

CHARLES CHRISTIAN'S

LEGAL TECHNOLOGY INSIDER

THE SOURCE FOR INDEPENDENT LEGAL TECHNOLOGY NEWS, COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

LAWZONE WINNING WAR OF THE PORTALS

Latest "top 100" web site traffic statistics produced by New Media Age magazine show that Sift plc's LawZONE service is currently the most frequently accessed legal portal in the UK, with neither Lawyers Online or Interactive-Lawyer making it into the chart. LawZONE reported a 65 percent increase to 1870 "unique users" between January and February this year.

Meanwhile Lawyers Online was recently valued by the investment bank Flemings as being worth £3million on the strength of its subscriber base. The going valuation rate is £3000 per subscriber, indicating Lawyers Online has approximately 1000 subscribers.

■ COMMENT - Although it has been predicted in the financial press that online "banner" advertising rates could soon fall by as much as 50-to-70 percent, the legal market continues to attract new entrants. Among the latest is Law.com, which is already the market leader in the USA and is currently recruiting editorial staff to support its soon-to-launch UK service. Law.com's UK editor-in-chief is Lucy Hickman, who was previously with Interactive-Lawyer.

www.lawzone.co.uk

For more legal portal & e-business stories, see page 6

TFB PLANNING TO BE AN ASP

Technology for Business used the recent National Legal Office Exhibition at the Birmingham NEC to announce the next two stages in a three-part strategy to move its case and practice management systems into the Internet era.

Stage one, which TFB announced last June, was the launch of the Web-Server system, providing law firm clients with direct access to case progress and management data via a secure extranet. Stage two, which is available from

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LEGAL TECHNOLOGY ONLINE

Visit the Legal Technology Insider web site for regularly



updated news reports, bookmarks to web sites listed in the Insider, links to additional free services, a diary of legal IT events plus access to an archive of the Insider in PDF format.

IRISH INPUT TURNS UKILELI INTO BAILII

The UK and Irish legal communities have come one step closer to having access to a free database of legislation and case law thanks to a new three-way initiative.

The parties involved are the Society for Computers & Law, which has been running a "free the law" campaign and providing support for the UKILELI project; the Australasian Legal Information Institute, which already runs the AustLII free legal information database; and an informal working party set up by the Dean of Law at University College Cork.

Together they have launched the BAILII (British & Irish Legal Information Institute - no relation to the legal librarians' body BIALI) pilot service. It uses search engine and mark-up software developed by AustLII and currently has 14 databases from five jurisdictions and over 400 megabytes of legal materials.

www.bailii.org

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STOP PRESS

■ CAPSOFT UK TO BUY CAPSOFT US American sources report Capsoft UK is close to finalising a deal to buy Capsoft Inc, the US developer of the HotDocs document assembly system, from its parent company Matthew Bender, itself part of the Reed Elsevier group.

The Insider has also learned that the HotDocs system is one of the products being used by Allen & Overy to support its new Newchange online deal room and document drafting service.

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ Australian law firm ARNOLD BLOCH LEIBLER, described in the Australian business magazine *The Bulletin* as “the only small law firm in Australia with mega firm status” has selected KEYSTONE SOFTWARE to provide its new practice management system. The firm is implementing the marketing, time recording and billing modules first and expects the full system to be operational by 1st July.

■ Litigation support bureau LEGAL DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT has moved to new offices at 64 Great Eastern Street, London. (Tel: 020 7613 1160).

www.ldm.uk.com

■ FMI (020 7432 3281) is running CPD accredited training courses for law firms needing to use Seagate Crystal reporting software. FMI has already designed Seagate courses for SHOOSMITHS, BAKER & MCKENZIE, MACFARLANES, D J FREEMAN and BEACHCROFT WANSBOROUGH.

BUZZWORD CORNER

■ M-COMMERCE (*noun*)

Just when you were finally getting to grips with the concepts of e-commerce and e-business along comes another breakthrough (or nightmare, depending upon your point of view) namely mobile commerce or m-commerce. As the name implies, the system takes advantage of the WAP technology within the latest generation of mobile phones that can deliver text and data messages, as well as conventional phone calls, to handsets.

News reports, stock market prices and even special offers at local shops and restaurants are just some of the services that could be delivered to the “third place” - another new buzz phrase referring to any location that is not either your office or your home.

■ By coincidence, last week Watson Farley & Williams announced they were acting for UK Directory, an Internet business web sites portal, that is raising £3million to enhance its web site and WAP enable its current directory.

