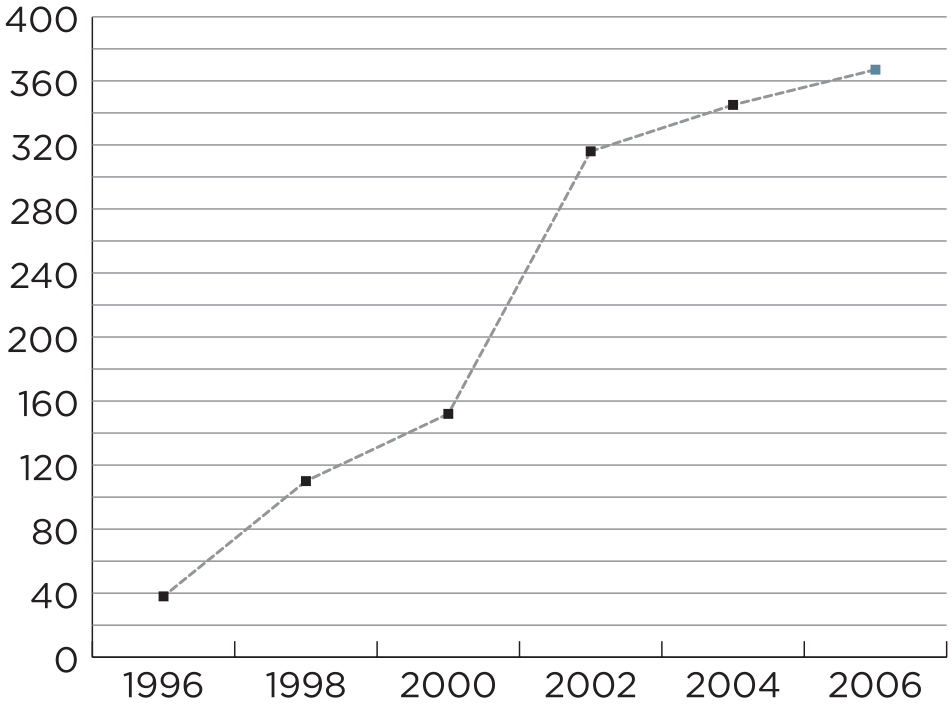


Figure 6.1 Ohio Courts with Internet Access

SECTION 6.2
METHOD USED TO CONNECT TO THE INTERNET

The 2006 survey asked courts to report if they connected to the Internet by traditional dial-up methods or by newer, broadband methods, such as DSL, cable modem or T1 line, which provide more bandwidth. Three hundred sixty-six courts answered this question, revealing that 506 jurisdictions in 331 courts use a broadband connection, while only 24 jurisdictions from 15 courts use a dial-up modem. Twenty-two courts could not identify the method in a total of 26 jurisdictions.

Clearly, courts have recognized that a reliable, high-speed connection to the Internet is necessary to provide the bandwidth needed to take full advantage of emerging technologies.

SECTION 6.3.
COURTS WITH WIDE AREA NETWORKS

A wide area network (WAN) covers a broader area than a local area network, and it is important for information sharing among courts, county agencies and criminal justice partners. In 2006, 115 (30 percent of those responding) Ohio courts reported having WANs.

SECTION 6.4
COURTS WITH WEB SITES[7]

Since 1998, the number of courts with a Web site has dramatically increased. In fact, 250 courts have Web sites as of 2006, which is more than twice the number with Web sites in 2000. Courts are recognizing that a Web presence is an important source of information and services for their constituents and have begun to expand what types of information and services are available online.

