

## E-services in the Finnish Courts, CTC8

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Finland:

Population 5.4 milj.

Republic

EU, Euro

Information  
society



Finland:



## THE MESSAGE

- Re-engineering
- The legal process as a whole
- Co-operation with the public and private sector customers

## Infrastructure

- Own Justice-network 2 –200 Mb/s connecting
  - courts
  - prosecutors
  - bailiffs
  - legal aid
- Extranet connecting police to justice-network
- Extranet connecting Bar-network beginning next year
- Servers managed by ICT-organisation
- Help Desk

## Recourses

- ICT-budget 37 milj. Euros (about 40 milj US)
  - own ICT 5 milj. outsourced services 32 milj.
- 80 % management
- 20 % development
- 10-17 % of the total budget
- CIO, office of the CIO (5), ICT service center (70 +10)
- Basic services in the information society,
- Base registers

## E-services in the legal proceedings

### The players in the legal proceedings

- Police (criminal, ministry of interior)
- Prosecutors (criminal), parties in a case (civil)
- Courts
- Prison administration, Fine collection (criminal)
- Bailiffs (criminal, civil)

(The Ministry of Justice- resources and support, infrastructure)

## E-services in Finland

- The definition in the Law
  - Electronic lodging of the matter (applications)
  - Handling of a matter or a case
  - Service of notice of the decision
- Other E-services
  - Information services, participation in decision making
  - E-services between different public institutions

## Courts in Finland

- 63 district courts
  - 90.000 criminal cases
  - 150.000 civil cases
  - 80.000 applications (divorce, family etc)
  - 500.000 real estate cases
  - Total about 820.000 cases
- 6 courts of appeal
- Supreme Court

## Courts in Finland

- From 820.000 cases:
- Cases in “main oral hearing” = (courtroom) 95.000, of which
  - 93 % criminal cases
  - 7 % civil cases
- 52 % (of 95.000) one judge
- 47 % one judge with lay judges (criminal and family case)
- 1 % full court with 3 judges (civil cases)
- 735.000 are decided in written preliminary hearing, usually not by a judge

## E-services in the courts

- Electronic applications (lodging the case by an electronic message) in civil cases possible since 1993 and in criminal cases since 1998
- E-message is used in about 65 % of civil cases (total 150.000)
- E-message can be: fax, E-mail, EDI, E-form

