### **OpenEFM and Electronic Filing**



Jim Beard



#### Overview

- What did we do?
- Why did we do it?
- How does it work?
- What does it mean?



# Why we Developed it

- Problems
  - Thousands of courts
  - Heterogenous CMS systems ( non-standard )
  - Small operational budgets
  - Different courts have different needs



# Why we Developed it

- Solution
  - Open Source
    - Saves courts time and money
    - Adds a level of security to courts that propietary software can not offer
    - Abstraction of key elements likely to differ from court to court



#### How it works

- General E-Filing over view
  - EFSPs (different vendors offering front ends to e-filing services) offer filing creation
  - EFMs ( one for each court ) accept filings and allow the court personel to manage them
  - CMSs ( one for each court ) maintain the courts information
  - LegalXML acts as the common communication language





Diagram taken from the California Electronic Filing Technical Standards Project – version 5 Nov.20, 2000



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### EFMs

- Courts have a single EFM
- The EFM accepts filings from authenticated (court approved) vendors
- Court personal use the EFM to review and manage the incoming filings
- Approved filings can then move on to the CMS system



# OpenEFM

• Courts can manage

- EFSPs

- Accounts for other court personel ( clerks )
- Court clerks can manage filings
  - Approve filings
  - Reject filings



## OpenEFM

- Designed with adaptability in mind.
  - Due to the different needs and different systems of each court
- The account and filing management functionality is universal



# OpenEFM

- Key components are abstracted so that easy changes can be made. For example
  - The adapter between the EFM and the CMS
  - The method of acceptance of filings
    - SOAP
    - HTTP / HTTPS
    - Etc
  - The database layer



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Status	Pending	
Initial Filing?	Yes	
Case Number	none assigned	
Case Title	Renolds vs. Johnson	
Case Category	CR	
Case Year	2002	
Created	20:09 12-07-02	
Received	20:09 12-07-02	
Plaintiff(s)	Thomas Renolds	
Defendant(s)	Robert Johnson	
Filing Attorney	Thomas Renolds	
Filing Fee	\$0.00	
Documents		



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- <Actor ID="Plaintiff0001">

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- <Name>

~ <Person>

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- <Actor ID="Defendant0001">

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- <Name>

- <Person>

<FullName>Robert Johnson</FullName>

<FirstName>Robert</FirstName>

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<LastName>Johnson</LastName>

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#### Thank You!

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