

GSCCCA Update

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An update on the activities of the Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority

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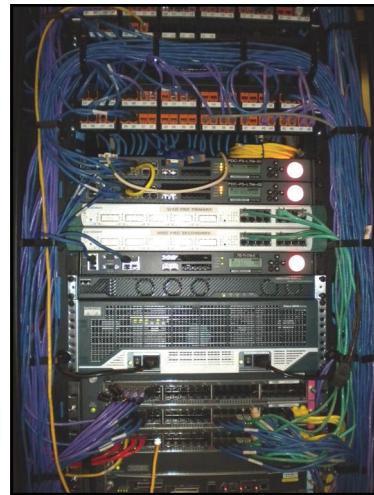


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Facility Protects Authority Data

The Authority is committed to the preservation of data it receives from each Superior Court Clerk. Since the Authority first opened its doors, it has operated a robust tape-based data backup in which all data is securely stored on tape and moved to an offsite location. This method of data preservation worked extremely well for the Authority during its earliest days since the rate and size of the data received was initially small. However, as the Authority started participating in an array of other legislatively mandated projects and accepting images, it became clear that tape backups alone were not going to be a sufficient method of preserving data. In a disaster scenario, tape backups only serve to recover the data that was previously moved offsite. Since the Authority receives a tremendous amount of data in a single day, the amount of data lost in a disaster scenario could be significant.

To address this concern, the Authority began copying all of its data to an offsite facility in REAL TIME in 2002. The Authority continues its traditional backups, but the addition of the real-time, offsite backup provides a superb level of disaster prevention. As the Authority operated and upgraded this secondary facility, it became possible to use the facility to provide additional functionality. For in-



stance, the IT staff will routinely use the offsite facility to serve document images in order to do maintenance on the primary data center without downtime. Having a real-time solution for moving data offsite allows for even greater functionality and disaster recovery. Given the current capabilities of the offsite facility, the Authority has been working hard to leverage this secondary facility towards taking the next big step in disaster readiness.

On October 1, 2009, the Authority will officially commission its secondary facility as its "Disaster Recovery Data Center." After the data center is commissioned, the Authority's website and all of its search functionality will be operable at the DR data center in addition to the

primary data center. With this next generation of disaster preparedness, the secondary facility is able to run the entire Authority website if a disaster were to render the primary facility useless. Remarkably, this redundancy is also completely automatic, meaning that if the primary data center fails, the secondary data center would "take over" operations without the need for any human intervention. This next step in disaster preparedness not only ensures the same level of data protection that has been in place for nearly 10 years, but also provides the services and functionality needed to USE that data should disaster strike. ■

July Board Meeting Review

The Authority Board met on July 8 for its quarterly meeting. Following is a summary of the reports and actions of the meeting.

General Business

The minutes of the April 8, 2009, meeting were presented and approved by the Board.

John Earle presented the Accountant's Review and Financial Report. Mr. Earle related that the audit by Mauldin & Jenkins continues. Eight sample counties will be visited July 15-17 as part of the audit in order to reconcile/verify placement of equipment.

Chairman Tom Lawler presented a review of the previous day's board work session.

UCC Project

An update was given on the UCC Project and it was reported that the number of UCCs filed during fiscal 2009 ending June 30 was approximately 205,000. The number of Certified Searches continues to fall due to the economy and the fact that more customers conduct their own online searches.



Historical Deed Project

An update was given on the Historical Deed Project and it was reported that every county has completed transmitting data back to January 1, 1993. Some data from 1990, 1991 and 1992 is in "quarantine" awaiting review before being released. These records have been quarantined due to indications that data doesn't meet standards. A discussion was held regarding establishing more stringent requirements on data acceptance.



Staff recommended that the moratorium on the Historical Deed Project continue due to lack of funds. Approximately 1.5M records are currently being held and will be processed when the moratorium is lifted. It was requested that Authority staff provide a detailed explanation to all clerks on the status of the Historical Deed Project.

Online Training

An update was given on the Authority's online training programs with reports on specific numbers of users who have accessed

various online courses. New modules 10, 11 and 12 are being readied to be added to the Indexing Standards course of the Learning Management System.

Fines & Fees Division

An update was

given on the Fines & Fees Division. The F&F Division has not, since its inception in 2004, required the maximum annual statutory funds allowed of \$500,000 in order to meet operating expenses.

Redaction Project

An update was given on the Redaction Project including a report on expansion of the project to include documents other than UCCs which are currently being redacted. Based upon a cost analysis with current known variables, expanding the redaction process to include deed records is cost prohibitive at this time.

