

ConnectCIC™ Version 2.0

Transaction Workflow Engine and Development Toolkit

Empowering you with intelligent software that provides a write-once, reuse integration to any state, national, regional, and even local crime information center (CIC) and criminal justice information system (CJIS)!

Overview

Today public safety solution vendors are being tasked with providing law enforcement agencies with a more integrated, state-of-the-art software solution than ever before. These requested integrated solutions not only require easy-to-use and administer software, but must also solve workflow and automation challenges by integrating with other software applications, databases, and system tools. Furthermore, public safety solution vendors are still tasked with delivering such solutions on aggressive time schedules and lean budgets. Therefore, in order to achieve success and turn a profit, public safety solution vendors must truly focus on providing solutions that are highly configurable and will lend themselves to economies of scale.

A big part of this challenge is for public safety solution vendors to determine if it is beneficial to develop and maintain complete end-to-end state, national, regional, and local CIC and CJIS integrations. If the public safety solution vendor sells solutions in just one or two states, internally developing and supporting their own end-to-end CIC and CJIS solutions may be doable and still allow them to achieve an acceptable ROI. But if the vendor does not want to limit sales to a couple states or requires additional integration to other regional or local CIC or CJIS systems, these integrations and their processes can be highly resource intensive, costly, and time consuming as well as run the risk of taking you away from your core competencies or higher-valued components, thus possibly reducing your overall margin for the solution and the company. What is needed is an alternative solution to this problem.

The ConnectCIC Solution

CommSys offers such a solution as well as recognizes and understands the issues you, the public safety solution vendor, are challenged with. We believe we can help you solve CIC or CJIS requirements quickly, efficiently, and in a scalable fashion, allowing you to focus on product value, core competencies, differentiation, high-revenue margin, and a quick ROI just simply by implementing our ConnectCIC offering.

ConnectCIC is not an end-to-end application, nor is it a complete end-to-end solution. ConnectCIC is a Transaction Workflow Engine and a Development Toolkit that strictly focuses on providing public safety solution vendors with the core processes and connectivity that enable them to have consistent access to one or more state, national, regional, and local CIC and CJIS system via a common, easy-to-integrate, write-once mechanism.

Integration Challenges

National, state, regional, and local CIC and CJIS access highlights for public safety solution vendors several business and technical challenges. Like state-specific NIBRS requirements, not only are there technical requirements, but also there are many business challenges that vary from state to state regarding process, certification, and implementation of mandated changes and on-going support. Some examples of business and technical challenges for CIC and CJIS access are the following:

- Administering the uniqueness in each system's message keys, formats, and processes.
- Managing independent integrations to various local systems such as mug shots, fingerprints, permits, bicycle licenses, warrants, and street databases.
- Developing varied transport session protocols specific to each system.
- Special handling of information for data mining.
- Implementing specific routing requirements.
- Planning for on-going business development resources to keep updated on each CIC and CJIS system be it state, regional, or local.
- Coordinating resources for support, training, project management, and product management of these CIC and CJIS integrations.
- Maintaining development resources, i.e. communication engineers, who may need to possess a different skill set from an application programmer.

Product Description

The CommSys ConnectCIC offering consists of two components, a Transaction Workflow Engine and a Development Toolkit providing you highly configurable back-end access to all 50 CIC and CJIS state integrations as well as regional and local systems. (See *Figure 1 below*.)

Although ConnectCIC provides several advantages to public safety solutions vendors, one enormous advantage is that no matter what agency you are providing a solution for or what state they are located in, you have the same interface to code to. We remove you as much as possible from the state-specific nuances and barriers allowing you to focus on your core competencies and true value propositions.

ConnectCIC is a modular architecture that allows for additional functionality to any CIC or CJIS integration through configuration not compiling. You use and pay for only what you need. Because of the modularity, new components can be plugged in at any time taking full advantage of the core components, such as data mining, meta-data form definition, logging, routing, and hit-detection when you need them. Furthermore, you can easily provide additional custom configurations for state queries, add/modify/delete transactions, administrative message transactions, etc. to be able to meet any custom requirements presented by each agency.

