



CourtStack: *The Digital Court Platform and Ecosystem*

The case management system (CMS) and court applications landscape in California is very diverse. It could be considered a microcosm of the challenges that exist nationally when dealing with the vast assortment of case management systems and the add-on applications that are required to support the modern Digital Court. Case-in-point: our current case management environment (both in California and nationally), requires that add-on solutions be tightly coupled with an underlying case management system, creating a significant deployment challenge for best-of-breed systems. Despite considerable efforts across California to build innovative solutions in areas like mobile case access, litigant and justice partner case access, and eFiling, it has proven extremely difficult to deploy these systems in other Courts. An unfortunate dichotomy has resulted: excellent software that has proven very useful to the Courts but requires a software development team, a significant amount of time, and a lot of money to implement. The investment for most Courts is simply too steep.

CourtStack is an active initiative that aims to solve this problem by providing a platform and framework for building CMS add-on solutions. The goal of CourtStack is to deliver a common standards-based platform that will extend add-on solutions to all case management systems in an innovative and industry-transformative way. Our CourtStack mission is intentionally broad:

“To empower the delivery of digital court services in an innovative and industry transformative way, that is intelligent, efficient, and cost-effective.”

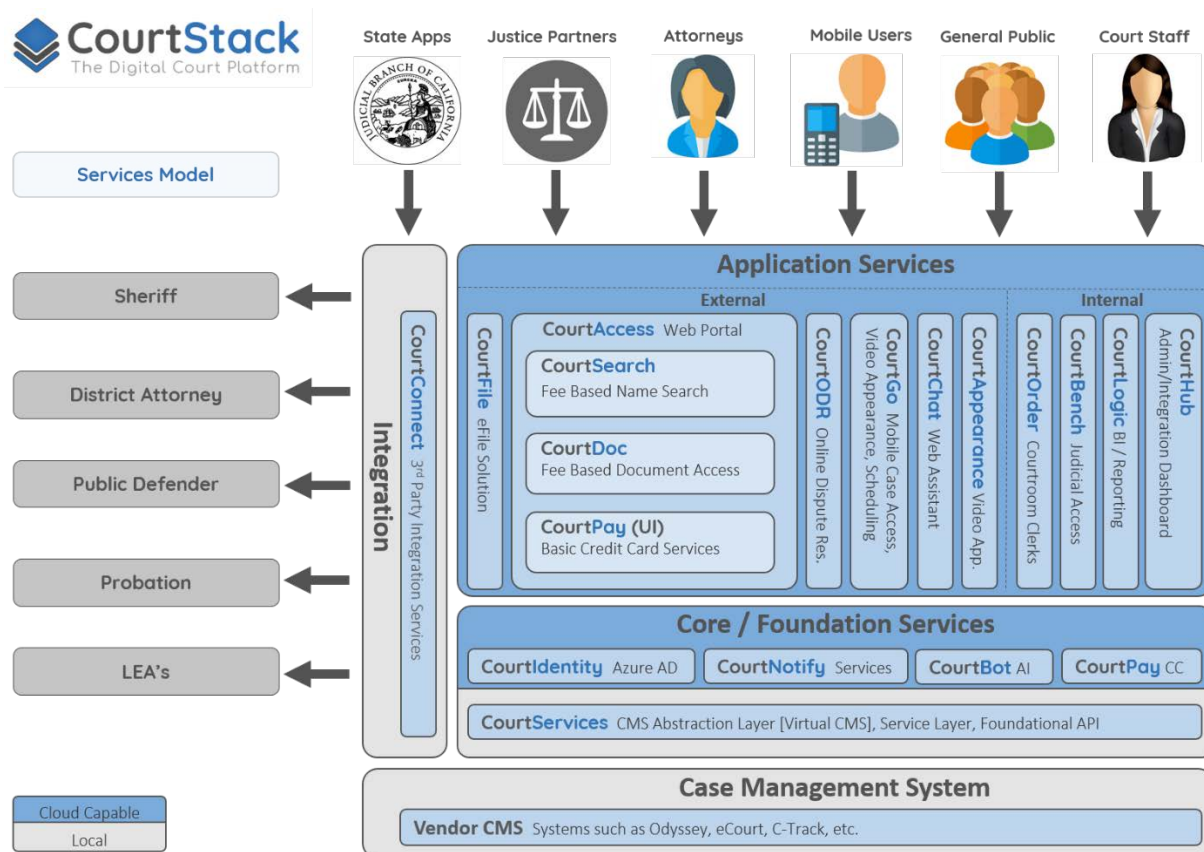
To help ensure success, CourtStack is grounded on five core tenets:

- 1. CourtStack will be a reliable, robust, secure digital platform** that is standards compliant with common, reusable components and services that will create a foundation for which all CMS add-on solutions can be built in the future, both within the California branch and nationally.
- 2. CourtStack will establish a digital ecosystem** that fosters technical innovation in the court community to build, deploy, and support CourtStack-compliant products both within the California branch and nationally.
- 3. CourtStack will help to productize the California branch’s software assets** so that all of our 58 Trial Courts can use and benefit from them.