LAWBASE MOVES HOME AND INTO NEW MARKET

Lawbase Legal Systems has moved from Ealing to a new central London head office at Caroline House, 55-57 High Holborn, London WC1V 6DX (0207 242 1454). The premises were previously occupied by Applied Computer Expertise (ACE) until they moved out of both the building and the solicitors' IT market. That company, incidentally, is no relation to the Ace Microsystems business Lawbase used to share office space with.

Although 15 years ago Lawbase was one of the pioneers of the case management software market, company co-founder Wyn Melville-Jones said the last couple of years have seen a change of direction as the business, now part of the Cheshire Datasystems group, has concentrated on wills and probate-related systems.

One consequence of this change has been to effectively sever relations with Solace Legal Systems - Solace used to provide the accounts software to accompany Lawbase's case products. Lawbase also finds that an increasing volume of its business now comes from the financial services sector rather than its traditional law firms market.

MELTING SCREEN VIRUS

The latest virus to hit the Windows computing world is Win32/Melting.Worm. This exploits VB6 runtime files and places a file called MeltingScreen.exe into the Windows directory. The virus attacks files with an .EXE extension and renames them with a .BIN suffix. In a worst-case scenario the operating system may have to be reinstalled.

BAR SEES ERROR OF IT WAYS

After a worrying policy “wobble” earlier this year when the Bar Council seemed to lose all interest in information technology, the barristers' ruling body has now created a new IT panel to monitor developments in technology and their implications “for the market for legal services in the practising Bar”. The panel is chaired by Owen Davies QC.

LEGAL TECH TO THE RESCUE

In an unusual twist in the saga of BMW's plans to dispose of its interests in the Rover car manufacturing group, the Birmingham software millionaire John Hemming has announced he is trying to put together a consortium with an alternative rescue plan that would save more jobs than the proposed deal with Alchemy. John Hemming, who has interests in a number of software and e-commerce businesses, was last in the news in January when he made £500,000 before 10.30am in a share trading. However, he is probably best known in the legal market as the founder of JHC plc which used to sell the Forum IBM AS/400-based accounts system into larger law firms.

ROBERTS TO SHIP PC LAW IN THE UK

Long time UK legal market player Alan Roberts (originally with Sumlock, then Admiral and more recently Gavel & Gown and Solace) has set up a new business - PCLaw Ltd (01780 480764) - to sell and distribute the Canadian PCLaw range of legal accounts and practice management software in the UK.

PCLaw, which has about 18,000 users in North America, comes in two versions. A single user version (called PCLaw Jr in the USA) which is suitable for firms with up to 10 fee earners and retails for £750, and the multi-user PCLaw Pro for larger firms with up to 99 fee earners. Both versions have been "Anglicised" for the UK market and the software is compatible with third-party products, including the Amicus Attorney case management system.

Roberts launched the new venture at the recent NEC exhibition and will be running the business from the same Stamford offices that house his existing Gavel & Gown Amicus Attorney operations. Roberts has already signed up Irwin Associates as a reseller and training services provider.

■ COMMENT - Graham Irwin of Irwin Associates (020 7237 6356) says he is happy with the deal as it provides users of his own company's Kestrel low cost accounts system with a Windows upgrade option. In fact probably the only people without a smile on their face are Solace Legal Systems who, through the link-up with the Amicus case management system and Roberts' activities as their sales director, won a place on last year's Law Society Software Solutions guide. Now they have lost both Roberts and the case management relationship.

TAX RETURNS GO ONLINE

Hot on the heels of last week's Budget comes TaxCalc 2000, a new version of the Which? Software (0800 920140) self assessment tax return program. The new version, which costs £24.99 and can also be downloaded from the web, allows users to file their tax returns over the Internet and qualify for the £10 tax discount.

www.taxcalc.com

E-BUSINESS - UK YEAR AHEAD

Over the years we have heard a lot about how wonderful US legal software supposedly is and how much more advanced American lawyers are in their use of technology. But when it comes to legal e-business, it seems the position is reversed. According to a major US legal publisher the Insider has recently been working with, the UK is currently "at least twelve months ahead of the US" in terms of the online delivery of legal services. FirstLAW, the Internet-only law firm, also reports that an analysis of its web site traffic data indicates it is generating a lot of interest in the USA.

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ VIDESS COMPUTER SYSTEMS has begun the new millennium in style by being awarded the Investors in People (IIP) training and development standard, the ISO 9001 quality standard and Microsoft certified solution provider status.