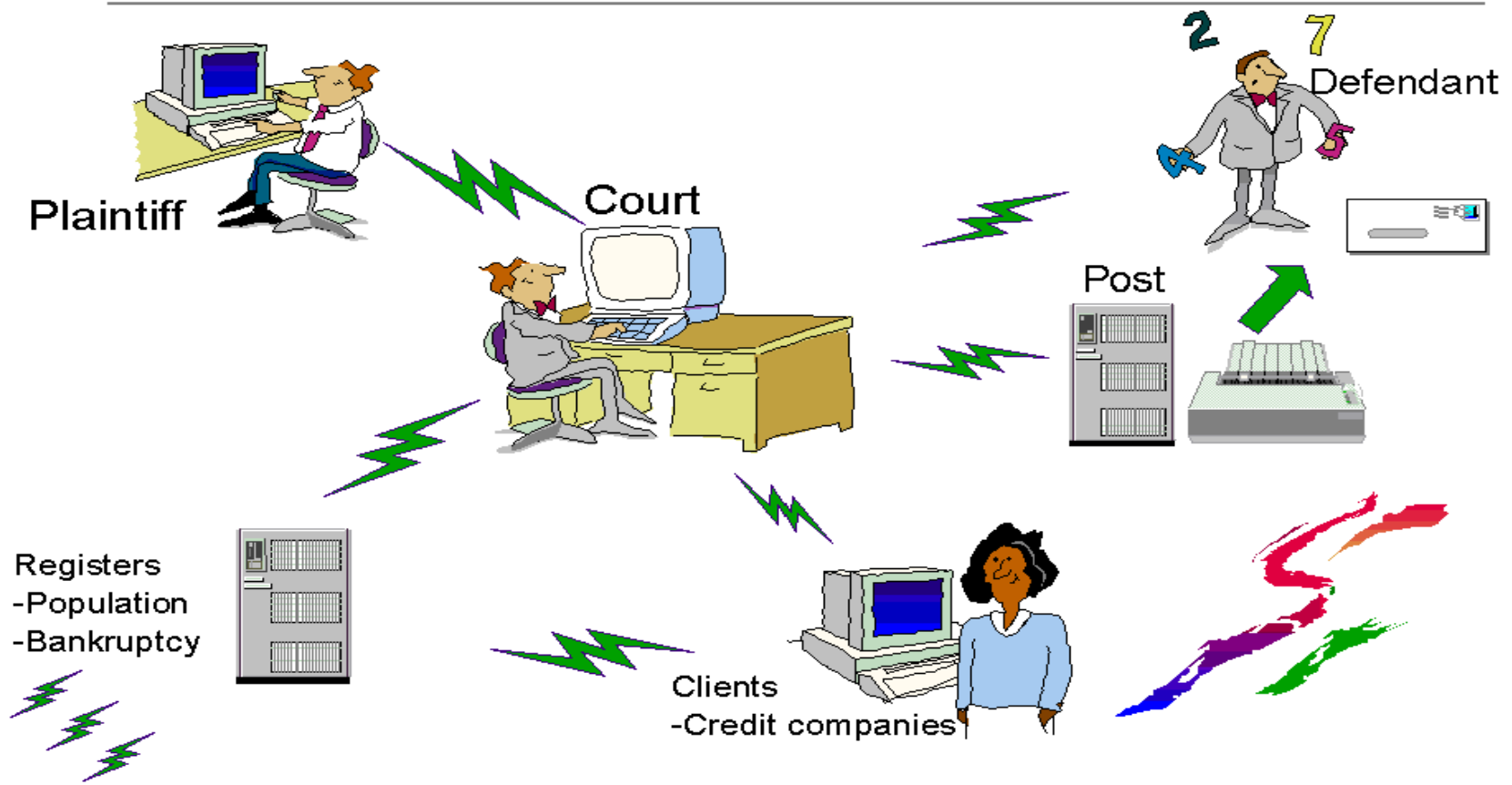
## E-filing

- We do not scan the documents in the court to electronic documents
- The documents the courts receive are (65 %) already electronic documents
- The documents are structured, so they can be stored in relational databases
- The information then can be used to produce summons, decisions and other court documents
- The database and the editors are integrated

