



Use of IT within Austrian Justice



Information

as of May 2008



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1. Justice Enterprise

The Austrian Administration of Justice as a modern and innovative organisation offers an indispensable service to society. With an “annual turnover” of € 1.053 m and about 11.700 employees it can be regarded a major company.

The revenue figures demonstrate that this enterprise is also very efficient: about 72 percent of the expenditure is covered by revenue. It has to be taken into account that the Administration of Justice also has to fulfil functions (e.g. in the field of prison administration), where no income can be generated.

Figures for the year 2008:

Budget estimate:

- expenditure € 1.053 m
- revenue € 758 m
- IT budget € 35 m

Number of employees in the Administration of Justice Department: 11.700

2. Automation of Court Procedures

The Automation of Court Procedures (ACP) has been in operation since 1986. It started with summary judgments and since then has grown to support all important judicial business areas, which are not operated in special IT-systems, using about 50 types of judicial procedures. With the project REDESIGN it has undergone a process of complete renewal, utilizing the latest Internet technology. This system has been extended with additional functions facilitating an even faster and simpler management of procedures in the courts.

Functions:

- administration of court cases
- electronic dispatch of letters
- statistics
- court fees
- index of names (for the whole of Austria)
- Integrated Text Processing (Text blocks)
- National Insurance inquiries (especially identification of unknown third party debtor/employer in case of garnishee/attachment of earnings proceedings)
- Link to electronic legal communications (ELC)
- Interface to Edict File
- external inquiries (in the law enforcement and since January 1st 2004 electronic case inquiries)
- online help

Facts:

- 6.000 internal users (of these 1.941 judges and public prosecutors)
- 3,4 m court cases
- about 11,5 m deliveries

3. Electronic Legal Communication (ELC)

Electronic legal communication with the courts as an instrument of communication with the parties of proceedings, on the same level as paper, was introduced in 1990. The Austrian administration of justice is therefore the "IT-World Champion" as no other country is known to have introduced electronic communication earlier.

Electronic communication in legal relations allows electronic transmission of applications or submissions and the automatic transfer of procedural data to the Automation of Court Procedures. The resulting personnel savings in the administration of justice, which could be achieved in the final development, are estimated at 133 manpower units. Since 1999 the "oncoming lane" on the "data highway of the administration of justice" has been opened: electronic service of court documents is also possible now by the so-called "return traffic stream". For the year 2007 savings on postage (with increasing tendency) of about € 3,2 m were achieved.

In the year 2007 the electronic legal communication was transferred to a webbased technology, where open standards such as XML, Web services and SOAP are used. The electronic legal communication, which is secured by SSL and certificates, is accessible via clearing houses and opens amongst other things the possibility of appending attachments to submissions transmitted electronically.

As one of the outstanding e-Government-Applications in Europe, electronic legal communication has been awarded the EU "e-Government-Label" in 2001.

Facts for 2007:

7,0 m transmissions, amongst them:

- 2,3 m communications,
- i.e. 85% of summary proceedings and
- 65% of applications for enforcement
- 4,7 m transmissions via the "return traffic stream"

4. Land Register

At the beginning of the eighties the Federal Ministry for Economy and Employment (at that time: for Construction) and the Federal Ministry of Justice created in close co-operation a real property database at the Federal Computing Center, enabling the courts to maintain an automation supported Land Register and enabling the Land Surveying Offices to maintain an automation supported Cadastre (surveying and mapping). Since 1986 so-called "External Inquiries" have been possible: at that time already the general public was able to inspect the Land Register at the office or from home.

Since 1999.07.01 it has been possible to make external inquiries via the Internet. For these inquiries charging agencies have been set up.

(For further details see <http://www.justiz.gv.at/grundbuch/index.php?nav=93>).

In view of the technical developments in this application and in order to best fulfill the increasing demand of business and public administration as well as the administration of justice itself, a fundamental technological modernization of the real property database with all its applications has been launched.

Since 2006 all documents necessary for land register entries are stored in the newly established electronic document archive of justice. Thus not only the land register entries themselves, but also the appropriate documents can be inspected online via charging agencies.

Figures for the year 2007:

- 3,1 m existing entries in the Land Register
- 10,4 m properties
- 684.000 entries
- 158.000 extracts of the Land Register at court
- 12 m inquiries

5. Commercial Register

After the success of the Land Register the Commercial Register was similarly changed over to automation support. In addition, the Commercial Register law has been modified to reflect modern conditions: The Commercial Register Act has been in force since 1991.01.01; the new Commercial Register includes not only businesses but also co-operative societies and private foundations. The Commercial Register can also be queried world-wide over the Internet. (For further details see http://www.justiz.gv.at/db_firmenbuch/index.html).

