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Now Mishcon join the Sharepoint generation

The steady march of Microsoft Sharepoint towards becoming the new standard for law firm document management platforms continues with Mishcon de Reya becoming the latest UK firm to embrace Redmond.

The Mishcon strategy is to link up with Sharepoint integration specialists ClearPeople and document collaboration company Workshare to develop a collaborative document and email management system built on Sharepoint 2010.

Commenting on the move, the firm's director of IT Nick Taylor said "The firm is a long time user of Workshare Professional and we're impressed with Workshare Point, the company's new Sharepoint front end. ClearPeople have also worked with us on several successful Sharepoint projects. By involving ClearPeople and Workshare at such an embryonic stage for this new project, we have an opportunity to design a system that meets our long-term business objectives."

And the firm's COO Bambos Georgiou added "I see this project as a model way for suppliers, integrators and customers to work together to design user focused systems to address ever-evolving real world needs."

ClearPeople co-founder Gabriel Karawani said he thought Mishcon de Reya's approach would pay dividends. "The market is shifting and software providers are keen to prove their capabilities in delivering Sharepoint technology.

⇒ Mishcon de Reya will therefore not only benefit from good timing but will also influence and shape the future of document management on Sharepoint. The beauty of this partnership is the common vision we share, with DM part of a larger collaborative community portal experience."

Workshare VP EMEA Frank Boening added "This relationship is more than just strategic. By licensing Workshare Point and agreeing to become a design partner, Mishcon de Reya will have full access to our product manager and roadmap whilst we will be intimately involved in understanding their scope and requirements."

Comment: It is no longer unusual for a law firm to select Sharepoint as part of its next generation DMS platform however there are still some surprises. For example, what is the motivation for this platform change? And how come it seems to be primarily Autonomy iManage sites that are in the market to migrate when we all previously thought OpenText was the sick man of DMS?

Manches select FWBS for case & matter management

Manches LLP has selected the MatterCentre system from FWBS as its new case and matter management platform. Manches' director of IT Derek Brookes said "We had key requirements to deliver a legal team within our firm with a new workflow solution in a rapid timeframe. MatterCentre allowed a joint FWBS and Manches team to develop our requirements into a finished solution in just six weeks."

Comment: Two points to note here. The first is Manches is one of a growing number of Tier 2 firms to have embraced case and matter management technology in recent months. The second point is that FWBS seems to be soaking up a lot of this business which would have once been the sole preserve of LexisNexis Visualfiles.



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Three vendors ready for MoJ RTA portal upgrade

In keeping with its apparent policy of giving little notice of its plans, on 29th March the Ministry of Justice announced its Release 1 update for its Road Traffic Accident (RTA) claims portal. Three* vendors have however already declared their products' compliance with the update, so their customers were able to meet the MoJ release date.

The three were **Eclipse Legal Systems** with their Proclaim A2A software, which has already been rolled out to over 100 sites; **FWBS**, who worked with David Phillips & Partners and Birchall Blackburn on the design of the system; and, **Zylpha**, whose RapidRTA v3 system provides out-of-the-box RTA portal functionality for LexisNexis Visualfiles and Solcase sites. (** Possibly more than three vendors rose to the upgrade challenge but the others failed to rise to the promotional opportunity challenge.*)

- In a related development, Zylpha has also launched a new data extraction and reporting tool for Solcase users. Called ReportExPlus, it can both speed up the production of existing Solcase reports but also provides a simple drag & drop facility to extract new data.

www.zylpha.com/reportexplus.php

A logical consultancy

Aamir Yusuf, who until November last year was the head of development at IRIS Legal and before that with LexisNexis, has formed a new consultancy with business partner Gary Peate. Called inLOGIC, the consultancy focuses on IT governance, process and project management in the broader business, health, local government and even Formula 1 racing sectors. However the consultancy is also currently partnering with a ➔

➔ technology company on a secure document delivery and exchange portal Yusuf believes could be of interest to the legal market. The product can be branded by a law firm and is mobile ready for iPhones, iPads and similar devices.

www.inlogiclimited.com

MoJ in £56m IT deal

As part of a long term plan to save £28 million a year by 2015, the Ministry of Justice has entered into a five year deal – worth £56 million in total – with Accenture, Steria and Savvis to create a shared enterprise resource planning (ERP) system.



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April's wins, deals, swapouts and rollouts

Farrer outsource to Integreon Farrer & Co has awarded Integreon a contract to deliver its library and information/research services. The deal will see Integreon providing all of Farrer's legal and business research services, in addition to a central enquiries desk, hardcopy and journal maintenance, supplier relationship management and purchasing support. Other UK firms now using Integreon's library services include Morgan Cole, Beachcroft and TLT LLP.

