AMERICAN
LEGAL TECHNOLOGY INSIDER

Microsystems move into the templates arena

For over a decade Microsystems has been helping the legal community troubleshoot document corruption and quality issues with its Knowledge Partnership and DocXtools products. Now the company is moving into the template, numbering and macro package arena with the launch and general availability this month of its new Legal TemplatesPlus software.

Although not a document assembly/automation package in the traditional sense, TemplatesPlus is designed to simplify document drafting, template design and maintenance for correspondence, pleadings, numbering, tables of contents and DocIDs. In addition, Microsystems say the Legal TemplatesPlus pricing model 'lowers the total ownership cost' of such a package. Other features of Templates Plus include automatic connection to contact sources, eliminating duplicate data entry, a simplification of Office migration initiatives, and enabling the creation of toolbars and ribbons fit to purpose. The Insider understands that Clifford Chance is one of the first firms to deploy the new Legal TemplatesPlus application, which also integrates with the full suite of existing Microsystems applications.

• Microsystems has also announced the integration of DocXtools with Litera Corp's Change-Pro document comparison software. The integration between Change-Pro and the existing DocXtools comparison intervention functionality will enable users to overcome previous comparison issues.

Three firms switch from Winscribe to Bighand

Insider sources report that three US law firms – Becker Poliakoff, Smith Moore Leatherwood LLP and Soling Northrup Hanna Cullen & Cochran – have switched over from Winscribe digital dictation workflow systems to the rival Bighand DD platform. Further details to follow however we understand other firms have already signed up for similar competitive swapouts.

ILTA 2009 - delegates down but firms up

As ILTA (the International Legal Technology Association) forecast earlier this year, the number of law firm and legal department delegates attending last month's ILTA '09 annual conference was down. We'd estimate there were between 700-to-800 delegates, so attendance was down about 40% on last year – but with most firms slashing their travel budgets, this was understandable. There were also fewer exhibitors this year, the missing vendors were mainly from the litigation support/e-discovery sector. However, the number of firms and legal organizations represented actually increased this year. This seems to suggest ILTA still retains is prime position in the American legal IT events market (we encountered a number of firms and vendors who said ILTA would be the only event they planned to attend next year) but because of the state of the economy, smaller teams of delegates are attending.

ILTA/InsideLegal 2009 survey: firms hurting

ILTA and InsideLegal.com have released the results of their latest *ILTA Member Technology Purchasing Survey*. The 2009 survey highlights include:

Budget cuts are severe: a massive 68% of firms in the sample only spend between 2-4% of total revenue on IT; 17% spend less than 2% and only 15% spending more than 4% (compared with nearly 30% last year). Not surprisingly 58% of respondents have seen budget cuts this year (the majority in the region of 5% +) whereas last year (prior to the downturn) 68% had anticipated IT budget increases.

In terms of cutbacks, along with slashing capital expenditure (69%), 50% of firms have reduced staff, 62% have worked with vendors on 'economic relief options,' and 50% have negotiated price cuts. A number of firms also said because they are now under-staffed, vendors should avoid hassling them.

So when will the economy return to normal? While there is some optimism, as of July this year, 29% think it will take up to 12 months and 45% think it will take a further 12-24 months, if not longer.

What are firms likely to spend their IT budgets on when finances permit? Email management (in all its guises) remains the number #1 challenge however in terms of future trends, virtualization, cloud computing and SaaS (Software-as-a-Service) are seen as the hottest technologies.
• Copies of the 2009 survey results can be dowloaded from **www.InsideLegal.com**

New wins

Two firms go with Frayman Group
Risk management software specialist The Frayman Group has announced two new law firm deals over the past month. Proskauer Rose LLP has deployed Frayman's Compliguard Flow new business inception workflow application, which will be run in conjunction with the firm's Elite PMS. And, Cadwalader Wickersham & Taft has implemented Frayman's Compliguard Protect information barriers and ethical walls system.
www.fraymangroup.com

Davis Polk & Wardwell select Recommind search
Davis Polk & Wardwell has implemented two Recommind products: MindServer Search and the Matters & Expertise module. The software has been rolled out to 750 attorneys plus support staff in nine international and domestic offices.
• Recommind this month launched MindServer Categorization, a new module that automatically categorizes and tags both legacy and new data as it is created, thereby making information easier to identify, use, manage and delete.