In 2001 the electronic transmission of annual financial statements was introduced. Publication of the Commercial Registry Courts is carried out fully automatically in the edict database.

From 2003 to 2006 software has been upgraded to a modern web-sphere software and Java-technology. Here the design of the user interface is similar to that of the Automation of Court Procedures. This modernization is a precondition for the implementation of the ELC in the Commercial Register.

Since 2005 all documents submitted to the Commercial Register have been archived electronically.

Figures for the year 2007:

- 186.443 existing registered legal entities
- 226.317 entries
- 10.715 extracts from the Commercial Register at court
- 1,7 m external inquiries via the charging agencies
- 6,1 m query products (via courts and charging agencies) including excerpts, queries, documents, etc.

6. Expert, Interpreter and Mediator List and Official Receivers in Bankruptcy Database

The databases contain the individuals referred to above for each function with their special qualifications. They are primarily available to the courts for selection in court proceedings, but also to the public for inquiries on the Internet.

As from the beginning of 2004, the Expert and Interpreter Lists have been available on the Administration of Justice Intranet and on the Internet on the website <http://www.sdgliste.justiz.gv.at>. Experts, interpreters and receivers in bankruptcy are enabled to maintain certain data on the Lists (address, telephone number, e-mail, etc.) by using an appropriate certificate and to provide information on their company.

Since 2005 the new expert and interpreter identity card has been available which meets the standard of the citizen's card. Real estate experts also need their expert identity card to submit their expert's report (including photos) to the court electronically. In addition receivers in bankruptcy are able to announce sales and leases in insolvency proceedings with the help of their identity card. Mediators in civil cases can also be found on the Internet website <http://www.mediatorenliste.justiz.gv.at>.

Figures for January 2008:

- 349.470 inquiries of the SDG List

7. Edict File (Insolvency File, Real Property Auctions, Commercial Register Publications...)

The Edict File (<http://www.edikte.justiz.gv.at>), initially restricted to publications in the field of insolvency cases, was continuously extended to other business sectors.

As from 2000.01.01 insolvencies (bankruptcies, compositions with creditors, settlement of debts) have been published exclusively on the Internet with legally binding effect. The costs of publications could be reduced by 95%. Every Internet user has access free of charge to the latest data on the Internet (<http://www.edikte.justiz.gv.at>). Data is copied automatically from the Insolvency Register of the ACP into the Insolvency File at the "push of a button". Petitions in bankruptcy have legal effect the following day.

Since 2002 real property auction edicts and publication of entries in the Commercial Register as well as the service of edicts can be retrieved in the Commercial Register from the Edict File.

Beginning of 2003 the Edict File was extended to publication of auctions in execution proceedings against personal property and to search for owners in criminal proceedings. Since 2005.01.01 all announcements provided for in court proceedings have been published exclusively in the Edict File. Public announcements in probate proceedings, declaration of nullity and official declaration of death as well as appointment of guardians are exemplary.

In Austria the Edict File won the Ökomanager Award 2000 of the Austrian Business Association (WKO) and the Justitia 2000 award – and, on the European level – the "e-Government Label for Good Practice 2005" as well as the "Crystal Scales of Justice 2006" award.

Facts for January 2008:

- 1.007.909 Inquiries of the Insolvency File
- 1.166.742 Inquiries of court auctions

8. Electronic Document Archive

When the Land Register and the Commercial Register were changed over to IT, for technical reasons, the Document Collections of these court divisions were not changed over to electronic storage. Now the technology for archiving documents has been improved considerably. Impulses and requirements from the legal practice demonstrated the necessity to modernize the court system with the help of IT.

A central Document Archive for the courts has been established, which can be used for all application and procedure types. It will be possible to archive documents (e.g. contracts with electronic signature) and to create a link to them from court in every application and category of procedure. This way a document once being archived can be used in different court proceedings.

Since 2005 the Collections of Documents of all Commercial Registry Courts and since 2006 those of the Land Register are maintained only electronically, thus implementing a further step towards an optimized and service oriented process according to plan. The data contents saved in the electronic document archives are regarded as an original of the document ("original fiction") up to the proof of the opposite. The Electronic Document Archive won the first prize in the "Amtsmanager Wettbewerb" of the Austrian Business Association (WKO) in 2006 and has been awarded the EU "e-Government-Label" in 2007.

