

## **Introduction**

The Supreme Court of Ohio is pleased to issue the results of the 2010 Survey on Technology and the Courts. This biennial survey provides a snapshot of the status of court technology in Ohio.

In the two years that have elapsed since the release of the 2008 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.

In an effort to more efficiently administer the survey and gather the results, The Supreme Court again used an internet-based survey form. 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.

Statistics for the 2010 survey are based on responses received from Ohio's 371 trial-level courts. The Supreme Court of Ohio and the Courts of Appeals were not included in the survey.

Muskingum County Court of Common Pleas, General Division, was unable to participate in 2008 or 2010, so their answers from 2006 were used in the data analysis.

### **Composition of Ohio Courts and Jurisdictions in 2010**

#### 205 Common Pleas Courts

- 28 General Division only (CP1)
- 53 General Division and Domestic Relations combined (CP2)
  - 1 General Division and Probate combined (CP3)
  - 5 General Division, Domestic Relations, Probate and Juvenile combined (CP4)
  - 1 General Division, Domestic Relations and Probate combined (CP5)
- 19 Domestic Relations only (DR1)
  - 6 Domestic Relations and Juvenile combined (DR2)
- 15 Probate only (P1)
- 62 Probate and Juvenile combined (P2)
  - 4 Probate, Juvenile and Domestic Relations combined (P3)
- 11 Juvenile only (J1)