Nixon Peabody goes with 3BView for metadata
Nixon Peabody is to implement 3BView's 3BClean system to provide server-based and automated metadata removal across the firm's global operations to protect desktops, webmail access and mobile devices, including Blackberry and iPhone.
• 3BView has released a beta version of 3BCleanDocs, a cloud-based subscription metadata removal service for small firms. Firms wanting to participate in the beta program can register online.
www.3BView.com + **www.3bview.net/3bcleandocs**

Corporate news

Workshare and NetDocuments offer integration
Workshare has announced a broad integration with NetDocuments, the online and on-demand document management service, to provide a more complete document lifecycle management solution.
www.workshare.com + **www.netdocuments.com**

New e-learning company to focus on law firms
Capensys is a new company that believes it can offer a new approach to web-based training. Staffed by consultants and directors with extensive experience of the legal e-learning sector, the company says its new context sensitive support tool – The Angel – "brings a new dimension to accessing training content at the point of need". Along with a software-specific e-learning library, Capensys is also developing a library of professional development and compliance e-training courses.
www.capensys.com

Workflow and redaction come together - right now
K2 and Informative Graphics Corporation are working together to simplify incorporating redaction technology into workflow management systems. Under the deal, K2 will release event templates (or wizards) for its BPM software that allows users to add the redaction capabilities of IGC's Redact-It software to legal sector applications including Sharepoint, LegalKey, Elite and Aderant Expert.
www.k2.com/legal + **www.infograph.com**

Ikon to Resell Omtool AccuRoute
Ikon Office Solutions has formed a new reseller relationship that will see Ikon adding Omtool's AccuRoute document scanning and distribution system to its product portfolio.

Synaptec announce KnowledgeLake partnership
Synaptec Software has announced a new deal that will see KnowledgeLake Inc's Microsoft Sharepoint-based document management system added ⇨

⇨ to the functionality of Synaptec's LawBase case and matter management system.
www.lawbase.com + **www.knowledgelake.com**

New wins

Saturn 27 NA signs up 2 Elite sites
Recently formed Saturn27 (NA) consultancy has secured the first North American sales of its i-balance product for balancing and data integrity on Elite practice management systems. Orders have been placed by two Boston firms – Bingham McCutchen LLP and Brown Rudnick LLP.
www.saturn27.com

FTC picks Nexidia for audio review
The Federal Trade Commission has purchased multiple licenses of Nexidia's AudioFinder software for reviewing audio content in its investigations.
www.nexidia.com/legal

Digital dictation news

Toronto duo go with Philips
Two Toronto-based law firms – Lerners LLP and 100 lawyer Blaney McMurty – have signed up for Philips SpeechExec Enterprise digital dictation systems. Blaney McMurty, who implemented their system via Philips' partners Dye & Durham, have over the past few years, migrated from analog tape to stand-alone digital dictation and finally on to the Enterprise network-wide workflow system.

New hires

Swenson joins ACT Litigation
Litigation support industry veteran Gary Swenson has joined ACT Litigation's client services team.

New collaboration framework announced

Gabriela Isturiz and Daniel Garcia, co-founders of eBillingHub, have announced the launch of a new company focused on building collaboration frameworks for the legal industry. Called Bellefield, the company is developing a simple yet robust collaboration framework "that leverages the latest technologies to address some of the traditional shortcomings of current collaboration solutions".

"Something is amiss in the collaboration space", says Isturiz, "whether it is within a law firm or between a firm and its clients, we are seeing a lot of failed collaboration initiatives where software solutions are too diverse or too complex for attorneys and staff to bother using them in a continued and consistent manner. After an encouraging initial start many of these initiatives die of abandonment.

"Bellefield is building a collaboration framework that is as easy to use as email but that will represent a step forward in reliability, security, and manageability". Garcia expects a first release of the SOA-based collaboration framework by mid-2010. It will be sold through channel partners.
www.bellefield.com

New product launches

Elite releases 3E Premium intelligence suite

Elite has released its Premium Intelligence Suite for 3E. The suite comprises three distinct business intelligence applications that are available either individually or together and cover custom reporting, analytics and dashboards. Two firms are already up and running with the suite which eliminates the need for a data warehouse and 3rd party portals.