Thus a further step towards optimized and service oriented procedures was taken.

Figures for 2007:

- 531.976 document inquiries in total
- 378.645 document inquiries from the Collection of Documents of the Commercial Register
- 153.331 inquiries from the Collection of Documents of the Land Register

9. Electronic Signatures

Electronic legal communication with the courts has worked extremely well since its introduction in the year 1989. However, the electronic transmission of original documents and attachments to submissions to the courts in electronic legal communication has not been possible so far. In order to promote electronic legal communication the “Berufsrechts-Änderungsgesetz 2006” (BRÄG 2006) implemented the Electronic Document Archive of Justice and entitled public corporations to run such archives. Notaries, civil technicians and lawyers were enabled to create electronic (public) documents. For this purpose a specific electronic signature for these groups was introduced. Thus they are enabled to sign documents electronically in the context of their professional activity. In addition, notaries and civil technicians also have a special electronic legalization signature (“Beurkundungs-signatur”), which gives them the possibility to sign electronically when acting sovereignly.

Likewise the BRÄG 2006 introduced the electronic signature of justice, meant to sign all judicial documents transmitted by electronic legal communication in the future. Since January 1st 2007 the electronic signature of justice has been applied in practice. Since then the electronic signature of justice confirms the authenticity of commercial register excerpts and documents stored in the electronic archives of land and commercial register. Starting from January 1st 2010 the electronic signature of justice will find use for judicial legalizations.

Apart from this electronic signatures have already been in use for expert and interpreter identity cards since 2005.

10. IT in Prison Administration

The objective of the "integrated administration of the prison regime (IAPR)" is a comprehensive automation support in the administration of prison inmates. After lengthy preparations version 1 was put into live operation at the end of 1999: It includes an inmate register, administration of cells, planning and administration of transfers and, of particular importance for the relief of prison officers, an automatic calculation of the end of prison terms and all other periods depending on it. In the meantime further modules followed: dates, absences, deposits, accounting of prisoners' funds and remuneration, IAPR for social services, IAPR for judges and public prosecutors, classification, detention planning tool.

At present work is in progress in the fields of deleting data due to the extinction of the criminal record, medication module, reporting of key figures and changing the location of detention.

Work is in progress on the exchange of data with the courts of decision (transfer of instructions relating to imprisonment, sentence reports), sentencing courts (preparation and decision regarding conditional release), police stations (arrest, committal to prison). In addition, since the end of September 2002, the possibility in certain cases exists, to use video conferencing for the first hearing of prisoners, which helps to reduce unscheduled transferrals (especially on weekends) to a considerable extent.

Facts for the year 2007:

- 13.632 custodial sentences commenced (remand in custody, imprisonment, detention in administrative penalty)
- on average 8.943 inmates per day

11. Advance Maintenance Payments

In 1976 at the instigation of the Minister of Justice, Christian Broda, the Advance Maintenance Payment Act was passed. The benefit for the person having custody of the child was and is, that regarding maintenance payment the State performs in advance and this advance is claimed back from the debtor.

For this purpose, in autumn 1976 an IT process was developed as the first IT application in the administration of justice. With this HOST solution data could be collected and monthly entitlements paid out. In 4 Higher Regional Courts AMP-Departments were set up which were in most cases assigned to the Accounting Department.

The application was constantly enhanced and adapted to the needs of users: thus the booking and offsetting of arriving repayments of debtors, the making of check lists, statistics and account leaflets were made available.

From the year 1999 on the central Host-Application was replaced by web technology, which allowed in particular the integration of maintenance debtor data and currency conversion.

Since this renewal in 2002 the procedure has evolved continuously. Special attention is put on the integration of manual working processes and the implementation of electronic interfaces to other procedures.

Figures (as at April 2008):

- In 4 Higher Regional Courts there are approx. 54 users in total.
- Total home records: 190.111
- Current home records: 43.379
- Monthly payouts: € 8,6 m
- Monthly repayments: € 3,9 m

12. Collection Department

This IT solution supports the Collection Department (CDpt) in the national collection of court fees, costs, fines of all kinds, advance maintenance payments and granting of facilities for payment pursuant to § 9 GEG. The main purpose of the CDpt is a high collection quota, preferably taking into consideration the interests of the debtor. The volume of collections is currently a monthly average of € 1,17 m.

