



Press Release

Document management's virtual future

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Are the days of locally-based document management and collaboration over? Are these applications soon going to be labelled 'the legacy system'?

Implementing document management and/or collaboration technologies in-house has considerable impacts on time, resource and budget. There is no doubt that the scale and cost of full implementations has been a major barrier to entry for many small to mid-sized law practices.

There is a new trend emerging with the introduction of virtual document management (DM) and collaboration solutions by application service providers, thus this whole information systems area can be outsourced to a data centre and provisioned in a virtual manner, massively reducing the cost of overall investment.

The future is clearly in web-hosted solutions, enabling organisations, regardless of their size, to benefit from the same available technologies that bigger firms have been using, without the burden of heavy investment.

Providers such as netdocuments.com offer most of the 'out of the box' DM/collaboration functionality of traditional vendors while the virtual nature of the solution means business continuity and availability are built into the data centre supporting the solution.

In theory what they are offering will meet the requirements of almost any firm that has a need for IT systems that support document sharing or collaboration. However, in practice, this has to be proven. Although most law firms generally follow the same process and procedures, no two firms are the same. This type of service is still in its infancy and would probably only cater at the very generic level. But it should not be dismissed.

The advantages are obvious, as an externally hosted system would provide lawyers with the ability to practice DM and online collaboration from any web access point — something that has so far remained beyond the reach of many firms.

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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