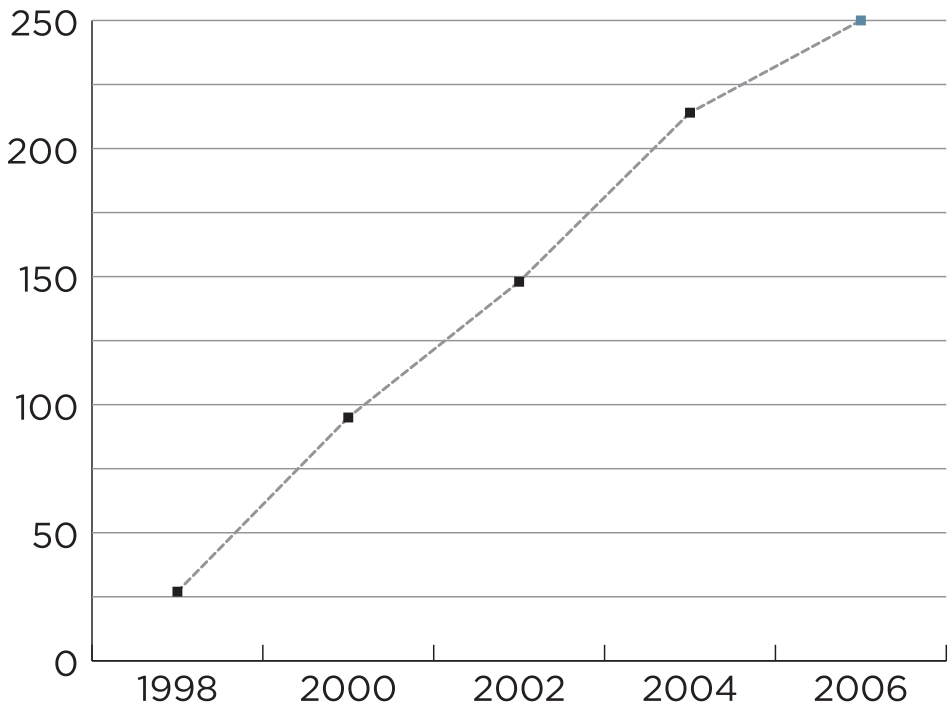


Figure 6.4 Ohio Courts with Web Sites

SECTION 6.5
TYPES OF SERVICES OFFERED ON THE INTERNET

Constituents turn to court Web sites for information. In addition to general information, such as location, driving directions and hours of operation, courts are beginning to offer other online services, such as access to the court docket and electronic fee payment.

COURTS REPORTING IN 2006	SERVICE TYPE
230	Information on court location, hours of operation, basic service offerings
180	Local rules
142	Public access to case records
140	Links to other Web sites
137	Forms
135	Profiles of court employees and/or elected officials
87	Court calendars
70	Record of all concluded events (docket)
61	Local justice community access to case records
43	Annual report
36	Public access to case documents
32	Online payment of fines or fees
24	Local justice community access to case documents
23	Publications
18	Opinion searches
28	Other

Table 6.5 Types of Service

SECTION 7
TECHNOLOGY PROJECT PLANNING

Many of the daily functions of Ohio courts take place electronically. Staff members rely on information contained within their case management systems to do their jobs. As a result, case management systems and other technology solutions are valuable assets of a court. Planning the maintenance and replacement of equipment and software is important to keep court operations functioning.

SECTION 7.0
DISASTER RECOVERY AND BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLANS

It is important for courts to have a written disaster recovery and business continuity plan in place to ensure their ability to function in the event of a fire, flood or other catastrophic event. The 2006 survey asked courts to indicate if they had a plan and, if so, to describe it. Of the 379 courts answering this question, most (246) indicated that they do daily back-ups of their data and store the information off-site, an essential part of disaster recovery plans.

However, very few courts indicated there was any more than that in their disaster recovery plan. It is recommended that courts continue to enhance their plans to include emergency off-site locations so that business can continue in the case of something unforeseen.

SECTION 7.1
CURRENT TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS

As new technologies rapidly enter the market, courts must prioritize their need for products.[8] Table 7.1 lists the top projects cited by courts as being planned, budgeted for or in the implementation phase in 2006.

Of the 299 courts that answered this question, 19 reported having no projects planned for the next year.

COURTS REPORTING IN 2006	PROJECT
84	Document imaging/management
68	Upgrade case management system
39	Digital court reporting
36	Software upgrade
36	E-filing
34	Web site
33	New/upgraded computers
29	Server upgrade
28	E-payments
23	Hardware upgrade
19	Web site enhancements
15	Video arraignments
10	Operating system upgrade
10	Network upgrade
10	Multimedia courtroom
10	New server
9	Internet access
9	Disaster recovery
9	New/upgraded printers
9	Upgrade security
8	WAN
8	Credit card payments
8	Equipment upgrade
7	Public internet access to records
7	Video conferencing
6	Public access
6	E-tickets
6	Data sharing
6	Upgrade to GUI from character-based program
5	Internet upgrade
5	JailView software
4	E-signatures
4	Paperless court
4	Touch-screen

Table 7.1 Current Technology Projects

SECTION 7.2.
SYSTEM ENHANCEMENTS COMPLETED BETWEEN 2004 AND 2006

In the midst of all the changes and improvements in the field of court technology, courts have continued to enhance their technical resources. A positive trend in 2006 is that courts have been actively maintaining their technology assets. At right is a list of enhancements added between 2004 and 2006.

