

10 Myths Debunked about < NIEM >

MYTH: *NIEM is a data warehouse.*

FACT: NIEM is a reusable library of data definitions supported by tools, training, technical assistance, and a vibrant community. It does not store data.

MYTH: *NIEM is the actual exchange of information.*

FACT: NIEM describes the structure of data that is in motion during the exchange.

MYTH: *NIEM is software.*

FACT: NIEM is not software. It is a model for exchanging information between disparate systems without being intrusive to those systems.

MYTH: *NIEM participation means the loss of data ownership.*

FACT: All NIEM participants retain ownership of their data.

MYTH: *NIEM causes the loss of the security and privacy of data.*

FACT: Nothing about NIEM causes a decrease in security or privacy. Before sharing information with another party, an organization should evaluate its security and privacy practices.

MYTH: *NIEM is only a Justice solution.*

FACT: NIEM has many domains, one of which is Justice, and continues to grow.

MYTH: *You have to build a new system or replace existing systems to participate in NIEM.*

FACT: Adopting NIEM does not require building a new system or purchasing new technology. NIEM is technology agnostic and at the data layer. You can use NIEM irrespective of the particular technologies used within an organization.

MYTH: *Once an IEPD is created, the work is complete.*

FACT: Creating an IEPD is one of the first steps for participating in NIEM. IEPDs should then be shared with other organizations for reuse.

MYTH: *NIEM is strictly for federal government.*

FACT: In addition to 18 federal agencies committed to using NIEM, all 50 states, local, tribal, and international governments as well as private industry use NIEM at varying levels of maturity.

MYTH: *NIEM is strictly for use within the United States.*

FACT: NIEM is flexible and extensible in nature and can and does enable a wide variety of partners to share information, regardless of borders.