## Managing documents v information

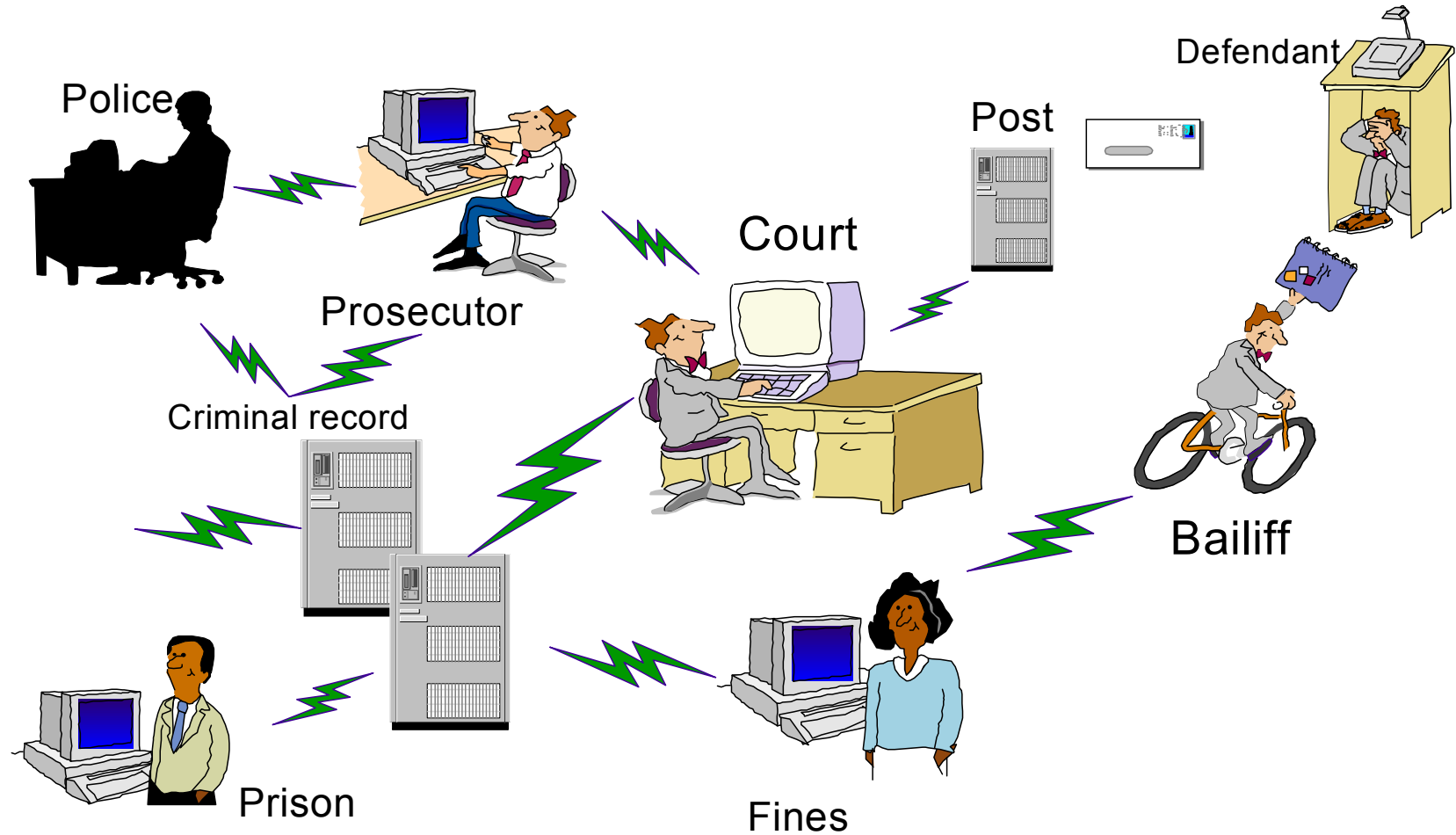
- Application
- names, addresses
- claim
- the sum claimed
- interest
- expences
- Summons or decision
- standard texts added with
- names, addresses
- claim, decision
- the sum claimed, decided
- the interest claimed, decided
- expences claimed, decided

## E-services in civil cases





# E-services in criminal cases



## The rules and regulations

- The act on E-service in the courts 1993
- The act on E-service in the administration 1999
- The act on E-service 2003 (general law in force since 1.2.2002)

## Electronic lodging

- If a matter is to be lodged in writing, it can be lodged as an E-message
- E-message can be fax, e-mail or a file sent to the court system
- If a signature is required by the law, electronic signature is valid
  - Signature is required very seldom in the administration and not required in the courts

## Identification of the customer

- Lodging the matter:
  - If the signature (in an application) is required by the law, electronic signature must be used
  - In the courts the signature is not required
  - if there is no doubt of the identification of sender, the court/administration does not have to ask for the signature

## Identification of the customer

- Data security requirements
- Handling of the matter, case
  - PKI, other certifications
  - The customer is not permitted the access to operational databases or other services without certification
- Notification of the decision
  - Electronic signature on the decision

## E-signature

- PKI, HST (E-id, Population centre)
- Other certification, requirements in a law, EU-directives
  - bank certification (50 % of the population)

## Other services

- Web
  - [www.finlex.fi](http://www.finlex.fi)
    - the legislation,
  - [www.oikeus.fi](http://www.oikeus.fi)
    - portal for the services
    - advice, forms etc.
  - [www.om.fi](http://www.om.fi)
- e-mail (each court has an official e-mail)