130 Municipal Courts, including two Housing Divisions and one Environmental Division.

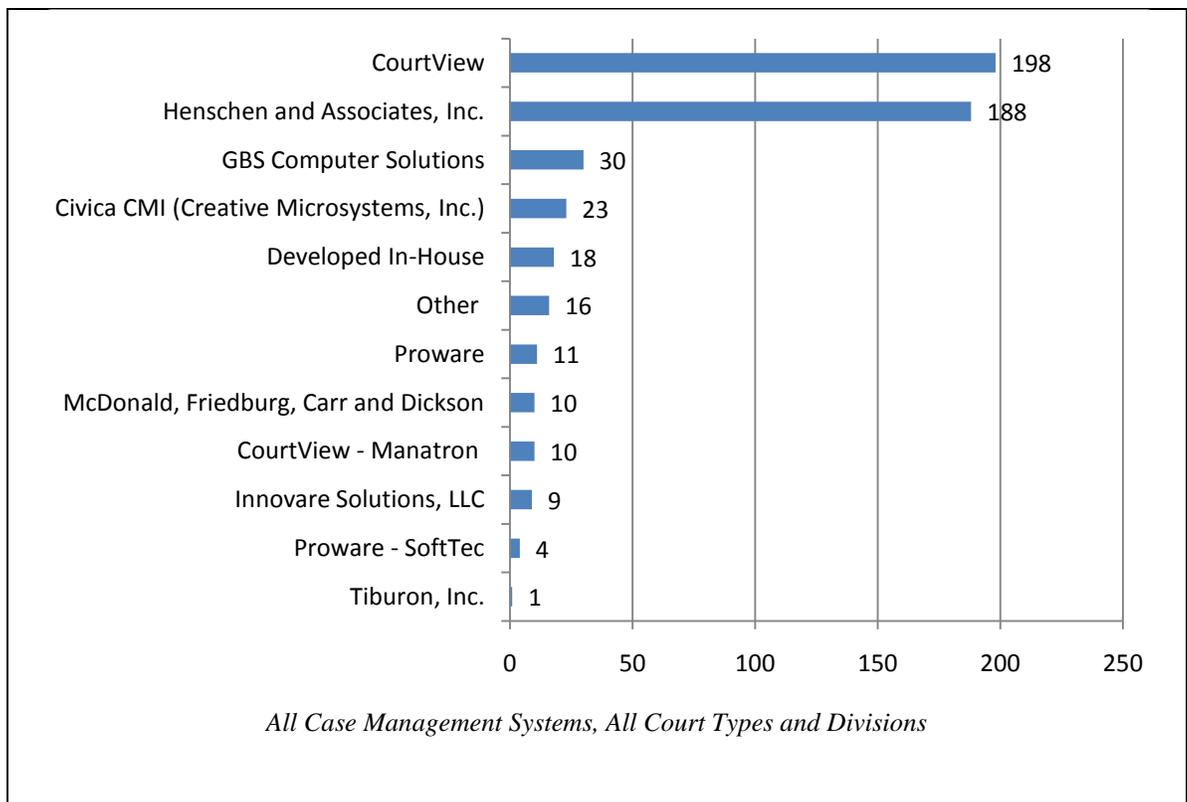
#### 36 County Courts

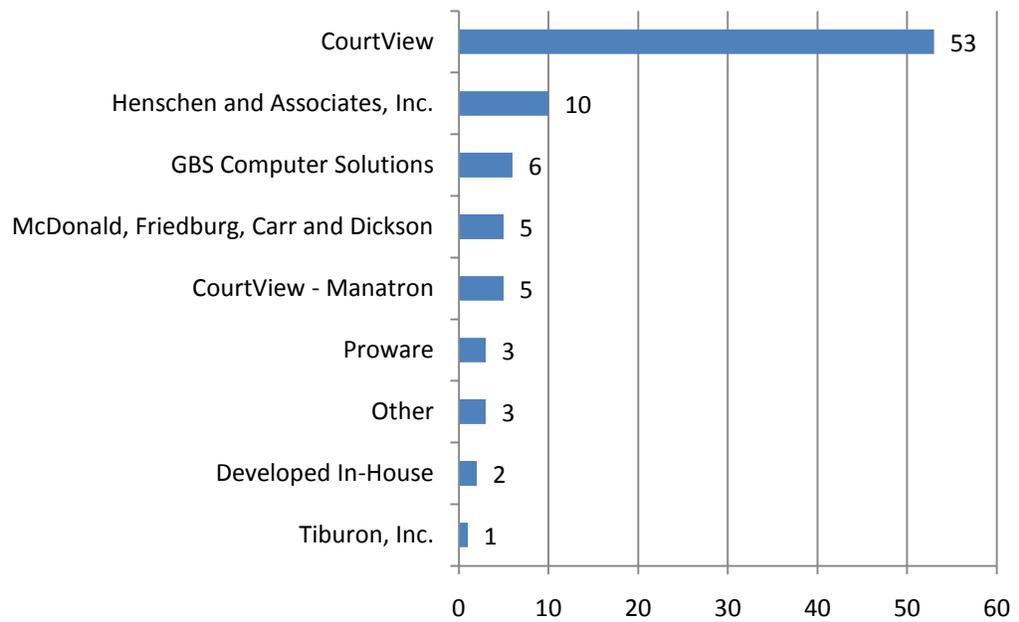
***371 Total Ohio Trial Courts***

## Case Management Solutions

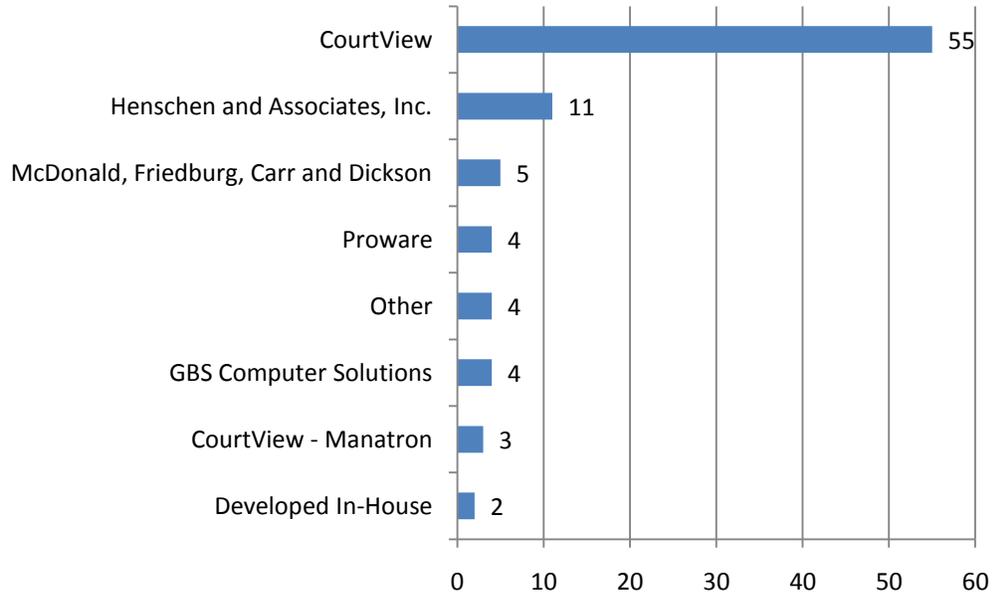
Automated case management systems (CMS) provide courts with the ability to manage information electronically, using specialty case management systems and general office software. By 2010, all cases were being input into a case management system, enabling projects such as the Ohio Courts Network to move toward completion.