Meanwhile at Lewis Silkin Following the rollout of a Sharepoint-based DMS, Jan Durant's team at Lewis Silkin has also signed up for the entire suite of document comparison, production and PDF applications from DocsCorp, as well as for IntApp's TimeBuilder system. The DocsCorp decision also means Lewis Silkin will be migrating away from their current Workshare platform.

Geldards outsource with Tikit NIS Geldards has selected Tikit's Network & Integration Services (NIS) division to provide 24/7 support services for the firm's IT hardware, as well as monthly housekeeping and preventative maintenance.

- Tikit NIS has also won a contract from accountants Buzzacotts to enhance the firm's core IT infrastructure and help with an office move.

Flint Bishop liberated Flint Bishop has invested in a Linetime Liberate SE case management system, including a B2C client extranet, to support the firm's specialist licensing department.

Bristows time swapout Bristows has selected DTE Axiom, supplied by Phoenix Business Solutions, to replace Carpe Diem as its new time capture platform. Phoenix expect to make more new DTE Axiom win announcements shortly.

- Phoenix is also holding a short seminar (starts 3:00pm) at the Savoy in London on 31st May that will look at the latest version of DTE Axiom. To register email lauren.evans@phoenixbs.com

Another Austrian win Autonomy has secured its second iManage Worksite win at an Austrian-based law firm in three months. The latest win is at Schoenherr, following Wolf Theiss in January.

TLT selects Solcara for KM Bristol-based TLT has selected the Solcara SolSearch and KnowHow systems to provide a new federated search and knowledge management platform. Along with migrating from a legacy know-how application, the implementation project will include integrating the Solcara software with the firm's Autonomy iManage DMS.

Dickinson Dees and Exari Dickinson Dees has extended its use of Exari document assembly software to include the automation of engagement letters. The firm already uses Exari to automate IT and outsourcing agreements and estimates that, on the experience of the past two years, by running Exari savings of up to 80% can be realised on the time it takes to prepare documents.



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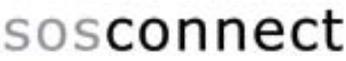
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Corporate news in brief

Civica buys Cave Tab Civica UK has acquired the long established (founded in 1923) document and records management services business Cave Tab for an undisclosed sum. The two companies have already worked together on electronic post room projects, linked to Civica's workflow software, at a number of London boroughs.

DMS for UK Epona is now selling and implementing its Microsoft Sharepoint 2010-based DMSforLegal document management system in the UK through Microsoft UK partner of the year Content and Code. The agreement not only gives Epona a UK presence for the first time but also forms a key part of a major push into the legal vertical market by Content and Code.

www.contentandcode.com

Tick and click The Tikit Group has announced a strategic partnership with QlikTech, developers of the QlikView Business Discovery BI system. This aims to bridge the gap between traditional business intelligence tools and standalone office productivity applications.

More wins and rollouts

TV Edwards swapout Legal aid specialist TV Edwards has selected TikitTFB's Partner for Windows to replace its current IRIS AIM Evolution system. The new system will cater for all practice and case management aspects of the business at a time of rapid expansion for the firm following their recent announcement of mergers with two other London firms (Blacklaws Davis and Dundons) that take the total headcount close to 200 staff.

- As part of the same project, TV Edwards selected Accesspoint Technologies to transfer and support

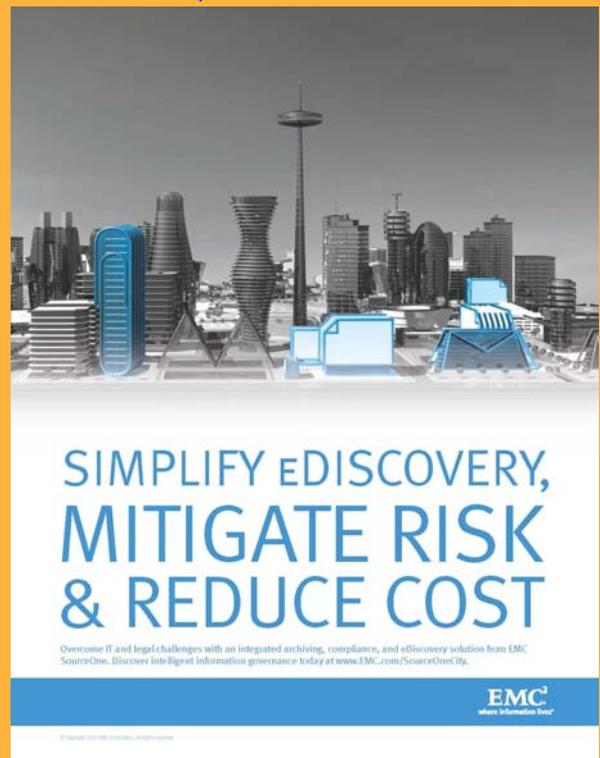
➔ their IT systems onto one managed cloud-based platform. Accesspoint describe their approach as hardware-as-a-service (HaaS).

www.theaccesspoint.co.uk

Olswang win for Frayman Olswang LLP has chosen Compliguard Protect from the Frayman Group as its new information barriers platform. Head of risk management & compliance Tom Arrowsmith said the system provided "an elegant solution for maintaining information barriers in a market where clients are increasingly requesting proof of this capability before engaging with us."

