

End-to-end e-discovery solution that increased productivity of legal teams.



Our client is a leading provider of secure collaboration software for legal content that helps widely dispersed teams review large volumes of documents in image and native formats, and manage complex matters. They offer a compelling alternative to enterprise software to connect people from different organizations.

The Need

Faced with rising litigation levels, corporate legal teams are faced with increasingly large volumes of documents to review, accompanied by rising attorney costs. Our client wished to offer their customers a composite system to process content and search, review, and produce documents – enabling users to collaborate online without compromising data security.

Marlabs Solution

Marlabs built an integrated e-discovery solution. When a case is filed, all computer hard discs are “frozen” and the data is handed over to our client for processing. In the first step, unnecessary files such as .exes and .dlls are removed.

The focus of e-discovery is on MS Office documents, pdf and tiff files. Marlabs developed a utility to explode emails and extract content of messages from .pst files. Consolidated data is hosted in a file server at the Marlabs data center – as much as 10 terabytes of data.

This is followed by removal of duplicates and near-duplicates. Searching for duplicates is based on hash algorithms that return a unique hash value for each file. Still more challenging are the near duplicates – files with just slight differences in content. The solution integrates specialized products with vector based algorithms to flag near duplicates. For searching the repository, we integrated the FAST search engine. FAST enables extremely rapid search – less than 1 second for searching over 10 million documents.

Consisting of attorneys, the review team logs into the application, searches content, and narrows down search results. The process includes document coding (determination of responsiveness and privilege) and redaction (obscuring of confidential information). A workflow enabled module, the review system supports multiple review levels – including Quality Control and final stage.

Review is followed by production of content for the courts. Thereby completing the end-to-end e-discovery cycle.

Client:

Provider of legal content collaboration services

Technology Platform:

- .NET 2005
- SQL Server 2005
- FAST

Benefits

- Web based solution that can be accessed from anywhere.
- Achieved web-based redaction - an industry first.
- Enabled distributed teams to securely collaborate and review documents.
- Achieved increased regulatory compliance.
- Increased productivity of client legal teams.
- Revenue accretive solution as processing and hosting became significant revenue sources.