COURTS REPORTING IN 2006	ENHANCEMENT
216	Upgraded equipment
170	Upgraded software
147	Upgraded server
116	Upgraded operating system
98	Upgraded network
77	Web site
58	Internet access
56	Digital court reporting
50	Document imaging/management
5	E-payment
5	Upgraded case management system
2	Upgraded hardware
2	Electronic certified mail
2	Automated BMV
1	Upgrade in progress
1	New computers
1	Driver's license swipe (data input)
1	Computerized microfilm printing
1	E-filing
1	Collection agency processing
1	JJIS installation in progress
1	Courtroom touch-screen
1	WebFOCUS use initiated
1	Fire suppression system installed
1	Instant messaging
1	Fax server added
1	Multimedia courtroom
1	Researching new computer system
1	Touch-screen disposition
1	Upgraded audiovisual equipment
1	Upgraded database
1	Upgraded multimedia courtroom
1	Upgraded video arraignment
1	Made better use of existing software and equipment
63	None

Table 7.2 Recent System Enhancements

SECTION 8
FUNDING

All technology initiatives require ongoing funding. In Ohio, most of that funding comes from the computer funds fee ($10 maximum) and legal research fee ($3 maximum) collected on each case filed. In 1993 the Ohio General Assembly passed H.B. 405 and S.B. 246, allowing courts to collect filing fees for automation and enabling the accrual of needed funds for the implementation and maintenance of case management systems. The computerization fees are the cornerstone of the technology movement for Ohio courts, as courts have few other sources of funding.

SECTION 8.0
FUNDING RESOURCES

COURTS REPORTING IN 2006	FUNDING RESOURCES
345	Computer funds fee/legal research fee
116	Special project funds
89	General revenue
27	State/local grants
19	Discretionary funds
19	Federal grants

Table 8.0 Funding Resources

SECTION 8.1
TRENDS – TECHNOLOGY FEES

The number of courts collecting the technology filing fees has remained relatively consistent over the last six years. The fact that more than 90 percent of courts have begun collecting these fees is an indication that this method of raising funds is successful and effective.

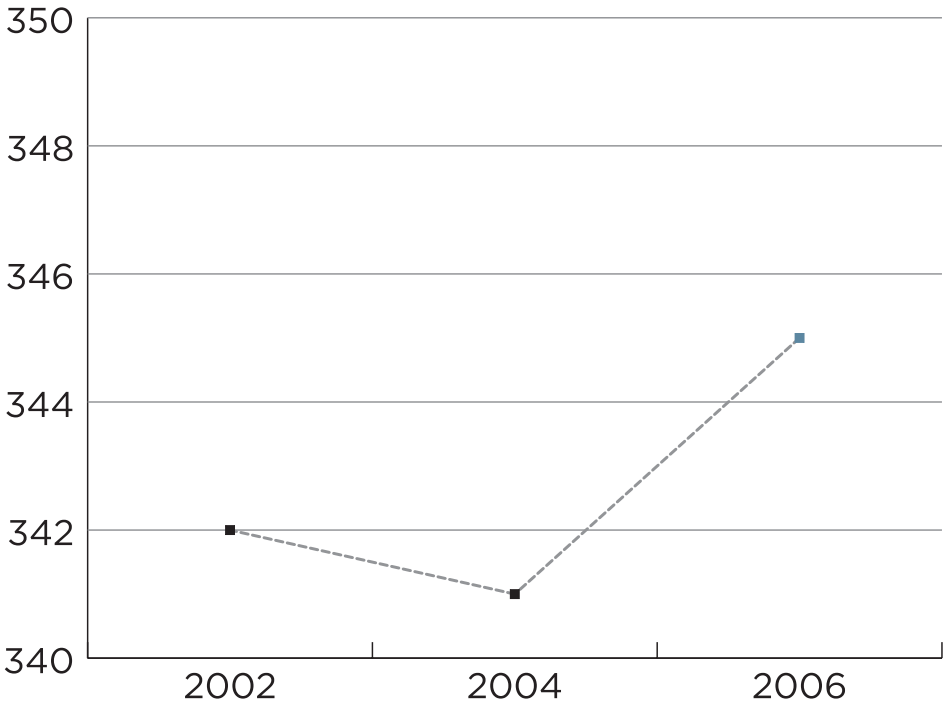


Figure 8.1 Courts Collecting $10 and $3 Technology Fees

SECTION 8.2
TRENDS – TECHNOLOGY FEES; SPECIAL PROJECT FUNDS

Courts are permitted to assess special project fees. In 2006 there was an increase in the number of courts using these fees for technology projects. As budgets become tighter, more courts are turning to alternative funding methods.

