



Pegasus Research Foundation

Pegasus Program Frequently Asked Questions

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Q. What is the Pegasus Program?

The Pegasus Program is a non-federal, nation-wide, secure information sharing system designed by and for local law enforcement. It is a web-based system providing Directory, Alert & Notification, Automated Data Exchange and Messaging services to local agencies. The Pegasus Program is administered by a public-private partnership with the Pegasus Research Foundation (PRF), the Pegasus Technology Consortium (PTC), local law enforcement and first responder agencies. The Pegasus Program serves the need for:

- Secure **data communications** between local law enforcement, first responders and others.
- Sharing **information** in local **databases** (jail and agency records) with other Pegasus participants.
- An **Alerts & Notification** System to receive and send real time notice of critical events.
- An extensive, up-to-date **Electronic Directory** of other agencies and organizations.

Q. How does the Pegasus Program differ from other information sharing initiatives?

A. The Pegasus Program is a nationwide program designed to provide secure access to local law enforcement databases not otherwise available elsewhere.

Q. Who administers the Pegasus Program?

A. The Pegasus Program is administered by the Pegasus Research Foundation, a non-profit entity, in partnership with the PTC.

Q. How will the Pegasus Program work with regional information sharing initiatives?

A. The Pegasus Program does not intend to duplicate the services provided by any other initiative. Where a local initiative or a particular software provider has already implemented information sharing between local agency databases, Pegasus will work with that group to provide their law enforcement information (as appropriate) to the rest of the nation, and to provide law enforcement information from the rest of the nation to their authorized users.

Q. What other applications does the Pegasus Program provide to local law enforcement agencies?

A. The Pegasus Program provides a nationwide electronic directory of government and first responder agencies including contacts and available “mutual aid” type services. The Program also provides secure messaging between individual enrolled users, as well as messaging and alerts to groups of users.

Q. Will the Pegasus Program be available to rural law enforcement agencies?

A. The focus of the Pegasus Project is to bring information exchange capability to rural areas.

Q. Will the Pegasus Program be available to agencies outside of law enforcement?

A. The Pegasus Program is intended to provide information exchange for Sheriffs, local law enforcement agencies, and other first responder groups (Fire, EMS, Health). Although there are some commonalities, the information requirements and information security for these groups will require special practices and policies. The first objective of the Pegasus Program is to provide these information-sharing services to local law enforcement agencies.

SYSTEM INFORMATION:

Q. Are there any critical components that are not provided by Pegasus?

A. Yes. Each agency must provide access to a Windows based PC (not dedicated), and Internet access.

Q. Will Pegasus build a data warehouse of the local information?

A. No. Pegasus will maintain a database of “Pointer” data that will direct any inquiry to the appropriate agency database. The agency will remain in control of the data and will determine what information may be shared with other Pegasus system users.

Q. Who decides which information will be shared?

A. Each agency head, or designated representative, will decide which information is shared and with whom it is shared.

Q. Does the Pegasus Program change the data in the local agency systems?

A. The Pegasus Program does NOT add, delete, or alter any information stored in the local agency RMS or JMS. The Pegasus Program does reformat data to Justice XML for communication to other authorized Pegasus users.

Q. Does the Pegasus Program access any public databases?

A. The only data the Pegasus Program shares is from the Records Management and Jail Management systems in local agencies.

Q. If we do not contribute data to the Pegasus Program, can we still access the data provided by other agencies?

A. Yes. However, implementation and enrollment priority will go to those agencies which provide data to the Program.

USER ACCESS:

Q. Who is authorized to access the Pegasus Program?

A. Only law enforcement personnel such as the Sheriff, Chief of Police and selected agency personnel may access the Pegasus Program.

Q. How are the authorized personnel selected?

A. Each agency head will select the personnel from his/her agency who will use the Pegasus Program.

Q. How is access to the Pegasus Program secured?

A. Each user is authenticated by a user id, password, and fingerprint.

Q. Will Pegasus provide a Help Desk?

A. Yes. Help will be available from 8-5 central time by calling (800) 392-4312.

Q. Will Pegasus provide training on the system?

A. Yes. Pegasus representatives will conduct user training at the time of installation of the Pegasus hardware and enrollment of Pegasus users.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Q. How do I logon to the Pegasus Program?

A. The Pegasus applications and data retrieval are reached by logon to the Pegasus secure Internet site.

Q. Can I access the Pegasus Program from any PC connected to the Internet?

A. Yes. However, access to Pegasus requires fingerprint authentication, so any access point must have an approved fingerprint reader (hardware) and the corresponding software installed.

Q. What speed Internet connection is required for the Pegasus Program?

A. Dial-up speed of 56K is acceptable; however performance will be better with higher speed broadband connections.

Q. If my office does not have high speed or broadband Internet, will Pegasus provide additional network connections or Internet access?

A. No. The Pegasus Program is designed to make law enforcement information available to authorized users. Access to that system is the responsibility of each agency.

DATA INTERFACE:

Q. Will the Pegasus Program work with my existing Records Management and Jail Management System?

A. Yes. Pegasus does not require or encourage any agency to replace their existing systems.

Q. How will Pegasus access the RMS and JMS data?

A. The best method is for the providers of the software programs you now have install a standard Justice XML interface to their system.

Q. If my software provider cannot include this standard interface can we still connect to the Pegasus Program?

A. Yes. There are other methods we can use to make your data available to other authorized Pegasus users. Pegasus will work with your software providers to determine the most appropriate method.

Q. If there is a delay in developing the standard interface between the RMS and JMS provider and the Pegasus Program, can we still be enrolled and participate in the other functions?

A. Yes. However, implementation and enrollment priority will go to those agencies that provide data to the Program.

Q. Does Pegasus provide or recommend RMS or JMS software?

A. No. Pegasus can supply a list of providers who meet Pegasus standards and Justice XML interface standards, but we do not provide any recommendations.

Q. I still have questions. How do I contact you?

A. Call, write or e-mail us at:

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