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**19th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF LOUISIANA RAISES
COMMUNICATIONS BAR FOR COURTS USING 3COM XRN™
TECHNOLOGY**

**Affordable “Pay-As-You-Grow” Gigabit Ethernet Network Drives
Precedent-Setting Judicial Management System**

SANTA CLARA, Calif. – May 6, 2003 – To serve justice swiftly and equitably, courts must dispatch case-related information quickly, easily and accurately to judges, court administrators and litigants. In urban settings, such as Baton Rouge, where the 19th Judicial District Court of Louisiana processes 45,000 case filings and tries 100-plus cases per year, efficient distribution of this data is crucial to ensure that proper bail amounts are set, all warrants are checked and that the right defendant goes on trial.

Today, using a 3Com[®] Gigabit Ethernet network and innovative XRN™ (eXpandable Resilient Networking) technology, the court is utilizing a revolutionary judicial management system that instantly delivers case and operations data to its 20 judges and 485 administrators, as well as case information to all litigants via the Internet. The system is so effective, the Homeland Security Department and courts nationwide are adopting it as a model to develop their own management systems.

Using its new network-based judicial system, the 19th Judicial District Court of Louisiana is dramatically improving quality assurance. For example, staff can now ensure the correct “John Smith” is tried, convicted or released. They can quickly determine if offenders face charges in any other jurisdiction in the country, enabling judges to set bail amounts based on the most up-to-date, complete information possible. In addition, with faster access to the case files, the court issues subpoenas and search warrants in less time.

With redundant data entry and manual data sharing a thing of the past, departmental administrators use the 3Com network to open, cross-reference, update and seal case data such as court dates and jury selections. The staff and nearly 100,000 national court and authorized public users instantly retrieve open case files to further enhance judicial efficiencies. Moreover, litigants access their trial dates, times and locations online.

“We needed a versatile network to streamline all aspects of our operations -- from issuing subpoenas and trying offenders to updating case files and processing an ever-growing number of database records and transactions,” said Freddie Manint, CJIS director/F.B.I-T.A.C, 19th Judicial District Court of Louisiana. “The 3Com XRN solution is an innovative, affordable and ultra-reliable way to grow our Gigabit Ethernet network to accommodate the huge number of records we process.”

The court is combining two 3Com XRN Interconnect Kits and two copper modules to create two linked pairs of SuperStack® 3 Switch 4924 Gigabit Ethernet switches. The interconnected switches function as a two-switch, 10-gigabit LAN core and provide network redundancy without the cost and complexity of adding more core switches. Even if one port or an entire switch fails, XRN keeps the network running with less than 10 seconds of fail-over, ensuring the availability of the court’s new judicial management system.

Another 25 SuperStack 3 Switch 4924 switches distribute Gigabit Ethernet connections to nearly 1,000 local users. The 3Com solution also provides Layer 3 switching, letting the court simplify its network by dispensing with conventional dedicated routers. Moreover, the 3Com system is raising the court’s productivity by replacing manual data sharing processes with automated ones.

3Com’s “pay-as-you-grow” strategy ensures that as the court adds new users it can deploy additional XRN Interconnect Kits to increase the aggregated bandwidth of its existing switches and achieve a greater return on its investment.

IT staff enjoy increased productivity using the 3Com Network Supervisor management application to monitor and resolve network troubles via easy-to-read graphical displays. XRN technology lets the court manage each pair of XRN-linked switches as a single virtual switch, further simplifying management tasks and lowering ownership costs. The 3Com network also will save judges time and taxpayers money by facilitating jitter-free videoconferencing capabilities between judges and inmates.

Unified, Just Communications

Previously, the 19th Judicial District Court of Louisiana relied on older generation hubs and non-integrated databases to track and manage cases. This limited infrastructure forced Criminal, Civil and Administrative staff to manually enter the same case data into discrete systems and hand-deliver case files from one department to another. Error-prone and time-consuming, the process delayed judges' and attorneys' access to the data they require to manage their heavy caseloads. To rectify this situation, the court sought a new network to deliver an integrated, Web-based judicial management solution.

After consulting with its value-added reseller, Nsync Services, the Louisiana court chose 3Com for its cost-effective scalability and the VAR's expertise and support. The court was impressed with the ease of management of the switches via 3Com Network Supervisor. XRN's ability to aggregate the bandwidth of linked switches and ensure the constant availability of critical applications were also decisive factors.

"3Com's XRN technology and Gigabit Ethernet switches let us leverage our new judicial system to maximum efficiency to make better, more informed decisions that serve the best interests of our community," Manint concluded. "Using XRN technology, we will be able to capitalize on our 3Com investment for many years to come."

About 3Com Corporation

3Com is a tier-one provider of innovative, practical and high-value networking products for enterprises of all sizes and public sector organizations. 3Com is also a leader in providing Internet protocol (IP) service platforms and access infrastructure for network service providers. For further information, please visit www.3com.com, or the press site www.3com.com/pressbox.

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