



Press Release

Offline Portal – The Way Forward

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Web Portal technology is becoming endemic within most organisations. However, due to the many solutions using the technology there is still some confusion about what a portal really is and what it should really offer. The majority of software vendors in recent years have implemented their own version of the definitive web portal. Collectively they offer similar features and functionalities, most also share the same limitation, access to your information or knowledge can only be most effectively achieved whilst on-line! The major impediment to the wholesale adoption of Web Portal Applications is the frequent inability to access necessary information or knowledge in real-time whilst away from your desktop environment.

Imagine being able to: Access the Know-How library on the way to seeing a client; access information while talking to your client; gain access to precedents while travelling back from client. Using this analogy, the work efficiency could be significantly increased.

Entrants into this previously exotic arena are few; however, they seem to be addressing the key pains of Web Portal implementations. One of the players, iOra (www.iora.com) provides a plug-in to an existing portal/intranet that intelligently collects, compresses, caches and synchronises user centric information and makes it available off-line. It only caches information personalised to the users, compression frequently exceeds 90% thus synchronisation time is efficiently reduced. Finally, the caching is scheduled and so is available when the user requires it. Implementations that are supported by iOra include Share Point, Lotus Domino, Plumtree, and SAP Portal. Another player, Backweb (www.backweb.com) provides a plug-in that allows the user to view their offline portal and is a recognised provider for IBM's' WebSphere Portal.

Currently, there are limitations to this feature, but with all things technology it will either improve or be discontinued. The notable uptake by companies such as HP Consulting, Compaq, Cisco, BT and GSK must mean that there is a requirement that is being met. The question that needs to be addressed is "will it be utilised in the Legal industry?"

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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