



Remote Data Sources Available in N-DEX

In keeping with the ever increasing effort to bolster information sharing within the criminal justice community, N-DEX is adding remote data sources in the filters section of the interface.

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 first remote data source to be added to N-DEX will be the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Law Enforcement Information Sharing (LEIS) Service. This action will provide an additional 38 million searchable 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.

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 Treasury Enforcement Communications 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; intelligence 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.

The screenshot shows the N-DEX search interface. At the top, navigation tabs include 'Home', 'People', 'Vehicles', 'Phone Numbers', 'Location', 'Crime Characteristics', and 'more'. The 'People' and 'Location' tabs are circled in red. Below the navigation is the 'N-DEX' logo. The main search area is divided into 'Filters and Reason' and 'History' sections. The 'Filters and Reason' section includes fields for 'Search Reason', 'Search Purpose' (set to 'Criminal Justice'), 'Search Reason (required)' (set to 'test'), and 'Search on behalf of (optional)'. Below this is the 'N-DEX Filters' section, which includes 'Geographic Location' (set to 'Don't filter'), 'Date' (set to 'Don't filter'), and 'Data Sources' (with 'Federal', 'Southern Region', 'Western Region', 'Northeastern Region', and 'North Central Region' all checked). The 'Result Filters' section has 'Report Types' checked. The 'External Filters' section has 'External Data Sources' checked, with 'DHS' highlighted in red. To the right, a 'People' search results window is open, showing fields for 'Name or Alias', 'Age', 'DOB', 'City', and 'State', along with 'Identifiers' and 'Person Roles' sections.

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

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

Users who directly access the N-DEX portal and those who use a Logical Entity Exchange Specification—Search and Retrieval (LEXS-SR) will have access to this option.

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 N-DEX interface will reflect this change in the **Data Sources** area located on the filters tab as seen in the graphic. The results of remote data source searches will be displayed separately from N-DEX results.

For more information about N-DEX, email ndex@leo.gov or phone 304.625.4242. ■