

Press Release

A virtual solution to managing multiple repositories

In The rapid growth and management of information and knowledge within organisations is an on-going challenge faced by most IT departments. It certainly is not an easy task managing and providing consolidated access to multiple repositories, knowledge and content pools.

Most organisations' information and knowledge are in the form of structured and unstructured data, residing within databases, storage media, file systems, libraries, and/or specific enterprise application repositories. The most daunting task faced by most firms is the distribution, update and management of all these contents across their business.

Many multi-site organisations manage this task by creating an information pool that replicates itself from one location to another on a regular basis. Although this approach can be effective, it introduces unnecessary strain on the infrastructure, requires careful management of the frequency of updates and impacts upon the reliability of the firm's infrastructure — to name just a few of the drawbacks.

In the case of multiple repositories within a given location, organisations tend to select vendors that can address the issue of cross integration and polarisation between the various enterprise solutions. Although most enterprise solution vendors are gradually moving towards seamless integration between their products and those that complement them, there are still issues with duplications as well as cost.

The ideal solution would probably be a common repository where data can be unified in a way that can address these issues effectively as well as enabling organisations to easily share knowledge and best practice internally and externally. The alternative could be adoption of 'virtual repository management' where organisations can still keep their multiple repositories, but as far as the user is concerned they are using a single repository without the need to move from one to the other. Vendors such as Day (www.day.com) and Windfire (www.windfiretechnology.com) claim to be able to do just that, providing access to all the enterprise's contents and delivering it securely and effectively in real-time while introducing features such as version control, full text searching and encryption which might not have been available before.

So would this work in law firms? Well it certainly is worth considering if the result is truly an integrated information repository that introduces simple, faster, more cost-effective process of managing multiple content repositories.

About imus

imus is an independent London based management consultancy and technology organization, specializing in Intellectual Asset Management. The comprehensive management of knowledge within an organisation is our core business. With a clear grasp of the challenges faced by organisations today, imus is able to provide all the services required to help our customers manage and retain their intellectual capital by delivering and deploying a Knowledge Based Solution successfully.

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