AMBER ALERT
XML Draft Standard

Office of Justice Programs
Overview

- Impressive and creative range of current technology and implementations
  - Statewide, Regional, and Local
  - Multiple Vendors

- Need to balance support for ongoing creativity with consistency in data and electronic communication
  - Implement a standard that promotes interoperability
  - Establish a protocol for validation and use of standard
Vision and Value

- Interoperable and Simple to Use
  - Establish a standard that allows existing and future systems to communicate AMBER Alerts
  - Platform and Vendor independent
  - Low barrier to entry

- Available to everyone
  - Any local/state/region LEA can produce AMBER Alerts
  - Any solution, public and government, can consume them

- Best Practices
  - Data and Processes will be consistent
What is XML?

- XML, eXtensible Markup Language, is a markup language based upon Standard Generalized Market Language (SGML) and a product of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)
  - Makes use of tags and attributes just like HTML
  - HTML defines what the tags and attributes mean, XML uses tags only to delimit pieces of data and leaves the interpretation of data to the application
- XML is not a programming language
  - XML doesn’t define actions, perform calculations, or make decisions
  - XML DOES describe information (text or data) and defines how it should be processed
XML is a Powerful Tool

- Value Proposition
  - Platform and vendor independent. It doesn’t have to be unique for each different type of program which will be using it (e.g. there’s not XML for Java, XML for C++, etc.)
  - Allows web-based applications to share information regardless of the language in which the applications are programmed
  - Forms a basis for individuals to agree upon and manage shared data within and across communities of interest
- It’s the foundation for Web Services
XML (eXtensible Markup Language) as an Amber Alert Standard

XML is the ‘language of the Internet’
- Deals with content, not just format
- XML is ‘vendor neutral’
- Integrates Horizontally & Vertically

XML is ‘configurable’ to a wide variety of devices
- Web Sites
- Cell Phones
- PDAs
- COTS Databases

XML can enforce procedural policies
- Alerts must be for children under age 18
- Several DOJ XML initiatives already underway
Why DOJ/OJP

- OJP’s Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative
- GJXDM 3.0 specification well established, thorough, and used as basis for AMBER Alert XML
  - XML is interoperable
  - XML is easier to deal with than other document types
  - XML allows for flexibility and compatibility over time
Activities

- Developed AMBER Alert XML Schema specification v.1 based on the GJXDM and made available in the Justice Standards Clearinghouse
- Conducting vendor participant workshop for refining and enhancing the AMBER Alert XML Schema
Questions or Comments

- email: amberalert@usdoj.gov