The 2010 survey asked courts to indicate the case management vendors for all the systems used within their court. Please note that each court was asked to select the system used for each division and court type (e.g. general division, domestic relations, municipal, county, etc.), so the figures below represent the 518 divisions reported.

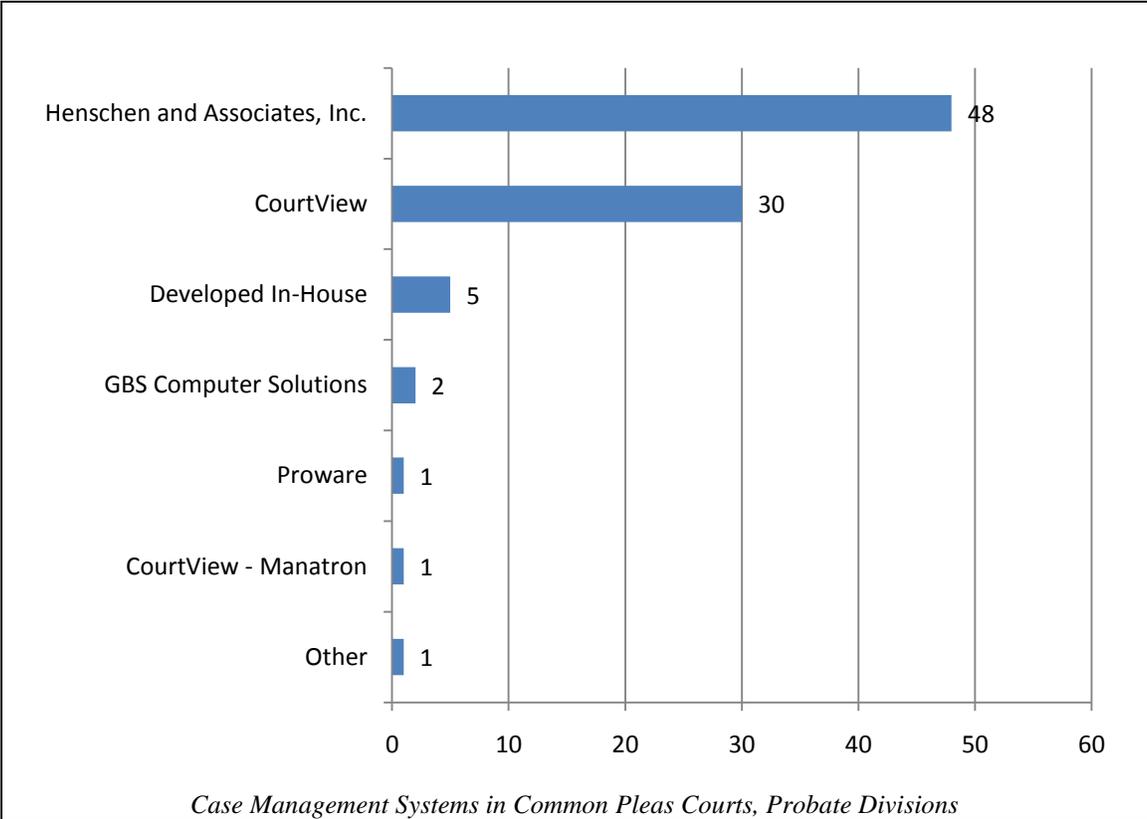
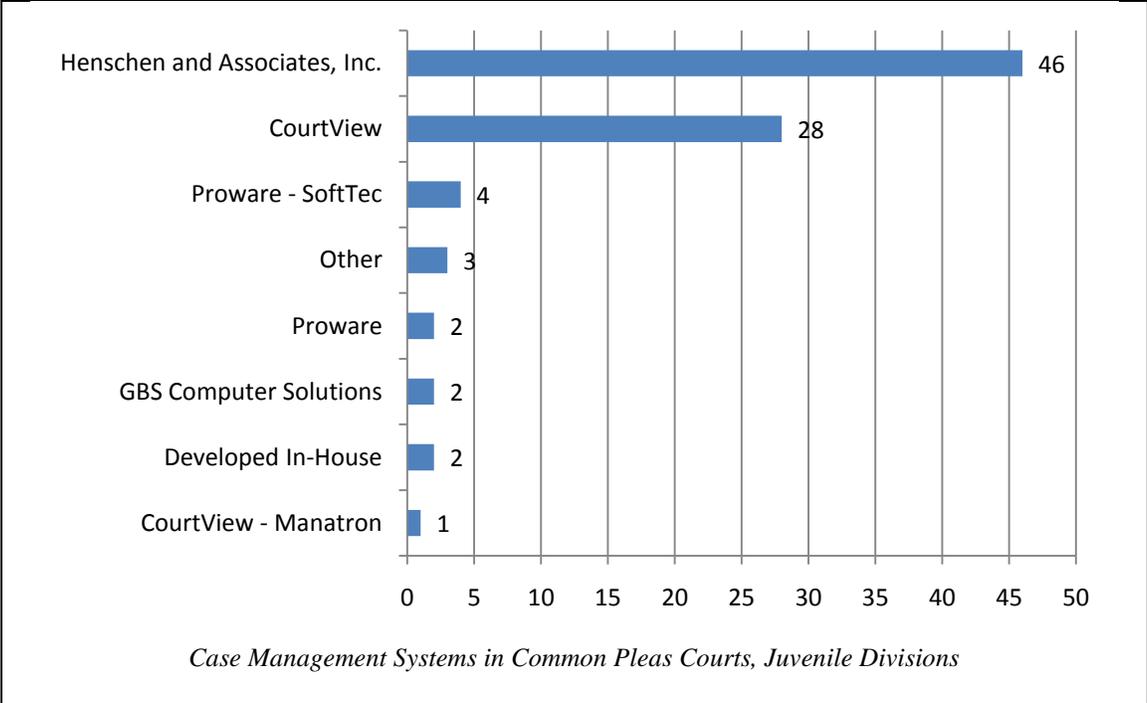