Clearwell adds Aegon The insurance and pension group Aegon's UK legal and IT teams are now using the Clearwell Systems Ediscovery Platform to process, analyse and review ediscovery data inhouse for the purpose of compliance, litigation, regulatory inquiries and internal investigations.

www.clearwellsystems.com



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Speech technology news

Bighand in Farrer swapout Farrer & Co this week announced it had completed the swapout of the firm's legacy Winscribe digital dictation system and its replacement with a 300 user rollout of Bighand DDS workflow software. The firm has also implemented Bighand's Blackberry solution, with 200 fee earners now having access to a mobile dictation solution, along with integration to the Rekoop time capture system.

There's an app for it Paris Smith LLP has now deployed SRC's digital dictation solution and deployed it on both Apple iPhones and iPod Touch devices (the latter using wifi connectivity) to provide lawyers with a remote dictation option.

TikitTFB in LOASys link TikitTFB has formed a strategic partnership with Terry Elwell's LegalDocs UK business. The move will see the LOASys digital dictation + speech recognition + document assembly and management software being offered as an integrated add-on to TikitTFB's Partner for Windows case and practice management system. Breeze & Wyles Solicitors is one of the first firms to implement LOASys with Partner for Windows. TikitTFB will continue to offer integration with other digital dictation products.

Speech recognition success Field Fisher Waterhouse is reporting its deployment of desktop speech recognition, with the assistance of SRC, as a success. According to the firm's head of IT services Mabel Evans, it is helping lawyers and other staff to become more self-sufficient in document production and management and less reliant on secretarial support. Evans adds that lawyers are finding it particularly useful when writing emails.

SRC have integrated the new speech recognition functionality with the firm's existing Winscribe digital dictation software (also supplied via SRC) and have implemented an 'Instant Accuracy' service that has, says Evans, "made a massive difference to how users adopted the system," some "achieving instant 99% accuracy."

News in brief

LegalIT247 Telecoms specialist Matrix247 and IT services company Onyx Group have launched a joint venture aimed at the legal sector. Called LegalIT247, it will provide converged data and telecoms, together with a range of complementary cloud-based services, such as hosted IP telephony, hosted call recording, online backup and data storage. Its first scheduled products are Continuity 247 covering DR and a compliance system.

Mitratech opens in UK Ebilling and corporate counsel matter management systems specialists Mitratech is opening an office in High Holborn, London, to support the company's growing business in the UK and Europe. The move follows the growing demand for corporate compliance and regulatory risk management in Europe.

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New product launches

Dutch get all-in-one Legal Desktop The Dutch ICT company Nobel has launched a new product for small-to-mid size Benelux law firms. Called the Legal Desktop, this is another cloud-based offering providing firms with what is becoming known as an 'integrated best-of-breed solution' and delivering a suite of applications most firms would be unlikely to implement individually. Legal Desktop is a Citrix-based platform and the component elements include Aderant financial and practice management, Epona DMSforLegal document management, Epona ContactManager CRM, Bighand digital dictation, DocsCorp PDF creation software, hosted telephony and Microsoft Office 2010.

www.nobel.nl

CRM4Legal 2011 released Client Profiles has released CRM4Legal 2011, the latest version of its Microsoft Dynamics-based CRM software for law firms. The product includes over 500 new features (*don't panic, we're not going to list them all*) including an Outlook 2010 client, role tailored forms, realtime dashboards, a data export/import to Excel, a connections/relationship tracking feature, contextual document management and team management for collaborative projects.

PayFlow by Kestrel Kestrel Business Solutions has launched PayFlow, a new payments workflow system (based on the LexisNexis Streamline BPM platform) designed to cut the costs and time taken by accounts department staff to plan, approve and track payment transactions from anywhere in the world and in all major currencies. PayFlow can be integrated with existing PMS software, such as Aderant Expert, and permits the approvals process to be automated so requests are routed to alternative partners or managers should the designated person be unavailable.

