



2007 4th Annual IACP-iXP Excellence in Technology Award

Excellence in Law Enforcement Communication and Interoperability Category *Large Agency Division*

Agency: Kentucky State Police

Project: Kentucky Wireless Interoperability Network



The Kentucky State Police with coordination and support from the Kentucky Commonwealth Office of Technology, Kentucky Office of Homeland Security, and the Center for Rural Development has implemented the Kentucky Wireless Interoperability Network System (KyWINS) Messenger, a statewide instant messaging system for use by all emergency responders in Kentucky. Utilizing Jive Software's Openfire open source product that was modified to meet the system specifications, KyWINS Messenger provides one unifying and central communication tool across several areas and disciplines in the Commonwealth where various mobile messaging switch applications are being used and are not interoperable with each other. By using any internet connection, or the statewide 800 MHz Wireless Data Communications Infrastructure, immediate text communication is available, regardless of location. This system provides for not only mobile to mobile communications, but allows personnel at any dispatch center in the Commonwealth to quickly communicate with each other in an event of an emergency. These quick avenues of communication help to avoid radio traffic congestion through one to one communication and also one to many communications through the use of the group conferencing feature. KyWINS Messenger also provides for an immediate broadcast message to all online users in order to spread information rapidly and with little technological knowledge. KyWINS Messenger was implemented for approximately \$75,000 with an annual maintenance and support cost of \$4,000 and can handle up to 30,000 users. The Kentucky State Police and its partners absorb all the system related costs and offers KyWINS at no cost for all first responders in Kentucky.