■ LINDON WOOD has won a contract to supply a property management firm with a system to manage a portfolio of 14,000 properties across North-West England. In a novel implementation the company is using conventional case management software but with the "client" field being substituted for a "property" field.

■ TIM HYMAN has joined legal systems integrator TIKIT in the new role of technical services business manager. Hyman was previously the IT director at OLSWANG.

■ AXXIA SYSTEMS has been awarded the "SCO Integration Partner of the Year" award at the recent partner conference run by Unix systems developer SCO.

■ SAGE is now shipping Version 3.5 of its Carpe Diem time tracking system. The upgrade features enhancements to the CDWeb web-based access module.

■ The Belgium-based systems house FALCON SOFTWARE NV has moved to Prins Boudewijnlaan 26, 2550 Kontich, Belgium (+32-3-290.24.37).

■ Library software specialist SOUTRON (01332 821800) has launched a new system, called 20:20, designed for law and other specialist libraries. The system is modular, includes a web interface and is based on the popular DB/TextWorks library database software.

www.soutron.com

■ MICROSOFT has announced the availability of the first service pack (SR-1) for its Office 2000 applications suite. SR-1 is a Windows 2000 compatible collection of updates that can be downloaded free of charge. A CD-Rom version can also be ordered via the web.

<http://www.microsoft.com/uk/office/sr1>

TRAINING NEWS

■ KEY LEGAL ACCOUNTING (020 7626 6616) has launched a CD-Rom based interactive guide to the latest version of the Solicitors' Accounts Rules. Called SAR-CD, it has been developed under licence from the Law Society, has a simple to use browser interface and its content has been broken down into a series of multiple choice tests that qualify for up to nine CPD points. A single user version costs £125 plus £10 per month for the update and CPD accreditation service.

www.keyaccounting.co.uk

■ The UK's newest law faculty at the SOUTHAMPTON INSTITUTE (01703 319000) has launched what is believed to be the country's first online higher education law course for law practitioners. The Postgraduate Certificate in European Union Law is exclusively Internet-based and is attracting students from the USA, Hong Kong, Europe and the UK. Course materials are delivered via the web.

RETURN TO SENDER

Falling into the category of "here's another reason to suggest we should not hold our breath waiting for the Woolf technology revolution to sweep through the courts" comes news that British government departments and officials, including e-commerce minister Patricia Hewitt and e-envoy Alex Allan, are still using fax and phone communications because of problems with the Whitehall e-mail infrastructure.

Apparently the GSI (government secure intranet) system that keeps the bureaucracy safe from hackers has so many firewalls operating across incompatible legacy computer networks that even intra-departmental e-mail traffic is frequently disrupted. By coincidence, one of the criticisms made of the Lord Chancellor's Department's 1998 Civil dot Justice consultation paper was that Whitehall's enthusiasm for "joined up government" could create a situation in which clients and lawyers would not have the online access to the courts envisaged in the original Woolf report because they would be on the wrong side of the GSI firewall.

NEC SHOW REPORT - BIGGER AND BETTER

A fortnight ago the Solicitors National Legal Office Exhibition made its third appearance at the Birmingham NEC. The event was bigger and better than in previous years in terms of more visitors - attendance figures were marginally up on 1999 to 3100 - and better designed stands and overall exhibition layout - the central hospitality area once again serving as a focal point.

Although this year did see an increased focus on legal IT - all the suppliers the Insider spoke to indicated they were happy with the quality and volume of visitors and planned to return next year - the organisers remain committed to running the event as a broad-based trade show and continue to attract a strong contingent of expert witness and ancillary legal services exhibitors.

■ Among the products making their debut was the new Paragon Caseflow case management system from LEGATO COMPUTER SERVICES (01489 881105). The system has been designed by Dave Webber, who has an extensive track record in legal systems design, and can be fully integrated with the Paragon PMS back office financial and practice management system.

www.legato-legal.co.uk

■ SOLICITORS OWN SOFTWARE launched a new version of the SOS Practice Manager system. This has a Microsoft Outlook "look and feel" and an integrated contact management system that can identify the relationship between clients, matters, contacts and organisations. SOS has also launched a new marketing module designed to help organise an entire mailshot campaign.