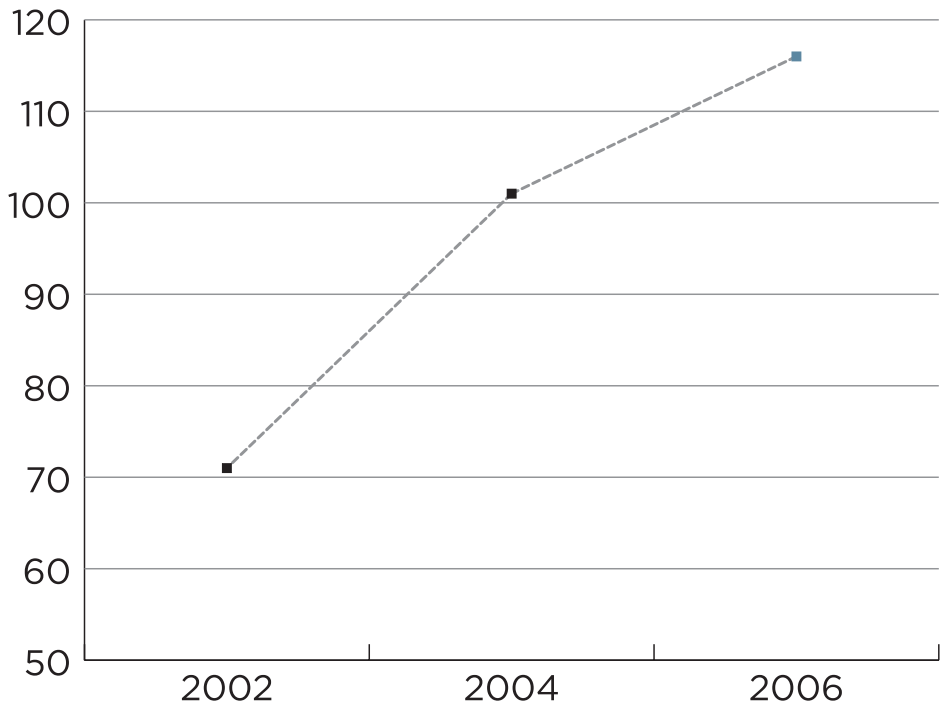


Figure 8.2 Courts Collecting Special Project Funds

SECTION 9
THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO TECHNOLOGY SERVICES SECTION

The Technology Services Section in the Supreme Court Information Technology Division can trace its roots to 1993, when Chief Justice Thomas J. Moyer created a new program of technology assistance and policy development for courts in Ohio. The Technology Services Section has since provided courts with a variety of services in support of their technology initiatives. To date, the Supreme Court Technology Services program managers have assisted with more than 300 technology projects.

SECTION 9.0
RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS FOR SERVICES

Courts were given the opportunity to submit recommendations and requests for the types of resources and services that the Supreme Court should offer through its Technology Services Section. Courts expressed a desire to have project management assistance, information about new technologies, technology standards and guidance on funding issues.

SECTION 9.1
AWARENESS OF TECHNOLOGY SERVICES SECTION

In 2006, 234 (60 percent) of responding Ohio courts reported knowing of the technology services available to them from the Supreme Court.

SECTION 9.2
THE SUPREME COURT TECHNOLOGY SERVICES SECTION WEB PAGES

In 2006, 209 (54 percent) of responding Ohio courts reported they had visited the Technology Services Section Web pages on the Supreme Court Web site at www.supremecourtofohio.gov.

ENDNOTES

1. Housing and environmental courts are divisions of municipal courts, but they are counted separately for purposes of superintendence. There are two housing courts and one environmental court in Ohio.

2. There are 336 mayor's courts registered with the Supreme Court of Ohio. On Jan. 1, 2003, the governor signed H.B. 490 requiring mayor's courts to register annually with the Supreme Court and to report caseload statistics beginning on Jan. 1, 2004.The numbers in the 2006 survey do not reflect the status of mayor's courts.