- Along with working on implementation projects with Pilgrim Systems and Elite, Kestrel has recently partnered with Aderant on an Expert 7.5 upgrade at an international law firm.

www.kestrel-bs.com

Zone Webtop unveiled Prosperoware LLC last week launched Zone Webtop, a new solution for law firms that helps lawyers navigate email and client-matter content repositories in a single browser window view, even when the content resides on multiple systems and workspaces, including iManage Worksite, file shares and Microsoft SharePoint and Exchange. Zone Webtop has also been optimised to run on multiple devices including Windows and Mac desktops and PCs, as well as iPad and Android tablets. US law firm Schiff Hardin LLP is one of the first firms to have adopted Zone Webtop.

www.prosperoware.com

Mobile ediscovery eOrigin Ltd has launched a mobile early case assessment (ECA) and ediscovery service, powered by Digital Reef software, that uses mobile server technology to provide customers with a fixed fee, onsite service.

www.earlycaseassessment.co.uk

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⇒ **Epiq gets mobile** Staying with ediscovery-related stories, Epiq Systems has just launched DMX Mobile. This is a mobile review platform suitable for corporates in Europe who need to review data which, for security, data protection or privacy reasons, needs to be reviewed on-premise. Epiq's international managing director Greg Wildisen says along with confidentiality, security and jurisdictional issues, DMX Mobile also makes an attractive alternative to a permanent investment in ediscovery hardware and software.

www.epiqsystems.com

News monitoring gets easier Linex Systems claims it is simplifying online news monitoring with the launch of its Linex CA aggregation and alerting platform. This provides a single search box to access current awareness content on over 5000 websites and RSS feeds, including PLC, Lexis and Westlaw. Salans is one of the first firms to have implemented the new Linex service.

www.linexsystems.com/linex-blog

People & Places

All aboard the law firm merry-go-round Lots of changes among senior law firm IT posts this month. **Tim Hyman** has left Taylor Wessing to take up the role of IT director EMEA at Reed Smith. Taylor Wessing is still recruiting his replacement. **Chris White**, last seen at Ashurst, has taken over at Kennedys following Ian Lauwerys move to Barlow Lyde & Gilbert (see *last issue*). And **Kevin Goosman**, previously with Cobbetts, is now with Blakemores in Birmingham.

Recommind moves & recruits As part of the expansion of its UK operations, Recommind Ltd has moved to new offices at 6 Snow Hill, London EC1A 2AY and recruited three more people to its ediscovery business team. They are Chris Booth (ediscovery sales) previously at Epiq, David Nichols (sales consultant) previously at Skadden and Herbert Smith, and Andrew Girdiefski (ediscovery project manager) previously at Kroll.

Three + one at Phoenix Four appointments to report at Phoenix Business Solutions this month. **Chris Davis**, originally with DocsCorp EMEA, is now moving back to Australia as the new sales director for Phoenix APAC based out of Sydney. **Graham Haldane**, previously applications manager at Lawrence Graham LLP, has joined Phoenix as its new client services manager. **Paolo Picone**, who was at Ashurst for over 10 years working on infrastructure projects, has joined Phoenix as head of infrastructure solutions. And, **Briony Mackenzie** has returned to Phoenix, from Virtual Age, to take up the sales role within the company's new Infrastructure Services Division.

Huron expands in UK Huron Legal, which recently expanded its European operations with the acquisition of Nigel Murray's Trilantic ediscovery business, has opened a new document review centre in London to handle ediscovery data that is subject to EU data privacy regulations.

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More apps for lawyers

European patent and trademark attorneys **Venner Shipley** have teamed up with Propeller Mobile to create the IP Tool Kit app for iPhone users. Available on iTunes, the IP Tool Kit has been designed for inventors, those managing patent or trademark portfolios and attorneys working in the intellectual property sector. The app provides the ability to search patent, trademark and design databases, as well as containing utilities such as official fees, latest IP news and a patent deadline calculator.

Meanwhile **Eversheds** has launched an HR app for the iPhone and Blackberry that provides answers to commonly asked employment law questions surrounding the lifecycle of an employment contract, from recruitment, to the contractual terms themselves and finally on to termination. However the really interesting aspect is that this is a global app with answers covering 25 countries including the UK, EU member states, Hong Kong and the USA. The app also includes information on family friendly employment rights and restrictive covenants.

Finally, **Rekoop** has created a business intelligence app for the new Blackberry PlayBook, that will deliver realtime information via the Rekoop cloud. The company will formally launch the app at an event being held at Norton Rose in London on the evening of 26th May.

www.rekoop.com/playbook

10 years ago today ...

How times have changed... ten years ago in April 2001 our front page news story was that Lovells (now Hogan Lovells) was starting a three month pilot into the use of digital dictation and speech recognition technology. The software was provided by Bighand. We also reported on a survey into the use of technology by the top 100 UK law firms (this was before the *Insider 250* chart). Axxia (now part of LexisNexis) was the most widely used PMS with 14 user firms, followed by Elite with 13, CMS (now Aderant) tying with Norwel – both with six, followed by ResSoft (now Tikit) on five and Keystone (now Aderant) with three. On the DMS front, 21 firms were running PC Docs (now OpenText) and 12 were on iManage.

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