E-Filing Project

A report was given on the E-Filing Project with the Advisory Subcommittee announced

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Authority Continues to Thrive!

The Authority completed its 2008-2009 fiscal year financially strong and operationally solid. Beyond its initial mandate of creating a statewide UCC index in 1995, the Authority went on to develop and implement a statewide index for real estate and personal property records in 1999 and today oversees a variety of projects including:

- ❖ UCC Project
- ❖ Real Estate Deed Project
- ❖ Historical Deed Project
- ❖ Plat & Lien Project
- ❖ PT-61 Project
- ❖ Civil Case Filing Project
- ❖ Offender Based Tracking Project
- ❖ Notaries Public Division
- ❖ Fines & Fees Division
- ❖ Georgia Protective Order Registry
- ❖ Carbon Sequestration Registry
- ❖ Data Archive Project

The Authority experienced tremendous growth and success during the past fiscal year. Many significant accomplishments were made from implementing new projects, to enhancing old ones, to improving systems and programs in every area. These changes have provided greater efficiency and reliability, enhanced productivity and reduced cost. Some highlights from this past fiscal year include:

- ❖ Achieved “Cisco Certified Partner” status, the most highly awarded program in the networking industry
- ❖ Maintained a compliance rate of close to **100%** for all courts through a dedicated

and consistent notification process by the Fines & Fees Division

- ❖ Greatly expanded the recently developed e-filing framework and officially launched a **Pilot E-Filing UCC Project**
- ❖ Developed a new **“Advanced Indexing Standards Online Training Course”**
- ❖ Continued the implementation of the **Data Archive Project** and have over **88 counties** participating
- ❖ Increased **Notary Online** participation to **91 counties** with more in the works
- ❖ Kicked off a project allowing the Authority to digitally archive all Notary appointments eliminating the requirement to archive paper

Our growth and success over the past fiscal year was also evident in the numbers ... from the thousands of phone calls and e-mail requests handled by Authority staff, to the millions of dollars returned to Georgia's counties, to the billion-plus hits to our website.

placement Project

- ❖ Evaluated PCs from various vendors and selected a Lenovo system to be used as the next generation Authority workstation
- ❖ Placed **1.5 million** real estate instruments filed between 1990-1992 through a quality assurance process before adding them to the Authority's database
- ❖ Completely overhauled the billing, collection, and management of gsccca.org subscriber accounts

Our growth and success over the past fiscal year was also evident in the numbers ... from the thousands of phone calls and e-mail requests handled by Authority staff, to the millions of dollars returned to Georgia's counties, to the billion-plus hits to our website. Following are some of the highlights:

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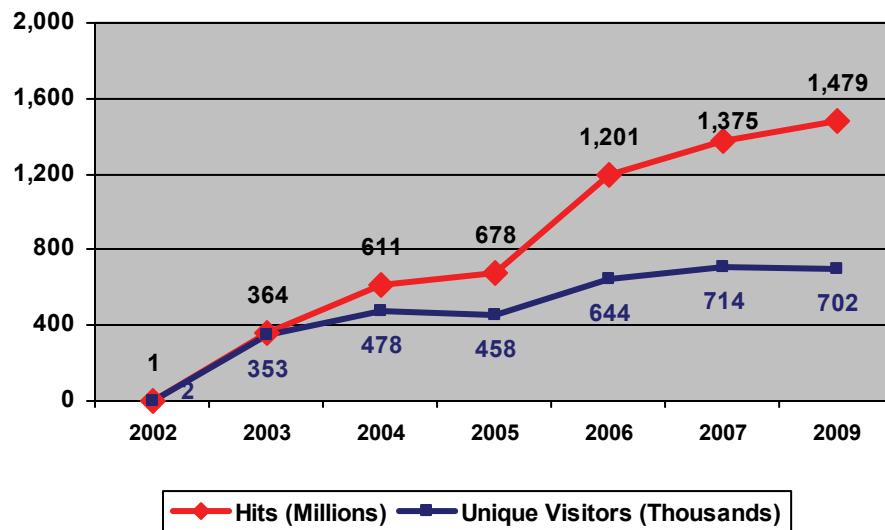