4. **CourtStack will establish an easy-to-use, cohesive, and integrated suite of products** that advances the Digital Court and is well aligned with the California branches' strategic plan and technology initiatives.
5. **CourtStack will save Courts money.**

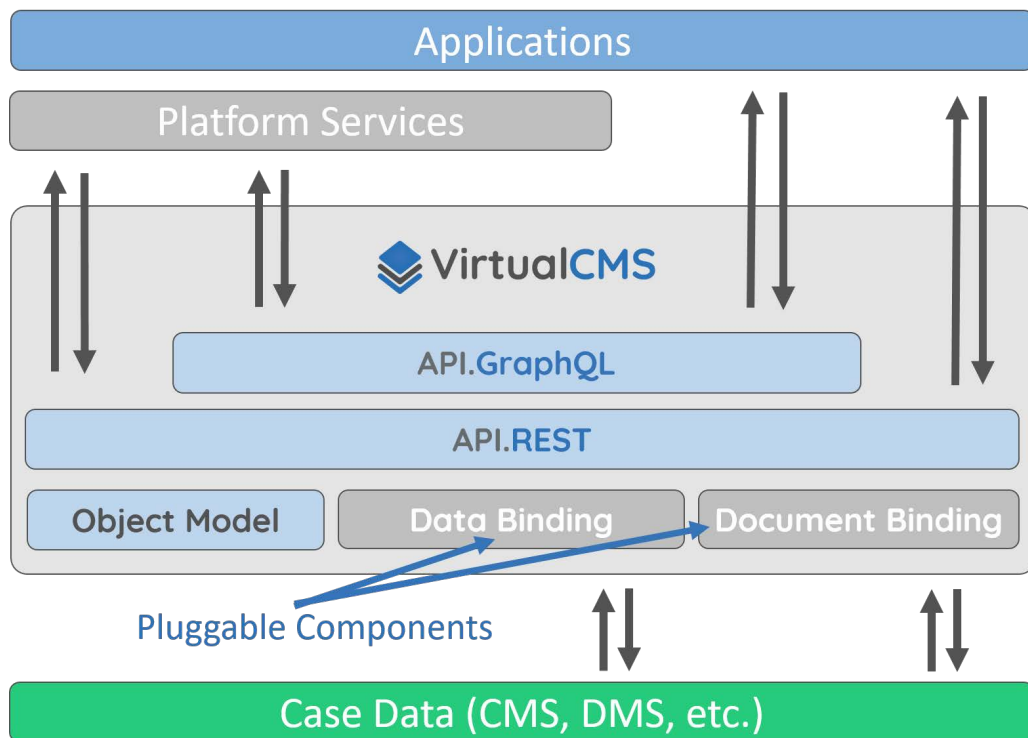
The CourtStack Application Suite & Services Model: *What it is and how it works*

CourtStack currently is a conceptual suite of applications (for which the California branch has existing IP assets, primarily residing with the founding Trial Courts) built around a foundational set of CourtStack services that power state applications, local branch applications, and integrations between the branch entities and their partners. CourtStack is innovative in its development of the “**Virtual CMS**” which lays the foundation for the platform and ecosystem. The “Virtual CMS” is an abstraction layer that sits on top of the branch CMS implementation. This abstraction layer allows higher level components and applications to be written against it for interaction with the CMS. Applications and components will interact with the Virtual CMS rather than the CMS directly. This abstraction will give the applications written for CourtStack the freedom to run on any CMS for which there is a Virtual CMS implementation.



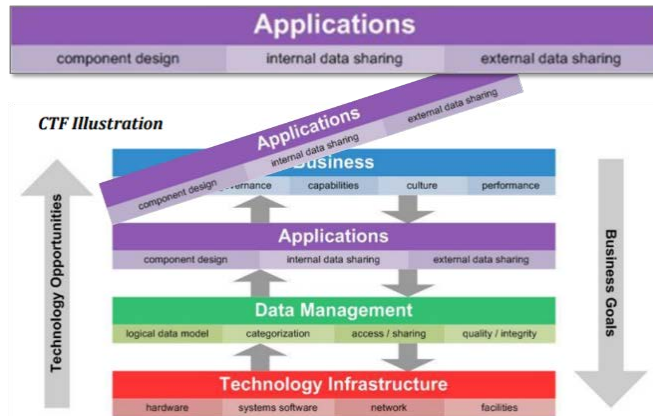
Components of the Virtual CMS

The Virtual CMS is comprised of 5 main components, an object model, data binding component, document binding component, REST API and GraphQL API. The data binding component is a pluggable component that is CMS dependent and interchangeable based on the CMS implementation that is targeted. The data binding component is where the necessary data mapping and payload transformation is performed to build a consistent reliable standardized API for case management systems. The data binding component interacts with the proprietary CMS API and data model to transform the proprietary CMS payloads into a standardized payload that can be processed and consumed through the CourtStack Virtual CMS API. The document binding component works similar to the data binding component, but simply focuses on document management systems. This flexible partitioning creates an environment where the Virtual CMS can easily be configured to support case management systems with integrated document management and case management systems that rely on external independent document management systems.



CourtStack is Aligned with the NCSC Court Technology Framework

CourtStack is aligned with and can be viewed as an implementation of the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Court Technology Framework for applications and the NCSC JTC Next Generation Application Component Model. CourtStack will help foster an environment where future development of CMS add-on solutions are built on technical and architectural industry standards.



CourtStack Governance

CourtStack is governed by its founding Trial Courts: Santa Clara (Chair/Lead), Los Angeles, Orange, and Monterey, in collaboration with the Judicial Council of California Information Technology Division (JCIT). It is being implemented by its Architecture Group which is currently made up of Sr. Developers, Software Architects, and CIOs from its founding Courts. CourtStack is in an aggressive “building” stage where the governance and architecture bodies meet weekly.

How to Learn More

As this project and platform advances, we will post documentation, source code and APIs for the Court Community and vendors to review at www.CourtStack.org.