The Transaction Workflow Engine is easily installed at each agency. This component is highly configurable and includes connectivity to state CIC and CJIS systems with a pre-defined subset of basic query transaction message keys such as wanted persons and vehicles and stolen vehicle, boat, gun, and article queries. Other queries that exist in some states as part of our basic query set are Canadian, snowmobile, hunting license, criminal history, sex offender, and Hazmat queries. We also provide data-mined responses; meta-data form definitions; and basic hit detection, logging, and routing. This provided functionality is generally the core of what most law enforcement agencies are looking for from CIC and CJIS system integrations. For any requirements beyond what the basic offering meets, you have two options, use the Development Toolkit's Advance Transaction Processing and complete this work yourself or have CommSys complete the work for you. Either way we'll support you through the process!

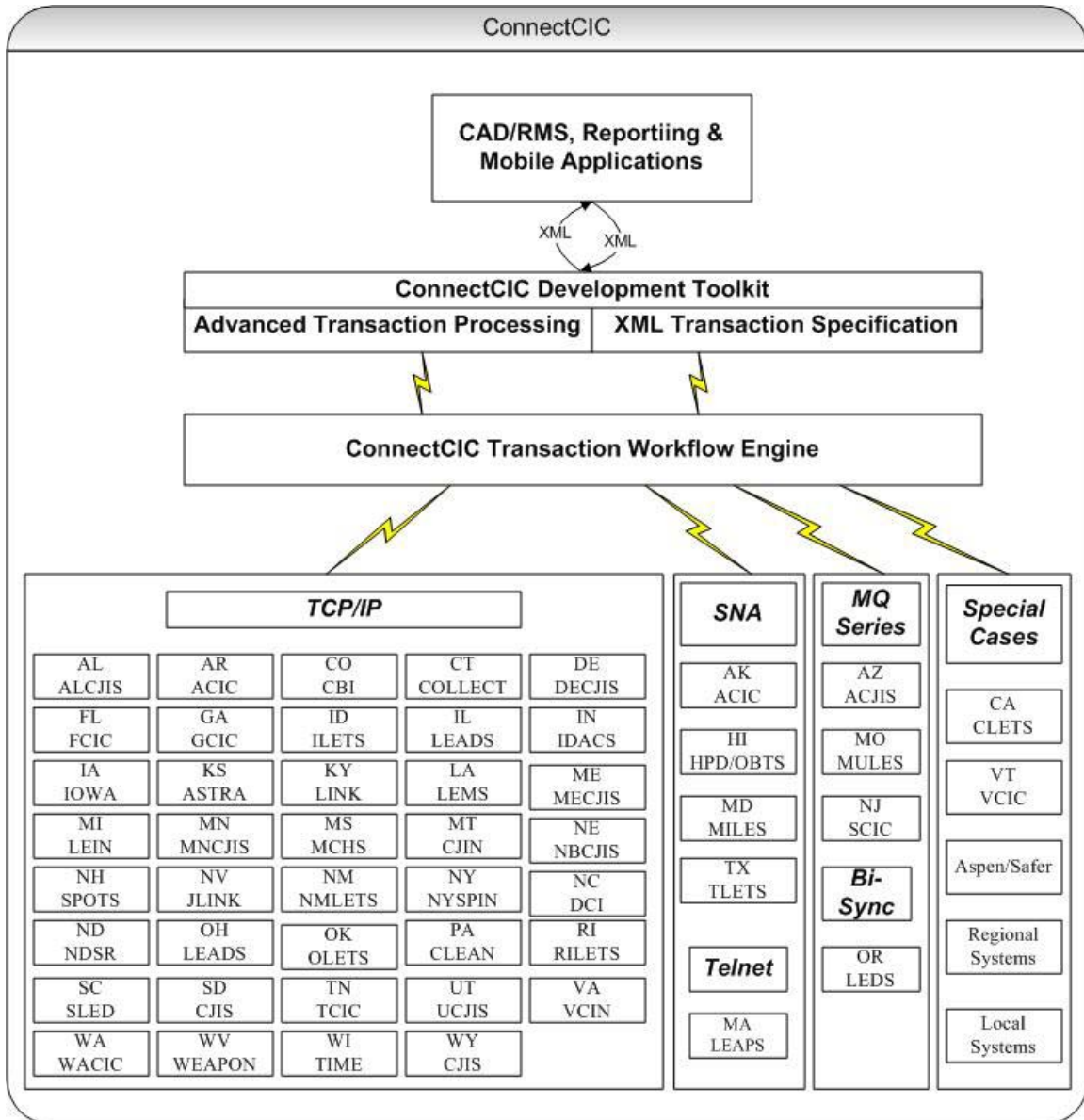


Figure 1 – ConnectCIC Breadth

The ConnectCIC Development Toolkit provides a XML Transaction Specification that will allow you to focus on what is truly the most important element – providing your customer an easy-to-use, feature-rich application while differentiating yourself from your competitors through front-end development and workflow enhancements in your applications. The XML Transaction Specification provides you an XML Schema definition allowing you to rapidly deploy and easily maintain a write-once, use everywhere integration to our ConnectCIC Transaction Workflow Engine virtually giving you access to any CIC or CJIS system. You don't have to worry about state, regional, or local CIC variations or support issues, you don't have to retain additional developers, testing resources, support engineers, or business relationship managers that understand each state, national, regional, or local integration, but you still own the highest value piece of the CIC and CJIS integration; what your customer actually sees and uses on a day-to-day basis. Essentially to the end user, the solution is yours.

For custom requirements that specific agencies have or to differentiate your product even further, CommSys provides public safety solution vendors with a tool that allows you to easily add onto the basic offering, not rewrite. Many customizations can be re-used from state-to-state and agency-to-agency too. The ConnectCIC Development Toolkit Advanced Transaction Processing component comes complete with the following features:

- Customizable transaction set – supports any CIC or CJIS transaction be it a query, add, modify, or delete request as well as the ability to integrate with other systems such as regional warrant and mug shot systems.
- Customizable dynamic, real-time routing system – provides customizable scripts to define rules that perform dynamic and real-time routing.