First cloud archiving solution for law firms

Autonomy has released its iManage Digital Safe solution – which we believe to be the first cloud-based archiving platform specifically tailored for law firms. iMDS is designed to help firms archive and retrieve matter content – such as documents, email, audio and images – however unlike other cloud platforms, this uses Autonomy's own Digital Safe private cloud. This currently holds over 10 petabytes of data and is used by 9 of the world's 10 largest banks to store information. iMDS is also available as an on-premise archiving solution.
• One petabyte = one million gigabytes.
www.imanage.com/digitalsafe

pdfDocs gets added functionality

DocsCorp has added new functionality to its pdfDocs Desktop product with the release of v3.1. New features include PDF metadata cleansing, PDF/A capability, redaction codes and dual integration into Sharepoint and DMS platforms.

Open Text adds to legal market mix

Open Text has added new integrations to its ECM Suite, including support for the eDOCS product line and Microsoft Sharepoint. Fox Rothschild is one of the first firms to take advantage of this technology which, in the words of CIO Brook Lee "help firms see beyond document management and deliver solutions for firm-wide ECM".

Esquire release new version of iRedline

Esquire Innovations has released a new version of its iRedline software. New features include a preserve track changes option plus PDF to PDF and PDF to Word document comparison.
www.esqinc.com

Omtool launch VIP suite for law firms

Omtool has expanded its AccuRoute range with the launch of its Vendor Invoice Processing suite to streamline invoice scanning, processing and distribution directly into financial systems. Early adopters of VIP include Loeb & Loeb LLP.

Mimecast embrace the cloud

Mimecast has upgraded its SaaS-based unified email management platform with the launch of what it calls 'next generation cloud-based' email management. Along with the established features of archiving, continuity, security and policy control, the new system adds litigation hold and e-discovery case management functionality to address increasing industry regulations and concerns around data retention and e-discovery. In addition, new mailbox management and metadata removal features allow organizations to control their inboxes while preventing data leaks. According to Mimecast CEO Peter Bauer "With these enhancements, customers now have access to a set of cloud computing services that match, if not exceed, the capabilities of inhouse email management systems."
• US law firm Fish & Richardson, which has 425 attorneys and over 1200 staff in 12 offices around the world, says that since switching to Mimecast, it has cut its email management costs by 33%.

Litigation support news

Integreon eView 3.0 out now
Integreon has launched v3.0 of its eView platform for hosted workflow management and document review. New features are speedier review, through concept searching, and integration with Clearwell for early case assessment.
www.integreon.com/discovery

CaseCentral launch RSP certified partner program
In response to a growing demand from lawyers and service providers for more efficient solutions to expedite the document review process, CaseCentral has introduced its new Review Service Providers (RSP) certified partner program. This program provides the training and tools needed to offer clients a one-stop shop for initial document review using RSP's review services bundled with CaseCentral's on-demand e-discovery review software. Significantly, certified partners can ⇨

⇨ now offer all-inclusive reviewing services based on a flexible pricing model (per hour, per document, per gigabyte) that best meets clients' needs. For details email **partners@casecentral.com**

Clearwell expands e-discovery platform
Clearwell Systems has added optional modules for pre-processing, review and production to the functionality offered by its E-Discovery Platform v5.0. The rationale behind the new modules is discovery teams can pre-process, process, analyze, review, redact and produce documents within a single product, eliminating the need to move data across multiple applications. Apart from the convenience factor, as well as reducing costs and time delays, Clearwell say their approach cuts the risk of errors and avoids potential chain of custody issues that could diminish the defensibility of the entire e-discovery process.
www.clearwellsystems.com

New product launches

Litera move into the document factory
Litera Corp, best known for its Change-Pro document comparison software, has now launched its LDF Litera Document Factory, which aims to manage all aspects of PDF files, from creating and editing, to extracting, amending and splitting. The WP-style PDF Editor is particularly impressive as new text can be added to a PDF document that will then reflow the entire document. You can even edit content inside of tables.
www.litera.com/products/litera_document_factory.html