www.sosbath.co.uk

■ PERICOM used its stand at the NEC to demonstrate its new Intra.Doc product. This is a web-based document management and archiving system that allows documents in almost any file format (Word, PDF, HTML and scanned images) to be stored on an intranet and accessed via a standard web browser. The company reckons the system, which runs on a standard Windows NT or Sun Solaris web server, is simple enough to use that installation and training can take as little as two days. There is also a facility to duplicate and publish files across a security firewall so that selected information can be made available to business contacts and clients via the public Internet.

www.pericom.co.uk

■ Still in the web technology field W3 ELECTRONIC MEDIA (0113 297 0707), part of the EVERLOGIC GROUP, was showing its latest Internet security, thin client computing and intranet design products and services.

www.w3.co.uk

■ The dates for next year's event, which once again will be sponsored by the Law Society Gazette, are 13-to-15 March although the organisers are considering a later date of 20-to-22 March to avoid clashes with Crufts and Cheltenham.

For other NEC new product launch news see pages 1, 3 & 6

THE SEVEN TO WATCH

The first edition of *Legal IT*, the new magazine published by Global Professional Media (GPM), identifies seven suppliers with potential to shake-up the UK legal IT market.

AXXIA is mentioned on the grounds that while it may have a conservative image, it is the middle market leader and one of the few suppliers with a management structure capable of growing the company in the long term. Russell Shepherd, who has some radical ideas on Internet-based marketing, including using the "value destruction" model to cut the ground from established bricks and mortar competitors in the legal forms market, is credited with making CAPSOFT UK a supplier to watch.

Also listed is EPOCH SOFTWARE. Currently riding high on the e-commerce wave although its achievements with Desktop Lawyer may seem peripheral to the main legal systems market, its activities could redefine the way legal services are delivered in the UK. And KEYSTONE SOFTWARE which, after a slow start, has just raised £8.4 million to fund an ASP operation to put it at the forefront of the next-big-thing in legal systems development.

The often under-rated PILGRIM SYSTEMS makes it onto the list for being the first UK supplier to recognise the Microsoft-with-everything Windows/SQL Server trend and for recruiting a former Microsoft UK managing director to help steer the company towards a public flotation.

Also listed is relative newcomer RAMESYS HOLDINGS, a software group spun off from the insurance and financial systems specialist Misys. Ramesys has already acquired The Data Base and is talking about acquiring other legal systems suppliers. Finally, SOLICITEC makes it into the seven for being one of the first suppliers to recognise the importance of web enablement and for focussing on case management and joint ventures. Solicitec is also given full marks for being one of the few legal systems suppliers with a relaxed Silicon Valley-style corporate mindset.

■ *Legal IT* is published eight times a year and available on subscription, price £104. Call 020 8845 5571. GPM, which also publishes *Legal Week*, has now rebranded its web sites.

www.legalweek.net

www.legalit.net

TFB PLANNING TO BE AN ASP

Continued from front page

this month, is DeskNet Partner. This is a web-enabled alternative to a conventional fee earner desktop system that allows partners and fee earners to access client and matter records, run reports (the software uses thin client technology so there is a live link to the underlying database) and make time postings via almost any device that can run web browser software.

The third stage, scheduled for September of this year, will see TFB launch a full ASP (application server provider) version of its software that will provide law firms with an alternative way of acquiring the benefits of an IT system.

LEGAL TECHNOLOGY DIARY DATES

■ APRIL 4 & 5, LONDON - Knowledge Management & Intranet Solutions conference and exhibition at the Novotel West London. Gwenda Sippings, head of information at Clifford Chance, is giving a paper on knowledge management in the legal industry. Exhibition admission free, delegate rates for the conference sessions from £452 a day. For details call Learned Information on 01865 388000.

■ APRIL 11, BIRMINGHAM - E-Commerce 2000. Sanderson Systems' roadshow takes place at the National Motorcycle Museum. There is another opportunity to catch the event in Wakefield on 27th June. Admission free, for details call Lisa Quinn on 0121 359 4861.

■ APRIL 11, LONDON - The Future for Mid-Size Firms. One day conference at Lords Cricket Ground organised by Centaur Conferences. The event includes a technology forum with Allan Green from Peter Rickson & Partners and Doug McLachlan of Axxia. The full delegate fee is £437 (+VAT) with discounts available. The event qualifies for 5 CPD hours. For details call Centaur on 0207 970 4770.

