

What Happened when Four Law Firms Tapped the Power of their Hidden Data

Finding Information Inside Two Terabytes of Unstructured Legacy Data

A 70-person full-service law firm contacted us early this year. They had launched a new document management system, but, despite the expense and time of the installation, their IT group faced what to do with two terabytes of unstructured legacy data. Converting and loading the old documents and email was prohibitively expensive and time consuming but leaving the information in a separate share drive made this gold mine of information difficult to access, turning it into “dark data.”

MetaJure ILLUMINATE was their answer.

ILLUMINATE automatically indexed the firm’s information where it resides. Plus, the attorneys and staff began using it right away, thanks to an easy-to-use search interface.

“MetaJure gets the need for a minimal interface right,” says the firm’s IT Director. “There’s a ton of information [in our system] that goes back many years and there are many files from people who are no longer with the firm. Our attorneys now have easy access to this valuable content.” Adds the firm’s administrator, “MetaJure understands how technology needs to work to be successful in a business environment. They understand it’s all about our business.”

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Law Firm Administrator

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Attorneys Finally Give Up their Paper Files

Like many modern firms, one Seattle-based litigation firm was committed to moving towards a paperless environment, but the firm still had a problem. “We realized a while ago that the future of email and document management is paperless,” says their administrator. “We’ve been scanning all of our files with OCR technology so they’re searchable, but some attorneys have been reluctant to give up their paper files.”

Although the firm already had a document management system in place, the attorneys didn’t trust that they could find the information they needed once it was scanned. That is, until they implemented MetaJure ILLUMINATE.

The firm maintains separate drives for case and client files. According to the firm’s administrator, “For the first time, the attorneys can find things wherever the documents or emails are stored because ILLUMINATE searches simultaneously across all drives.” Second, the intuitive interface provides file paths pointing to the location of all documents. “For lawyers who prefer searching a structured environment, MetaJure ILLUMINATE helps them see what is in their files and that speeds their ability to find information,” says the administrator.

“The best advertisement for MetaJure ILLUMINATE was when an attorney came into a meeting and told everyone how quickly she’d found a document,” adds the IT director. “There is a sense of ease now, since attorneys can find information even in closed files,” adds the administrator. “People aren’t so afraid of keeping paper any more. That’s huge.”

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Litigation Firm Opens Goldmine of Knowledge in Email

Although many mid-size law firms use robust processes and technology to manage their documents, few have addressed managing their trove of email. One mid-size litigation firm is different.

“Our clients include national insurance companies and municipalities. We come up against some of the largest law firms in the country” says the firm’s administrator. Tapping into the firm’s email has been key to the firm’s success.

Seven years ago, the firm invested in a state-of-the-art system to store and manage their Outlook folders, but, as the volume of email grew, it became increasingly difficult for the attorneys and staff to easily find information. Enter MetaJure ILLUMINATE.

MetaJure ILLUMINATE leveraged the system the firm already had, indexing all of the information in place, so there was no need to move the email files or change the storage system. Using powerful search algorithms, ILLUMINATE gave the lawyers and staff immediate access to all of its emails and provided an easy and scalable solution into the future.

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Simultaneous Search of Emails and Documents Solves Major Firm Challenge

Almost a decade ago a land use, real estate and business firm with 80 attorneys and staff selected Worldox© as the central repository for all documents and Mimecast© for email storage. After more than eight years, the systems contained more than seven million emails and documents. However, attorneys and staff complained that finding the documents and information they were looking for in two separate systems was overly complicated.

MetaJure ILLUMINATE promised to provide the firm with a fast and easy search solution that worked across both systems and didn’t disrupt either so the firm could keep their existing structure in place. That meant the attorneys and staff could find what they needed quickly and the IT department could avoid expensive, time consuming data conversion.

Thanks to an intuitive interface, the attorneys and staff began using the program right away.

“I had to author a feature for a fellow winning an industry award,” explained on attorney. “The last time I spent significant time with him was nine years ago. A MetaJure search pulled up the historical emails that helped me reconstruct the timeline of our project and work together. This is a great tool!”

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Partner

Says the firm’s IT Director, “Our clients are sophisticated and demanding. MetaJure ILLUMINATE is one more tool we use to meet their expectations for efficient and high quality legal services.”

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