American LegalNet launches eDockets
American LegalNet has launched its web-based electronic docketing software – eDockets – which provides a library of court rules, automated calendaring of critical dates and deadlines, plus links to case critical documents and court forms. Company CEO Erez Bustan says the integration of eDockets into American LegalNet's existing suite of risk management products – Forms WorkFlow and eFiling Portal – offers an industry-first 'desktop to courthouse' forms, filing and docketing platform.
www.americanlegalnet.com

RTR added to iBlaze mix

CT Summation has announced major enhancements to the e-discovery version of its iBlaze product, as well as a strategic partnership with Rosen Technology Resources. The new tools available in iBlaze 3.0, combined with integration with RTR's ALCoder, ALFind and ConceptuAL products, significantly increase CT Summation's position in the e-discovery sector, giving users an end-to-end platform in the electronic document management, review, analysis and production process.

When we spoke to CT Summation about this at the ILTA conference, they conceded that almost every vendor in the e-discovery/litigation support space now makes similar claims but went on to differentiate iBlaze 3.0 on the basis it is an "all in one product that hits all the pain points within the litigation workflow without requiring the user to jump between multiple products." CT also make the point that "e-discovery is a legal process, not a data process" and suggest some of the other products on the market are "over-automated" to the extent there is a risk of information "falling through the cracks".
www.ctsummation.com

Litigation support news

FTI launch quick cull for inhouse legal teams
FTI Consulting has launched Ringtail QuickCull, a pre-configured hardware and software appliance that lets inhouse legal teams cull, analyse and triage review data on-premise (and reduce e-discovery costs) prior to review by their outside counsel.
www.ftitechnology.com

Anacomp introduce early case assessment + Nuix
Anacomp has added an early case assessment service to its e-discovery product range. Anacomp has also formed a technology alliance with Nuix ⇨

⇨ to add advanced document search, selection, reduction and analysis to its offerings. The new services are based on Anacomp's CaseLogistix litigation review platform.
www.anacomp.com/services/ECA.aspx + **www.nuix.com**

SaaS e-discovery service for Silicon Valley firms
A new technology partnership between BlackStone Discovery and Orange Legal Technologies means law firms in the Silicon Valley area now have access to SaaS based rapid response e-discovery services.
www.orangelt.com + **www.blackstonediscovery.com**

American Legal Technology Insider

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The Backpage: after ILTA

Microsystems and Interaction - a common thread?
A breakfast meeting at ILTA with Microsystems chief marketing office Barry Solomon revealed the company has a lot in common with Interface Software (now LexisNexis Interaction). Not only was Solomon the founder and executive V-P of Interface but other ex-Interfacers now at Microsystems include client service V-P Chris Vorderer, senior account executive Kathy Kibby and development liaison specialist Rob Allen.

ILTA '09 Green Challenge:
Although ecology issues have tended to be sidelined over the past year as both vendors and law firms have been focusing on their own survival, ILTA is keeping the green cause on the radar and last month once again ran its 'Green Challenge' for exhibitors. This year Recommind took first place with a series of initiatives including handing out reusable grocery bags, switching from paper handouts to PDFs, ensuring all booth graphics used eco-silvent inks, and giving away an Amazon Kindle as its 'vendor bingo' prize.

Best advice - and dumbest excuse
The best advice we heard during the course of ILTA came from Donna Payne of the Payne Group: "If you can't demo a product in 15 minutes, you don't have a product." The dumbest excuse award goes to the now ex-director of one vendor who asked for compassionate leave because his father had died. Two weeks later the father phoned the office to ask where his son was, as he hadn't heard from him for a while. After getting over the shock of taking a call from a dead man, the vendor did a little digging and discovered the son had been taking time off to set up a rival business.

Same time next year
Mark your calendars! The next – and 33rd – annual ILTA conference will take place at the Gaylord Opryland in Nashville on August 22-26, 2010.

Next issue...

The next issue of ALTi (No.15) will be published on Thursday 8 October, 2009. The editorial deadline is 6 October – 6:00pm EST. Keep up with latest news on our blog **www.theorangerag.com**