- Customizable logging capabilities – configurable to meet state mandates and site requirements for transaction and/or response logging of CIC or CJIS information.
- Customizable hit detection – ability to modify a standard hit detection configuration.
- Meta-data dynamic form support – if your application has a GUI-rendering engine, you are designing your mobile application, or you want to build a front-end verification tool to ensure inputs contain the correct data elements, think meta-data! Through this feature you request from our Transaction Workflow Engine the data requirements for each transaction to use for form or input layout purposes. This way you will always have the up-to-date transaction information because you dynamically receive the information.
- Customizable, intelligent data mining – instead of parsing all information that is returned, we mine for relevant fields. The mined fields are totally configurable. We provide our own scripting language to implement a default behavior that uses Regular Expressions (RegEx). Customizations can be performed using public scripting with languages such as VBScript or JavaScript.
- Customizable secondary queries and transaction spawning – secondary queries can be configured to automatically spawn additional transactions from return information.
- Customizable response processing – can be performed, such as colorization of data, before information is returned to users. This processing can be scripted. This functionality allows you to perform processes beyond what is indicated above making this one of the most flexible and highly configurable tools in the market today.

Minimum Hardware Guidelines for ConnectCIC Server

The ConnectCIC Transaction Workflow Engine is not a processor-intense component and while dependent on the number of users, most likely it can reside on a server with your other applications. Suggested minimum hardware and operating systems guidelines are as follows:

- Intel Pentium III 800Mhz with 1 GB of disk
- 128MB of Memory (standalone); 64MB needed on shared system
- CD-ROM (for software distribution)
- Windows 2000 or 2003 Operating System

Product Architecture

The ConnectCIC architecture offers a non-volatile set of technologies written using the .NET framework. It provides an IP listening service independent of your technologies allowing you to develop in whatever languages and framework you want while permitting access to local, regional, state, and national information needed for public safety intelligence. ConnectCIC is primarily designed as component architecture for use in your software applications and has no visual component of its own, except for testing purposes. ConnectCIC is essentially a building block for higher-level GUI applications that can be customized to suite the needs of any given situation.

Why CommSys and ConnectCIC?

