



AMBER ALERT XML Draft Standard

Office of Justice Programs

Overview

- Impressive and creative range of current technology and implementations
 - Satellite, Wireless, Traffic signs, Web, CD-ROM, E-Mail, Television and Radio
 - 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

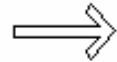
- Platform and vendor independent. It doesn't have to be unique for each different type of program which will be using it (e.g. there's not XML for Java, XML for C++, etc.)
- Allows web-based applications to share information regardless of the language in which the applications are programmed
- Forms 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



NAME: John P Jones Jr.
DOB: 10/12/1999
MISSING SINCE: 5/5/2003
LOCATION: Bethesda, MD



```
<personName type="Primary">  
  <firstName>John</firstName>  
  <middleName>P</middleName>  
  <lastName>Jones</lastName>  
  <nameSuffix>Jr</nameSuffix>  
</personName>
```

- XML is the 'language of the Internet'

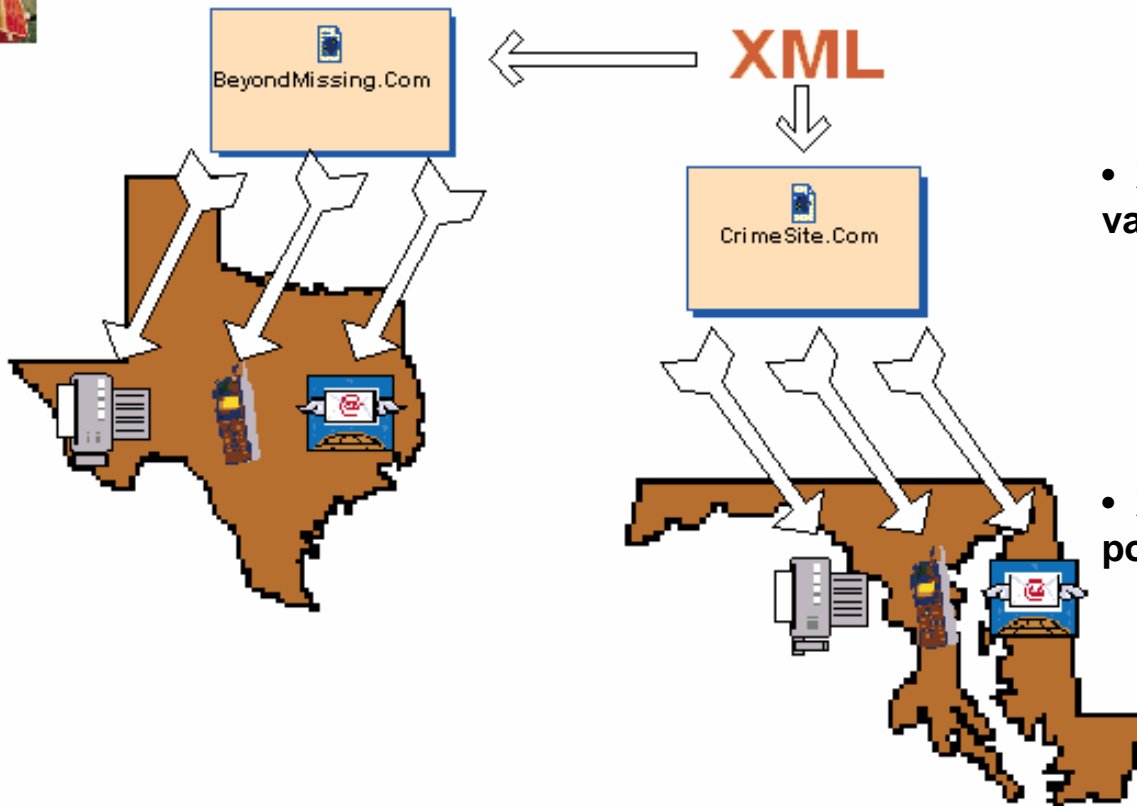
- Deals with content, not just format
- XML is 'vendor neutral'
- Integrates Horizontally & Vertically

- 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