



## ***NEWS RELEASE***

*For immediate release*

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### ***Auditor General outlines serious flaws with B.C.'s criminal justice security system***

VICTORIA — Auditor General John Doyle has released a report which highlights serious security flaws in the Province's computerized criminal justice security system, known as JUSTIN. The computerized system, which was implemented in 2001, supports the administration of criminal justice cases from initial submission through to the court process.

The report was slated to be released in December 2012, but was delayed at the request of the Attorney General to give the ministry more time to respond to the report's recommendations. Doyle said the Ministry of Justice was briefed on the most significant findings in the report starting in January 2012. The Ministry of Justice has accepted all of the audit's findings.

The Auditor General commenced his audit to review the protection of information in the JUSTIN system beginning in the fall of 2011. The audit focused on six major areas of concern, including:

- Penetration testing to detect and prevent intrusion through simulated attacks;
- User access to Reports to Crown Counsels (RCCs) to check unauthorized disclosure by examining user access;
- System security to evaluate the adequacy of network and system controls;
- Application, database and user management to examine user access, database roles, accounts and passwords;
- Incident detection and response to detect to unauthorized access; and
- Security clearance to assess the extent of criminal record checking for users.

The audit concluded with more than 100 detailed recommendations to address specific deficiencies within the system used throughout the Province.

“Our audit results revealed a serious lack of controls to protect JUSTIN information from inappropriate access,” said Doyle. “Information in the JUSTIN system is not safe from motivated individuals looking to gain access to it and, equally concerning, there is very little chance that the ministry would ever know that this unauthorized access had occurred.”

This the second report on security of government IT on which the Auditor General has reported. In 2008, Doyle reported the results of an audit into the management of access to the Corrections Case Management System (CORNET). That audit also identified weak controls to prevent excessive internal access to sensitive information.



Doyle said the same issues are being reported for a system that arguably contains even more sensitive information.

“Had the recommendations from the CORNET audit been applied to other systems, the results of this audit would likely have been more positive. This failure to act, and the very fact that significant security weaknesses were allowed to exist at all, leads us to question the quality of IT leadership and governance around criminal justice information.”

The Auditor General has assessed whether releasing this report would affect the ministry’s risk profile and has determined that publishing the report would not introduce new risks, or make worse the risks that already exist.

**About the Office of the Auditor General of B.C.:**

The Auditor General is a non-partisan, independent Officer of the Legislature who reports directly to the Legislative Assembly. The *Auditor General Act* empowers the Auditor General and his staff (known as the Office of the Auditor General or the OAG) to conduct audits, report findings and make recommendations.

2012/13 Report 9 – *Securing the JUSTIN System: Access and Security Audit at the Ministry of Justice*

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