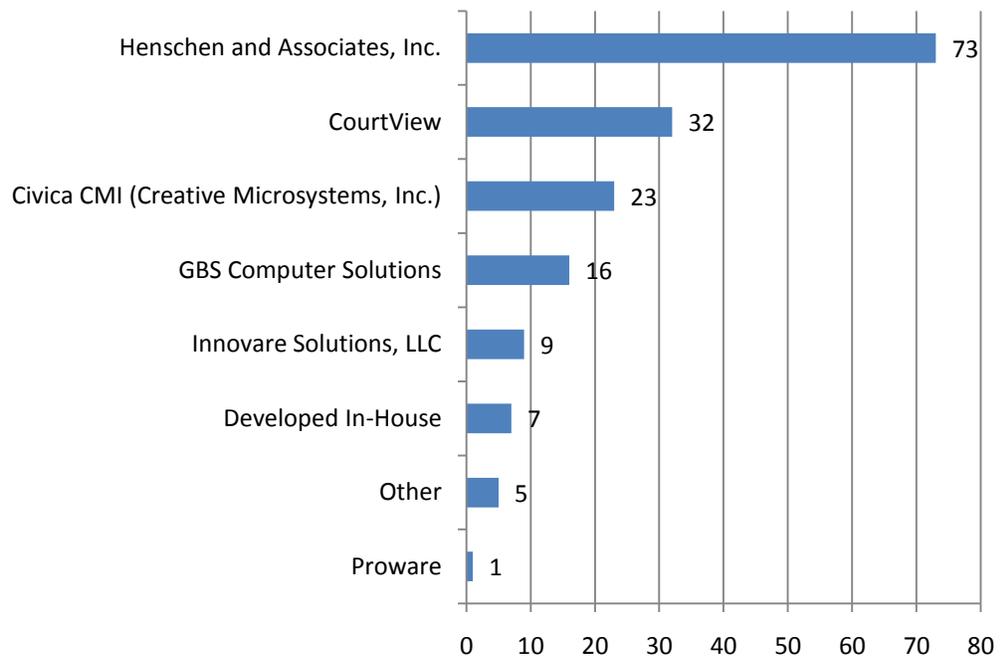


*Case Management Systems in Common Pleas Courts, General Divisions*



*Case Management Systems in Common Pleas Courts, Domestic Relations Divisions*





*Case Management Systems in Municipal and County Courts*

## Document Imaging

Imaging technology has grown in popularity among courts as the number of filings and the need for storage space has increased. Digital document imaging is defined as using the computer to store images electronically, rather than via microfilm.