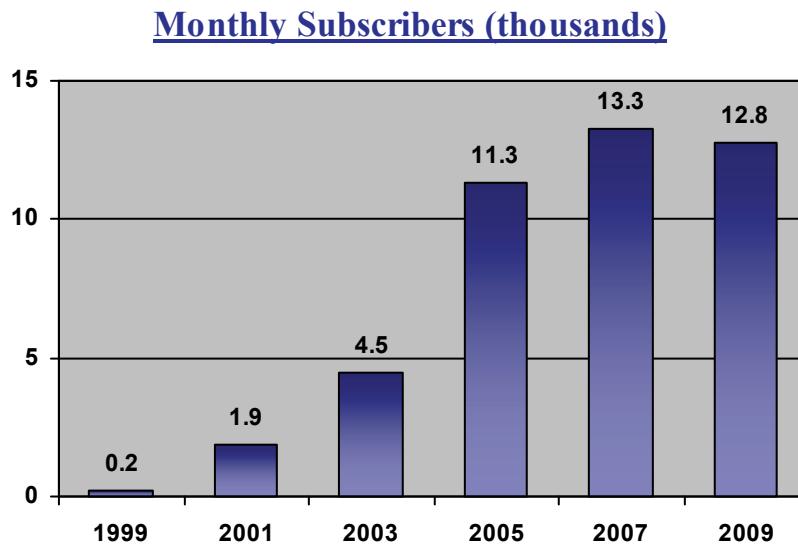
(Authority Continues to Thrive — Cont. from Page 3)

- ❖ Added over **14.5 million** images to the system for a fiscal year-end total of almost **172 million** images
- ❖ Had almost **1.5 billion** hits and over **700 thousand** unique visitors to gsccca.org
- ❖ Paid counties over **\$706 thousand** for deed images this past fiscal year and over **\$6.6 million** for deed images over the last five years
- ❖ Returned close to **\$2.4 million** to counties for prints (\$.25 per print) off the Authority website (a **28% increase** from the previous fiscal year) and over **\$8 million** for prints over the last five years
- ❖ Received almost **22,000** calls (with an answer rate of **96%**) and roughly **4,300 e-mail** requests to HelpDesk
- ❖ Issued over **31,000** apostilles, the most ever issued in a fiscal year
- ❖ Received over **17,000** phone calls to the Notary Division, approximately **60** calls per day
- ❖ Backed up over **208 TBs** of data this past fiscal year
- ❖ Conducted **32** training classes in **29** locations
- ❖ Ordered, processed and shipped **819** pieces of new equipment to counties this past fiscal year and over **8,300** pieces of new equipment over the last six years
- ❖ Indexed approximately **17,000** UCCs per month and conducted **800** Certified Searches per month. The Authority has indexed almost **4.1 million** UCCs and conducted almost **182,000** Certified Searches since opening its doors on January 1, 1995.

Beyond the pure numbers, though, our success over the years has truly been felt in the response and feedback we continue to receive from clerks, bankers, lawyers, realtors and other customers about our product and how integral it has become to their business. The genesis for many of the accomplishments listed above came from comments or suggestions from our customers. The Authority's goal continues to be to meet the changing needs of our constituents and offer a quality product in an effective and cost-productive manner while providing the best customer service in the business. ■

Website Hits & Unique Visitors





Upcoming Training

The Authority will close out its 2009 training calendar with the following two classes:

UCC & Notary Public—Oct. 28 in Lyons

This session will cover Georgia's Uniform Commercial Code statute and Revised Article 9 and how it relates to the processing and indexing of UCC financing statements. Additionally, this class will address the clerk's duties as the commissioning officer of notaries public.

Real Estate Indexing Standards—Nov. 4 in Americus

Suitable for new and experienced indexers, the course will include the reasoning behind the Standards; the latest changes to the Standards; various deed and lien instrument types and their purpose; indexing difficult instruments such as those from securitization trusts; and displaying the Online Standards Training Course.

Both classes are from 9:00a.m. to noon. Register online at www.gsccca.org/training or by calling Rachel Rice at 404.327.7322. ■

(Board Meeting — Cont. from Page 2)

and gratitude extended to Rep. Ed Lindsey for sponsoring and leading the adoption of UETA (Uniform Electronic Transaction Act) and URPERA (Uniform Real Property Electronic Recording Act). The E-Filing Advisory Subcommittee nominees include: John Carlton, Michelle Redmond and Tim Bailey representing the State Bar Association; Tim Minor representing the title industry as an at-large member; Sheila Studdard serving as an at-large member; Jim Stewart and Todd Bogdan representing the Georgia Bankers Association; and David Burge serving as an ex-officio member of the committee. A motion to accept the nominees as presented was approved by the board.

Other

The Authority's 2008-2009 "Accomplishments & Year End Report" was presented to the Board. This document, which is produced annually by the Authority in order to report on and promote the project and operational accomplishments of the Authority, is accessible online. ■