■ APRIL 13-15, LONDON - APIL National Conference. The Association of Personal Injury Lawyers celebrates its tenth anniversary with a three day conference and mini-exhibition at the International Hotel in Docklands. The full delegate fee is £475 (+VAT). For details, including exhibitor opportunities, call Marlene Lord of APIL on 0115 958 0585.

www.apil.com

■ MAY 17 & 18, LONDON - LegalTech London. This is the new look, rebranded and refocussed Solex show which now has two distinct elements - a free to visit exhibition (doors open at 10.30am) and a pay to attend conference programme organised by PricewaterhouseCoopers that runs from 9.30am to 5.00pm each day. Speakers include Richard Susskind and Elizabeth Broderick of Blake Dawson. For details call Imark on 07000 763 896.

www.legaltechshow.com/london

SITES TO BOOKMARK

■ Accountants and management consultants BDO STOY HAYWARD has launched a new share price tracking index - the iINDEX (Internet Index) that monitors the performance of the UK's leading quoted Internet companies. The iINDEX can be viewed free of charge in a chart format that compares prices with the main FTSE and NASDAQ indexes.

www.bdo.co.uk/iindex/iindex.htm

■ Norfolk law firm STEELE & CO is to launch a one-stop business information web site in association with the Eastern Regional Development Agency and the DTi-funded Business Link agency. The site is a members only service costing £29.95 a month (+VAT) to access.

www.e-b1s.com

■ The LORD CHANCELLOR'S DEPARTMENT web site has published two new consultation papers on its "What's New?" section. One deals with proposed changes in civil and family courts in the light of the Human Rights Act, which comes into effect in October. The other contains proposals relating to the power of courts to set discount rates in personal injury awards to reflect the benefits of lump sums being invested.

www.open.gov.uk/lcd

■ Law firms interested in establishing professional links with South American law firms should visit the new Latin Lawyer legal services portal.

www.latinlawyer.com

JUDICIAL EARNINGS UNDER SCRUTINY

In the United States, one of the main bodies governing judicial policy - the Judicial Conference - has just voted to allow federal judges' financial disclosure forms to be released for publication on the Internet. The vote effectively reverses an earlier decision by the conference's financial disclosure committee, which last December ruled that such reports should not be disclosed to APBnews.com, a web site that focuses on criminal justice news.

AND THEN THERE WERE TWELVE !

One of the more surprising developments at the recent Solicitors exhibition at the NEC was the launch of not one but four new online "value-added" directories of law firms.

The four services are Local-Legal from Online Magic, Law2U from E2U plc, Legal Web 2000 and Lawfree.Net from Lawyers Online. All four operate on broadly the same business model - solicitors pay a fee to be listed in an online database that can be searched by members of the public by name, location or area of legal specialism.

The result, in theory, is that as a result of their listings law firms attract work that would otherwise go elsewhere. Prices range from £40 to £500 a year for a listing and some services also offer additional facilities, such as Internet connection and web site design.

www.local-legal.co.uk

www.law2u.co.uk

www.legalweb2000.com

www.lawfree.net

■ COMMENT - Talk about jumping on a bandwagon. Last year at least three such services were launched - LegalHelp, LawyersWeb and Martindale-Hubbell's Lawyers HomePages. So far this year, in addition to the four mentioned above, we have already seen the launch of AccidentDirect and Law Web and there are three more - Law4Today.co.uk, the family practice oriented WebLawyers and Armstrong Neal's online conveyancing and estate agency service, on the way. This brings the total to twelve or thirteen if you include DirectLaw but that does have a different business model.

It is hard to see how the market can support this many and it is safe to assume that several more directories are under development. Perhaps the ones that focus on specific geographic catchment areas, a legal practice specialism or, as in the case of Lawfree.net with its free legal advice service, some other differentiating feature, will thrive.

Otherwise, survival looks like being dependent upon who has the deepest pockets and can afford to run the sustained marketing campaign needed to keep a site in the public eye. The problem here is recent stock market setbacks suggest the Internet bubble may have already burst and that the number of investors prepared to throw money at loss making ventures is starting to decline.

BROWSER WAR TO RE-START ?

Microsoft's Internet Explorer browser has been steadily gaining market share over the last year at the expense of its great rival Netscape. IE now has over 75 percent of the general market and an in excess of 90 percent share of the UK legal market. However, that could be about to change. After not launching a major upgrade since version 4.5 in October 1998, Netscape has just announced that it will be releasing a beta version of Netscape 6.0 at the end of April.

HUMMINGBIRD IN LEGAL PORTAL LAUNCH

Hummingbird Communications is now shipping what it claims is the market's first enterprise information portal (EIP) designed specifically for the legal community.