Background of the development:

In 2003 an IT project was started in the CDpt with the aim of reorganizing the processing of payment orders and collection mandates. The reason for this was that the then existing application had reached its upper limit. Furthermore, the used but obsolete software was resulting in an insufficient utilization of electronic interfaces to related processes.

The newly developed application supports additional functionalities like:

- Historisation of personal data
- Transmission of all executable payment orders in an electronically structured form from the Automation of Court Procedures and the Advance Maintenance Payments to the CDpt
- Automatic inquiries relating to third party debtors at the Association of Social Insurance Agencies
- Creation of reports and statistics

The application is continually developed with the objectives integration of manual operating processes and electronic interfaces to other processes.

Figures and statistics:

Approximately 50 users work in the CDpt acting centrally for the Federal State.

	2007
Total number of Execution Files (01.04.2008)	164.499
Settled Dept-collections	86.918
Submissions for retrieval Advance Maintenance Payments	5.230
Settled Advance Maintenance Payments	1.922
Decisions	90.773
Claim Bookings Advance Maintenance Payments	13.077
Receivables Advance Maintenance Payments	31.186
Claim Bookings Dept-collections	107.476
Receivables Dept-collections	48.407

13. Legal Information System (LIS)

The Legal Information System of the Federal Government operated by the Office of the Federal Chancellor has become the essential tool in today's court business for fast searches of court decisions, predominantly within the framework of the documentation of court practice and also for locating sources of law and literature. This instrument is available to administration of justice employees at all workstations.

The new Internet technology based version of the LIS ensures an even more efficient search for the required information and thus results in a speedier decision process. Important parts of the LIS, such as legislation and decisions of the Administrative Court and the Constitutional Court and the ordinary courts are already available to the public on the Internet (<http://www.ris.bka.gv.at>) free of charge.

14. Voice recognition

Voice recognition systems have been tested by the Austrian Justice since 1997. At that time a group of 10 voluntary judges and public prosecutors was equipped with voice recognition systems consisting of a notebook with headset and the program “Voice Type Simply Gold” by IBM. Both hardware and software have progressed significantly since then. Nowadays the voice recognition program can be supported by the standard equipment of all workstations, so no additional hardware is necessary.

The program Dragon Naturally Speaking achieved the best results among all tested programs. The version 9 of this program is currently used by 180 judges and public prosecutors and some registrars on their workplaces. This year there will be more than 200 users. The users were also provided with their own law vocabulary built from the LIS documents as of 2001.01.26, the Supreme Court (OGH) decisions of the year 2004 and approximately 16,000 minutes and decisions of the Regional Court Eisenstadt.

15. Internet Website – www.justiz.gv.at

The Homepage of the Administration of Justice at this Website address contains basic information in German, English and French about the essential areas in the administration of justice, such as courts, public prosecution services, prison regime, probation services and relevant legal topics relating to the EU. The website has approximately 113.000 visitors per month. A database supplied by the Automation of Court Procedures and updated on a daily basis contains addresses, phone numbers, clear travel timetables and further detailed information of all Austrian courts. On entering a name of a place the user receives the locally competent court with all higher instances from the database. An even more convenient international version of the Austrian Court Database is available on <http://www.courts.justiz.gv.at>.

Current forms, which partly can be filled out on screen, are available for download. More detailed information from the administration of justice is available for download under the heading "Broschüren". The new interactive service "Bürgerinfo" offers a multimedia introduction to important legal areas (legal aid, Land Register, divorce etc) with an integrated law encyclopaedia for all important legal concepts. For individuals seeking legal advice in a particular matter, a link list to the institutions providing legal advice free of charge is available.

Furthermore, information about current legislation and other projects of the Ministry of Justice Department is stored in a project data base and presented on the Web. The Website fulfils an important function in the legislative process as well. All current ministerial draft bills can be retrieved on the Administration of Justice website together with explanatory notes and clear brief information about the draft bill.

In 2003 the website was adapted for blind people in accordance with the regulation of Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI). The access for disabled is constantly improved.

16. Intranet Administration of Justice Homepage

The intranet appearance of justice is an internal information portal for all employees of the Austrian justice. The intranet is based on the same concepts and technologies as the internet; however, the categories are preset and the content available only to employees. The intranet is thereby a hub for all internal and selected external web applications and provides the staff with information.

