



## External Data Sources

In keeping with the ever increasing effort to bolster information sharing within the criminal justice community, N-DEX is adding millions of searchable records via external data sources.

By adding this vital piece of functionality to the information sharing puzzle, N-DEX can now leverage additional data sources to provide a one-stop search capability.

The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Law Enforcement Information Sharing (LEIS) Service is now a searchable data source via the N-DEX portal. This action will provide an additional 38 million records to N-DEX users, and will provide 800 DHS users with access to N-DEX. Based upon current query rates, users are projected to perform an additional 22,000 queries per month with a growth rate of 10 to 20 percent each year.

The DHS data source will allow users to run searches on two specific N-DEX targeted search types — People and Locations.

The LEIS Service draws its available data from two source systems — the Traveler Enforcement Compliance System (TECS) database and Enforcement Case Tracking System (ENFORCE).

TECS includes subjects handled by both Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) during the past 10 years. It includes information derived from the agencies' following business activities: ICE investigative case management; information reporting and dissemination; CBP processing passengers at air, land, and sea ports of entry; and maintaining a watch list for DHS agencies.

ENFORCE is the front-end software application used to access the Enforcement Integrated Database, a DHS shared common database repository for ICE, CBP, and US Citizenship and Immigration Services, which is used to capture and maintain information related to the arrest, booking, and removal of persons encountered during immigration and criminal law enforcement investigations and operations. Information from these systems help the ENFORCE user gain a comprehensive look at apprehension booking, alien detention, and alien removal. It also includes biographic data on the subjects along with their photos.

The importance of this effort is obvious, because it gives N-DEX the opportunity to access the vast resources of the DHS LEIS Service. The LEIS Service enables DHS law enforcement agents and analysts to look for non-obvious relationship patterns among individuals and organizations that are indicative of violations of the customs and immigration laws enforced by DHS agencies, as well as possible terrorist threats and plots.

For instance, a local police officer will now have access to DHS

**DHS is an external data source in the N-DEX System. Searches using this data must be targeted to N-DEX People and Location searches.**

LEIS Service data when researching a subject and will be able to query potential terrorist connections through the database. Likewise, a DHS law enforcement agent using N-DEX will have access to all of the local, state, tribal and federal resources of N-DEX to strengthen their investigation.

Thus, both DHS and N-DEX users will have access to data that would otherwise require multiple user accounts for access.

**This service is currently available on the N-DEX portal. Logical Entity Exchange Specification-Search and Retrieval (LEXS-SR) users will have access to this option in the near future.**

N-DEX Program Manager Jeffrey Lindsey says, "This enhancement increases both the efficiency and value of N-DEX while enabling users to more finely tune their searches. The DHS partnership also helps fulfill the federal government's commitment to share equally with its partners through N-DEX"

The N-DEX interface will reflect this change in the **External Filters** area as seen in the graphic. External data source searches are not integrated with other N-DEX results.

For more information about N-DEX, email [ndex@leo.gov](mailto:ndex@leo.gov) or phone 304.625.HELP (4357). ■