Called the Hummingbird EIP Legal Edition, it provides law firms with a framework for creating an intranet offering a single point of access to structured and unstructured information from both internal and external sources, including law-related news feeds and legal publishers.

In the course of developing the system Hummingbird has formed partnerships with a number of other legal market software vendors (the best known of these in the UK is Interface Software, the developer of the InterAction relationship management system) to ensure firms can have access to all their existing information resources through the same portal.

■ The system has been tested extensively by the Washington DC law firm Dickstein Shapiro Morin & Oshinsky, which has now gone on to deploy it on a practice-wide basis. Pricing starts at US\$100,000.

■ Hummingbird Communications has opened a new office at 10 Fenchurch Avenue, just behind Lloyd's in the City of London, to support its DOCS and Fulcrum sales operations.

www.hummingbird.com

INTERNET NEWS IN BRIEF

■ STEP UK (01793 485465), part of the German Step digital publishing technologies group, is beta testing a Lex legal module for its SigmaLink intranet-based document management and SGML/XML editorial system. Step say Lex is ideal for legal publishers who need to maintain and update complex hyperlinked data, such as case report and statute databases. The Insider understands both SWEET & MAXWELL and CCH/CRONER have evaluated the system.

www.stepuk.com

■ NETLEX UK (0131 667 7204) is now shipping its offline portal system that allows law firms to browse for selected information without being connected to the Internet.

www.netlex.co.uk

■ The DIALOG online services group, which incorporates MAID and KNIGHT-RIDDER, has sold its core business information services division to the THOMSON CORPORATION, the parent of both SWEET & MAXWELL and WESTLAW, for US\$275 million. Dialog's poor performance, low share price and debt burden has earned it the nickname of "Dial-a-dog" in recent months, whereas Thomson has just announced plans to broaden the market for its online services and plans to increase its revenues from Internet-related activities from seven percent to between 35 and 50 percent over the next five years.

READER SERVICES

■ INSIDER E-ZINES

Legal Technology Insider also publishes two current awareness e-zines (e-mail newsletters). These are: *New Media Lawyer*, covering all aspects of the Internet and new media law industries, and *Watching Brief Online*, carrying comment on recent local government law cases. Subscription is free. To be added to the distribution list send a note of your e-mail address to:

info@legaltechnology.co.uk

Copies of the latest issues, plus a full archive, can also be found on the web:

www.newmedialawyer.co.uk

www.watchingbrief.com

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KLA AND DOCS BACK ON TRACK

Last week saw some bizarre rumours circulating about the relationship between PC Docs development partner Kramer Lee & Associates and Hummingbird, the owners of PC Docs.

KLA director Tom Lee told the Insider that while it was true relations with PC Docs/Fulcrum (UK) "had been strained of late," with no meetings taking place between the companies since October of last year, he and co-director Earnie Kramer had "a successful and interesting meeting" on Friday 17th March with Fabrizio Mignini, the general manager for PC Docs/Fulcrum operations at Hummingbird.

Following that meeting, Mignini e-mailed Lee to say he and European manager Giovanni Evangelisti intended "to explore all possible avenues" in order to re-establish a good working relationship between the two companies, including the possibility of creating a new type of partnership arrangement between KLA and PC Docs in the UK.

Lee says he is optimistic KLA will be able to restore the relationship it had in pre-Hummingbird days when Scott Kadlec was the vice chairman of PC Docs Inc. In the meantime KLA still has a contractual relationship with PC Docs and continues to support in excess of 75 percent of all DOCS Open users in the UK, with 15 more law firms signing up for KLA services since January of this year.

SOMETHING FOR THE WEEKEND

With 1st April falling on a Saturday this year, most offices should escape the glut of "amusing" pranks that usually take place on April Fool's Day. But, if you are a glutton for punishment, you might try installing RJL's bogus Y2K bug software. It converts every "Y" in a document to a "K" (as in Y-to-K) and also has an option that allows you to program colleagues' PCs to randomly generate disgusting bodily function-type sounds.

If you want to provide your superiors with a really good excuse for giving you the sack, you could also download and install an online version of the Pooh sticks game that kept Winnie the Pooh amused for hours. Or, for the more seriously inclined slackers, there is LegOS from Markus Noga. This is a programming language for the Mindstorms microcomputer system that allows Lego building bricks users to create robots and similar animated constructions.

- www.rjlsoftware.com
- www.poohsticks.com
- www.legomindstorms.com
- www.noga.de

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of Legal Technology Insider - No. 99 - will be published on Wednesday 12th April 2000.