CommSys believes we have the most configurable, powerful, and complete CIC and CJIS offering on the market today, and we designed it with public safety solution vendors like you in mind. Because of our extensive experience in designing and developing CIC and CJIS solutions at all levels, we can provide you the most affordable, robust, and sustainable offering to meet your needs today, tomorrow, and well into the future. CommSys, Inc. brings several important qualifications to you, such as the following:

- ✓ Over ten years of experience with designing, developing, and supporting state, national, local, and regional CIC and CJIS interfaces.
- ✓ Offer a Transaction Workflow Engine that is consistent from state to state and easy to install and configure.
- ✓ Provide a Development Toolkit that is configurable, flexible, and easy to use.
- ✓ Experience in maintaining proactive relationships with states.
- ✓ Support for development, customer issues, and on-site implementation.
- ✓ Pricing most likely considerably lower than it would cost you to develop and maintain the interfaces yourself.

The CommSys ConnectCIC offering can also provide public safety solution vendors with the following benefits:

Broaden Market Opportunities. Because ConnectCIC can support CIC and CJIS integrations in all 50 states plus provide regional and local integrations, you now do not have to limit your reach to just a few states. You can offer your solutions where it makes good business sense.

Focus on Value Proposition. Since ConnectCIC provides the back-office integrations and basic query transactions, public safety solution vendors can maintain their focus on applications and functionality that support their value proposition not ancillary integrations that are not product differentiators.

Allow for Better Utilization of Resources. Resource limitations are present in all businesses; we simply can't do everything. ConnectCIC can assist you in focusing your resources on functionality that provides added product value, like improved functionality and workflow. ConnectCIC integration should help improve accuracy of data as well as decrease the amount of manual entry as mined return information could be used to automatically populate reports. These are key areas for customer retention and also lend themselves to higher perceived value.

Competitive Differentiation. In today's competitive environment, agility plus selectivity in meeting customer needs is vitally important. Vendors are always looking for ways to offer customers new features and functionality while differentiating themselves from their competition and achieving an acceptable profit margin. The CommSys ConnectCIC offering permits vendors to do just that. Now, the ability to quickly offer end users valuable functionality, automation and workflow improvements, and have full control over how the information is presented and accessed is totally viable. How your application integration of Connect CIC is completed, is a decision that is entirely yours allowing you to scale not only from agency to agency in the same state, but from state to state.

Cost Reduction on Fixed Development and Support Costs. By implementing ConnectCIC, vendors take advantage of the expertise and knowledge at CommSys. ConnectCIC eliminates the need to have additional development, testing, technical support resources, and business relationship resources dealing with each and every state or region where business is conducted. Let CommSys be your one-stop shop for CIC and CJIS integrations!

Summary

It is widely accepted in public safety today that access to CIC and CJIS systems is most likely a requirement for any public safety solution sale to a law enforcement agency. What CommSys challenges you to evaluate is what is the ideal solution for you to meet the agency's requirements while offering a timely, high-margin solution with economies of scale?

CommSys ConnectCIC provides you the foundation for key CIC and CJIS system access, while giving you the tools to allow you full control of the offering to the customer. We believe with ConnectCIC you can meet the agency requirements, differentiate your offering from your competition, and achieve an acceptable revenue margin.

About CommSys

CommSys, Inc. is dedicated to maintaining our position as a leader in providing high quality and value-added software and solutions to government and businesses through a staff of highly trained, professional people sharing a tradition of integrity and quality service with our customers.

Since 1989, CommSys, Incorporated, headquartered in Dayton, Ohio, and privately held, has been developing and implementing innovative technology that provides our customers with intelligent solutions for today's rapidly changing, intensely competitive environments in government and business. CommSys has over 10 years of experience in providing solutions and services for public safety software vendors and state, county, and municipal agencies across the nation. We have developed innovative solutions that are cost-effective when no other options seemed possible.

In a world driven by fast-changing information technology, our people make all the difference. By teaming with CommSys, you benefit from the unmatched expertise of our IT professionals. They apply their incredible depth of experience and combine that with broad technical knowledge of IT systems and software to deliver the right products and solutions to optimize your workflow and solve your strategic and tactical organizational challenges.

Contact Us

Contact us to learn more!

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