3. See Sup. R. 26 for records retention schedules.

4. Policy recommendations for document imaging are available on www.supremecourtofohio.gov/tech_services/resources/default.asp#.

5. In November 2003 the Supreme Court of Ohio Advisory Committee on Technology & the Courts approved fax filing standards. A copy of the standards and a model local rule are available at www.supremecourtofohio.gov/ACTC/working_doc/fax_standards.pdf.

6. Although electronic filing is permitted according to R. C. 1306, the Supreme Court standard is still in process. Until the standard is approved, courts need a waiver from the Advisory Committee on Technology & the Courts in order to use electronic filing.

7. See www.supremecourtofohio.gov/Web_Sites/courts/ for a comprehensive list.

8. Sup. R. 27 requires that the Supreme Court of Ohio Advisory Committee on Technology & the Courts review and approve local rules that involve the use of information technology to ensure that adopted technology standards are met.

APPENDIX
TECHNOLOGY TERMS USED IN THE 2006 TECHNOLOGY AND THE COURTS SURVEY

Audio tape court reporting
Recording court proceedigns on analog audio tape.

Business continuity plan
Plans put into place to ensure that essential functions of an organization can continue during and after a disaster, prevent interruption of mission-critical services and reestablish full functioning operations as soon as possible. *Reference: www.whatis.com*

Cable modem
A device that enables a computer to hook up to a local cable television connection and receive data at about 1.5 Mbps. *Reference: www.whatis.com*

Dial-up modem
A device used to transmit digital data over telephone wires, by modulating the data into an audio signal to send it, and demodulating an audio signal into data to receive it.
Reference: www.dictionary.com

Digital audio court reporting
Court proceedings that are recorded on digital audio.

Digital document management system
Documents are managed and saved in digital formats

Digital video court reporting
Recording court proceedings on digital video.

Disaster recovery plan
A plan to ensure the ability of business operations to function in the event of a catastrophic event.

Digital Subscriber Line (DSL)
Technology that uses existing telephone wiring with special hardware attached to both the user and switch ends of the line to allow high-speed data transmission over the wires.
Reference: www.whatis.com

Electronic filing
Filing court documents over the Internet.

Electronic payment of fees
Payment of court fees over the Internet using credit or debit cards.

Electronic signatures from court
The ability of a court to generate a type of electronic code that gets attached to a document that tells who signed the document and whether or not the document has been altered since it was signed.

Electronic signatures received by court
The ability of a court to receive electronic code attached to a document that tells who signed the document and whether or not the document has been altered since it was signed.

Fax filing
The transmission and acceptance of a court filing via a fax machine.

Integrated multimedia courtroom
Technology such as wireless network connections, digital cameras and digital recording equipment are installed in the courtroom.

Judicial scheduling software
Software used to integrate tracking, updating and preparing court calendars.

Jury management software
Software used to integrate various aspects of jury management, such as printing qualification questionnaires and summonses, and tracking of juror pools.

Local area network (LAN)
A group of computers and devices that share a common communications line or wireless link and typically share the resources of a single processor or server within a small geographic area (for example, within an office building). *Reference: www.whatis.com*

Network
The physical link between multiple computers and devices that allows for communication and sharing of devices such as printers.

Operating system
Software that manages programs in a computer to perform operations such as running multiple software programs at the same time, managing output to printers and distribution of internal memory.

Real time court reporting
Instant translation of transcripts into text files.

RSS feed
RSS stands for Really Simple Syndication. It is a way to easily distribute a list of headlines, update notices, and sometimes content to a wide number of people. It is used by computer programs that organize those headlines and notices for easy reading. *Reference: www.whatis.com*

Systems Administrator
The individual with the responsibility of managing and maintaining a computer system.

T1
Technology that uses existing telephone wiring to allow high-speed data transmission over the wires. These lines are made up of 24 channels transmit both voice and data traffic.
Reference: www.Webopedia.com

Video arraignment
Use of video conferencing technology to conduct an arraignment between the court and a detention facility.

Video conferencing
Communication across long distances with video and audio contact that may also include graphics and data exchange.

Video hearings
Use of video conferencing technology to conduct a hearing between the court and a detention facility.

Video tape court recording
Court proceedings are recorded on analog video tape.

Voice command transcription
Software that uses voice recognition technology to take dictation and create transcripts.

Wide Area Networks (WAN)
A computer network, usually consisting of two or more local area networks, that spans a relatively large geographical area. *Reference: www.Webopedia.com*

The Supreme Court *of* Ohio

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