The number of courts using imaging technology has continued to increase in 2010. 190 courts now report using document imaging, compared to 168 in 2008. The following table lists the document imaging vendors used by courts in Ohio in 2010.

Vendor	Number of Courts
Henschen and Associates, Inc.	38
Vista Solutions Group	27
Other	25
CourtView	24
Civica CMI (Creative Microsystems, Inc.)	15
Developed In-House	13
Hyland Software, Inc.	10
GBS Computer Solutions	7
Results Engineering	6
Intellinetics	5
Proware	4
Proware - SoftTec	3
Unknown Vendor	3
DocStar	2
Perceptive Software	2
Shelby Computer Connection	2
Cott Systems	1
CourtView - Manatron	1
Datamax Technologies, Inc.	1
Innovare Solutions, LLC	1

## Video Conferencing

Another technology that is gaining in popularity is the use of video conferencing equipment. This technology allows a court to conduct long-distance hearings, arraignments and other kinds of meetings with full video and audio contact. Courts have continued to express interest in implementing video conferencing technology as a way to cut costs and expedite the arraignment and hearing processes. In 2010, 168 courts reported conducting video arraignments and/or hearings, up from 141 in 2008. The following table lists the video conferencing vendors used by courts in Ohio in 2010.

Vendor	Number of Courts
Polycom, Inc.	55
Other	34
Jefferson Audio-Video Systems (JAVS)	18
Use Equipment from another Court or Agency	15
Developed In-House	10
Unknown Vendor	9
Tandberg	7
AT&T Broadband Network Solutions	5
Court Vision Communications, Inc.	3
Staley Technologies	3
Diamond Electronics, Inc.	2
Industrial Video Corporation	2
Data Eclipse Computers	1
DataServ, LLC	1
Neteam AVI	1
The Whitlock Group	1
World Radio Telecommunications	1

## Digital Recording

Courts are increasing their use of digital recording, which stores audio and/or video on an electronic file on a computer. Digital technology is faster than audio tape recording, which stores dialogue on tapes and requires courts to make copies of tapes for distribution, often a lengthy process. With digital recording technology, hearings can be copied to a CD in a matter of several minutes. 306 courts now use some form of digital recording. The following table lists the digital recording vendors used by courts in Ohio in 2010.

Vendor	Number of Courts
Dolbey and Company	97
Business Information Systems (BIS)	89
Jefferson Audio-Video Systems (JAVS)	34
Other	19
Sound Communications (Voice IQ, Inc.)	16
Roach-Reid Office Systems	10
FTR	9
Norlson Inc Dictation Systems	9
Courtsmart Digital Systems, Inc.	8
Unknown Vendor	6
VIQ Solutions, Inc.	5
Developed In-House	1
Precise Digital	1
Torrence, Inc.	1
Wavtext, LLC (Runfola Reporters)	1

## Multi-Media Presentation Equipment

Multi-Media courtrooms use such technologies as wireless network connections, digital video presentations, and digital audio. There are now 62 courts who report using this technology. It is expected that as the demand from practitioners for this type of technology increases, the number of multi-media equipped courtrooms will continue to grow. The following table lists the multi-media presentation equipment vendors used by courts in Ohio in 2010.

Vendor	Number of Courts
Jefferson Audio-Video Systems (JAVS)	14
Other	13
Developed In-House	6
Unknown Vendor	6
Dolbey and Company	5
Ashton Sound and Communications, Inc.	4
Sound Communications (Voice IQ, Inc.)	4
Business Information Systems (BIS)	3
Ace Communications	2
Industrial Video Corporation	1
NOR-COM	1
Smithall Electronics	1
The Whitlock Group	1
VIQ Solutions, Inc.	1

## **Electronic Filing**

The adoption in 2000 of the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (Ohio Revised Code, Section 1306) and revisions to the relevant rules of court in 2001 empowered courts to accept electronic filings. The following sixteen Courts now report offering electronic filing, which is transmission of case filings via the internet, rather than by mail or by fax.

