

Case study:

The DocBuster Advantage for e-Disclosure

The 'discovery to disclosure' process is dramatically accelerated by Millnet's powerful DocBuster™ Suite of e-Disclosure Tools

When huge government IT projects go wrong, they usually hit the headlines and not just in the IT press. And all too often, projects which do go wrong result in expensive and high profile litigation. An increasing proportion of potential evidence in litigation cases exists only in electronic documents such as e-mails, word documents, spreadsheets and so on.

Millnet's DocBuster™ suite of e-disclosure tools is aimed at speeding up the electronic discovery process. Because multiple copies of electronic documents often exist in several places or as different versions and variants, there is a need to create one database of unique documents from which the review process can begin. Next, metadata such as author, subject and date created is extracted and used to further filter and reduce the overall document population. This iterative process ultimately leads to the identification of the documents that are most relevant to the case.

Millnet was approached by a top 20 law firm acting for an IT outsourcing firm with a requirement to review and filter a significant population of electronic documents relating to a pending litigation matter. As the vast majority of relevant documents existed only in electronic form, Millnet was asked to create a central database of documents including e-mails and Microsoft Office files.

Millnet's long established relationship with both the law firm and their client was a factor in their appointment, according to the partner in charge of the matter...

"We needed the ability to rapidly process and cross-reference thousands of documents in their native formats. We were attracted to Millnet's DocBuster technology because it promised to deliver significant time and cost savings to our client."

Over a 12 month period, Millnet created a central database to which relevant or potentially relevant data was added in tranches;

in all, the database grew to over 120 gigabytes. The beauty of the DocBuster solution is its ability to continually de-duplicate documents thus enabling all parties to review only records which are relevant and unique. In a case this large and complex, this ability translates into huge time savings.

At the heart of DocBuster is a processing engine with a sophisticated means of extracting and comparing text and document metadata from a huge number of native file formats such as MS Project, Visio, Word, Excel and Outlook.

Gary Lawson, Head of the DocBuster Development Team elaborates further, "A number of bespoke modules were developed specifically for this project. The DocBuster solution is not just a matter of clever mapping and matching algorithms but about providing the maximum input to that essential human element which is all about exercising judgement.

An added dimension to the project was that the client had employed two separate database consultants to advise them and each had his own approach to database construction and search functionality.

"The need to consider the requirements of four parties at all times - our client law firm, their client and the two database experts - was an additional challenge.

At the height of the process we had a bank of sixteen high end computers running concurrently throughout the day and night. At the end of it all, we had a clean database, containing only documents relevant to the matter."

The client sums up, "The matter was settled to our client's satisfaction. Being able to quickly and comprehensively review such a large population of documents gave us a significant advantage. We were very impressed with the powerful analytic toolset contained in DocBuster."