Internal web applications like integrated administration of the prison regime, webmail, collections of forms and decrees, international legal aid and maintenance of the edict file can be accessed fast and simply. External applications like in particular legal information system, land register, commercial register and central registration office are also accessible via this information portal.

The information is collected and administered partially in its own content management system, but originates from already existing data bases or from data bases, which have been established specifically for that. The overall administration uses a content management system, which prepares the data for the presentation on the web. At present the website is subdivided into nine central subject areas: news, applications, specific information, forms, training and knowledge, personnel, data and facts, IT and links. This structure facilitates the editorial work and allows users fast and concise access.

In the column news on the homepage recent developments are presented in the form of headlines. The subdivisions of the columns facilitate a better overview. The intranet is constantly developed and flexibly adapted to the needs of the users. The intranet homepage - originally uniform for the entire Austrian justice - was extended content wise and renewed in design. A kind of "localization" was introduced. The information in the content management system is classified according to individual organization areas and then made available to them. These organization areas have their own cover pages (= "homepages"). There the employees find additional information for their area. Thus both individual needs of single organization areas are covered and information is efficiently distributed nationwide. The "localization" strengthens the identification with contents and supports a more focused use of the offer. This is expressed by in the meantime tripled access figures (at present on average 2 million accesses per month).

At this time the Supreme Court (OGH), the 4 Higher Regional Courts districts, the Prison Administration, the senior public prosecution department Vienna and the public prosecution department Vienna have their own intranet sites. Recently a technical adjustment to the new, larger screens was carried out. For instance the assignments of business for all Austrian courts were implemented. Moreover it is planned to extend the information offer to personnel news, the assignment of business for the Ministry of Justice, and advanced education. Existing areas such as collections of forms and decrees, tendering for permanent posts and some local offers are constantly revised, extended or supplemented.

Facts for 2007:

- On average 90.000 accesses per working day
- Approximately 2 million accesses per month
- The accesses are made from 10.500 justice-pcs and 1.000 laptops.

17. European Business Register (EBR)

Since 1999.01.04 (start of the trial run 1998.01.04) the EBR provides access within the framework of a European Commercial Interest Association to the official Business Register data of (currently) France, Italy, Belgium, Spain, Ireland, Latvia, Estonia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Greece, the Netherlands, Jersey, Ukraine, Slovenia, Serbia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Austria through the appropriate national provider (in Austria, Telekom Austria AG). The German data have been supplied by "Kreditreform" since May 2001, but are at present not yet authentic. In 2007 the "Bundesanzeiger" (Federal Gazette) is going to replace the "Kreditreform" as the representative of Germany and will then also make authentic data available. Beyond that the Ukraine and the United Kingdom are partners in the EBR. In total 20 million companies can be found online via EBR.

18. European Land Information System (EULIS)

Within the framework of the e-Content Program of the European Union a consortium of eight institutions, which are responsible for the maintenance of the Land Registers, was awarded the contract for the development of a European service which, like the EBR for the Business Registers, is to provide secure access to the official Land Registers and cadastres. The registration authorities of Holland, England and Wales, Scotland, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Lithuania, Austria and (again) Ireland are involved as well as Iceland.

This project was completed with the development of a demonstrator (<http://www.eulis.org>). The consortium decided not to cease its work on EULIS but to continue with the project for the development of a functioning commercial system like the EBR. The selection of the ideal supranational legal form and the installation of the EULIS-Portal as well as the acquisition of new partners are currently being worked on.

19. User Administration

The Federal Ministry of Justice has started the introduction of a user administration system, comprehensive and uniform for all applications. The system features the administration of employees and their access authorizations both to internal applications of justice and to external applications in the context of the interconnection of portals. By this one understands the merging of administrative portals for the common use of existing infrastructure and applications. The goal is to unite the personal data currently stored in different listings and applications, user rights and rolls as well as passwords in a central meta-register.

With the introduction of the user administration the personal data of the justice department is replicated daily by the personnel management system (PMSAP) on the meta-register. Thus it is guaranteed that changes in the personnel level of the justice department are updated in the meta-register on a daily basis.

The user administration features:

- Central listing for the administration of users
- Synchronization of the personal data of already existing indexes with the total listing
- Role-based access authorization for internal and external applications in the context of the interconnection of portals
- Delegation of the administration of access authorizations to decentralized sections of the Austrian justice
- Self service to reset the password (e.g. forgotten user password)
- Enterprise/Legacy/Web access (to internal and external applications over a portal)
- Single Sign-On (SSO) for internal and external applications in the context of the interconnection of portals

20. Video Conferencing

Since 2005 the procedural preconditions exist for the use of video conference systems in the hearing of witnesses, parties and experts in the civil proceeding as well as in the hearing of witnesses and defendants in criminal preliminary proceedings. The video conference technology offers the judges the possibility to question people that were summoned to the court, which is nearest to their domicile and equipped with a video conference system.

