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Call it Big Data's Big Dig — \$75m, 19 years, still not done

Long overdue, state courts' new computer system crimps public access



JONATHAN WIGGS/GLOBE STAFF

Despite a new computer system, citizens visiting Quincy District Court have to look up criminal cases in paper indexes.

By Todd Wallack | GLOBE STAFF APRIL 12, 2015

Even construction on the Big Dig didn't take this long.

Google, Facebook, and YouTube hadn't been founded when the Legislature originally approved \$75 million in bond money to build a new computer system for the state's courts in 1996. AOL was the country's dominant online service provider. And William Weld was governor.