Defiance County Court of Common Pleas, Probate and Juvenile Divisions
Delaware County Court of Common Pleas, General and Domestic Relations Divisions
Delaware County Court of Common Pleas, Probate and Juvenile Divisions
Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations and Juvenile Divisions
Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, General Division
Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, Probate Division
Garfield Heights Municipal Court
Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas, General Division
Hamilton County Municipal Court
Lake County Court of Common Pleas, General Division
Licking County Municipal Court
Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas, General Division
Morgan County Court of Common Pleas, General, Domestic Relations, Probate, and Juvenile Division
Rocky River Municipal Court
Trumbull County Court of Common Pleas, Probate Division
Willoughby Municipal Court

## **Electronic Return Receipt**

Electronic Return Receipt allows courts to minimize paperwork by receiving certified mail acknowledgment electronically instead of receiving the traditional green card. 76 courts (20%) indicate that they use electronic return receipt, while the remaining 295 (80%) do not. Of those courts reporting use of electronic return receipt, 37 (49%) use Pitney Bowes, 22 (29%) use WALZ Postal Solutions, Inc., and 17 (22%) use other companies.

## **Digital Signatures**

Digital signatures are used as part of an electronic workflow process, not digitized images of signatures or signatures captured from an electronic signature pad. An increasing number of courts are using digital signatures to streamline their internal and public processes. 47 courts report using digital signatures in some form, including 17 accepting documents originating outside the court with digital signatures, and 30 using digital signatures only for processes and documents originating within the court.

## Electronic Traffic Tickets

Some courts are equipped to receive electronic transmission of traffic citation information. Though not applicable to all courts, 27 courts indicated they make use of this technology, an increase from the 16 courts in 2008. The following courts reported receiving electronic traffic tickets in 2010.

Alliance Municipal Court
Avon Lake Municipal Court
Bedford Municipal Court
Circleville Municipal Court
Cleveland Municipal Court
Cleveland Municipal Court, Housing Division
East Cleveland Municipal Court
Franklin County Municipal Court
Franklin County Municipal Court, Environmental Division
Garfield Heights Municipal Court
Greene County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division
Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas, General Division
Hamilton County Municipal Court
Kettering Municipal Court
Licking County Municipal Court
Lorain Municipal Court
Lyndhurst Municipal Court
Massillon Municipal Court
Painesville Municipal Court
Rocky River Municipal Court
Sandusky County County Court #1
Sandusky County County Court #2
Sandusky County Court of Common Pleas, General and Domestic Relations Divisions
Shaker Heights Municipal Court
Stow Municipal Court
Sylvania Municipal Court
Xenia Municipal Court

## Websites

As of 2010, 288 courts report having websites providing general information about the court. Many of those also provide additional services via their website. 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.

In addition to the items specifically asked about in the survey, many courts noted that their websites include local rules, forms, procedures, fines and fees schedule, and general contact information. The services reported by each court are listed below – please note that each court could provide multiple answers.

Website Feature	Number of Courts Reporting
Public Access to Case Records	187
Other Services	177
Record of all concluded events (docket)	149
Court calendars	122
Paying fines or fees on the internet	61
Public Access to Case Documents	60

See [http://www.supremecourtofohio.gov/Web\\_Sites/courts/](http://www.supremecourtofohio.gov/Web_Sites/courts/) for a comprehensive list of all links to all courts which have provided the Supreme Court their web address.

## Technical Support

Courts were asked to report on their primary methods of information technology support. This might be a county or city employee, a court employee, a paid consultant, or even a volunteer. While it may be ideal for a court to have a dedicated system administrator, many courts do not yet have technology personnel on staff and have found other methods of support.

Response	Number of Courts Reporting
County or City employed Systems Administrator or IT Manager	134
Court employed Systems Administrator or IT Manager	110
Paid Consultant	82
No Technology Support	19
Other Court Employee (Non-IT)	15
CMS Vendor	7
Volunteer Consultant	4