As a result, substantial time and cost saving arise because of the substantially shorter journey and the judges get a direct impression of the person. By avoiding legal assistance from other courts the duration of proceedings is shortened as well.

For scheduling video conference hearings a database for room reservation was provided to judges via the intranet. The database features the possibility to book the required court rooms while automatically informing the person responsible for the video conference by e-mail. At present video conference systems are available at 63 courts and prisons. This year further courts will be equipped with video conference systems.

21. Electronic Paperwork Administration

Due to the permanent personnel shortenings initiated by the Federal Government 246 non-judicial permanent posts had to be cut in 2006. To work against the expected substantial effects in the area of typing departments, employees on parental leave having a PC with internet access, were given the possibility to do typing at home on a voluntary basis within the additional earnings limits. Therefore a Lotus Notes database was developed, which facilitates the safe dispatching of digital dictations and the automatic transmission of written texts, thus guaranteeing the optimal utilization of existing writing capacities.

With the higher regional courts clearing houses were installed, which are responsible for the supervision of the electronic paperwork administration as well as the collection and control of the typists active in the project.

Dictations, which cannot be written in a district court in a justifiable time, are placed into the database and automatically transferred into the pool of the special typing department at the superior regional court. From there the dictations are passed on automatically - if they can not be written within 48 hours - into the pool of the respective clearing house. The typists on parental leave can access the pool of their clearing house via internet and download dictations on their PC. Clearing houses can also assign electronic dictations to certain typists. As soon as the text file is transferred by the typist into the database, the person who placed his dictation into the database is informed by e-mail and can download the text file from the database. At the same time, the clearing house keeps the information necessary for the account of writing bonuses and can carry out the accounting supported by automation. In March 2008 83 typists on parental leave and 70 full-time employees were involved in the project (Vienna: 35 typists on parental leave and 29 full-time employees, Graz: 12 typists on parental leave and 8 full-time employees, Linz: 17 typists on parental leave and 8 full-time employees and Innsbruck: 19 typists on parental leave and 25 full-time employees); the average duration for transcription is 1,5 days.

22. Foreign Applications

In addition to IT-solutions developed by the Austrian justice applications of other software providers - in particular for department-spanning affairs - are also used, among them the following:

- “ELAK im Bund”, which is based on Fabasoft components and operated by the ARGE ELAK (a daughter of the BRZ GmbH), supports as a federally uniform solution for administration of files and for workflows the all-electronic document guidance in the Federal Ministry of Justice.
- The applications HV- and PM-SAP, also operated in the BRZ GmbH are used in the area of budgeting and personnel administration.
- Enquiry options from not freely accessible data bases of other departments are used within the justice system, among them the central registration office (Zentrales Melderegister - ZMR) and the criminal record register EKIS (= Elektronisches Kriminalpolizeiliches Informations System).

23. Network Administration of Justice

Since the beginning of the eighties the Austrian Administration of Justice has been developing a comprehensive network of Information Technology. This network (Corporate Network Austria; CNA) ensures a general use of IT by all courts, public prosecution services, penal institutions and the Ministry of Justice via a hub, the Federal Computing Center (Bundesrechenzentrum), where all major applications of the administration of justice are operated. Communication with other Ministries, other agencies and the citizen takes place via the Federal Computing Center. Since February 2007 each authority unit within Austrian justice has been connected to the BRZ via a 2-MBit-circuit (CNAX). These circuits can also be used for telephone calls and video conferencing by applying voice over IP.

This network is also basis for the e-mail system of the administration of justice (using Lotus Notes) and Internet access by the court personnel. In this network there are currently about 180 routers, 343 servers, 10.521 workstations and 1.029 laptops. Already since February 2001 each employee is equipped with a workstation. The change of the operating system from Windows 2000 to Windows Vista will take place in the course of the year 2009. At the same time the options for the use of open source (Linux, Open Office) are examined. Since the beginning of 2007 all bailiffs are integrated in a virtual private network (VPN) by means of laptops with data cards, which feature locally independent online access to applications, which are run in the BRZ.