

Trends and Predictions for 2009



As we start 2009, the focus of both Law Firms and their Corporate Clients is on cost-effective discovery. With this in mind, we asked the e-Discovery experts at LEX to come up with the trends they thought likely to have the most impact in 2009. Here is their list:

1. CLOUD COMPUTING: Cloud Computing is a style of computing in which resources such as servers and storage are provided "as a service" over the Internet (or Cloud). Instead of having to build out a data center, users essentially "rent" someone else's, scaling up or down as required, and paying on a monthly basis. Users don't need to be system administrators to access resources and can assemble databases, web servers and storage devices with drag-and-drop ease. In 2009, we believe that Cloud Computing will

be increasingly used to deliver cost-effective, on-demand e-Discovery processing solutions thereby easing many of the bottlenecks clients face as a consequence of the unpredictable nature of cases and data sets.

2. PRESERVATION: More effective data collection is key to reducing discovery costs. That in turn is dependant on better identification of data and custodians and more effective data preservation. We predict both areas to be the focus of attention in 2009.

3. REPORTING, REPORTING, REPORTING: knowing what data you have is essential to the effective design and management of e-Discovery workflows. Knowing where you are in the workflow is essential to ensuring the project

comes in on time and to budget. Expect to see a wider range of more sophisticated reporting options in 2009.

4. SOFTWARE AS A SERVICE (SaaS): by eliminating the need to install and run the application on the user's own computers, SaaS alleviates the burden of software maintenance, hardware acquisition, ongoing operation, and support. Costs to use the service become a continuous expense, rather than a single cost at point of purchase. The SaaS software vendor may host the application on its own web server, or this function may be handled by a third-party application service provider (ASP). Both models are present in the e-Discovery world and likely to expand through 2009.

And into the Future

Maybe not in 2009, but we see a potential for these two leading-edge technologies in our e-Discovery world:

MICROSOFT SURFACE: Microsoft Surface is a table-sized touch screen computer. It employs a camera based vision system that lets users grab digital content with their hands and move information between objects with simple gestures and touches. The camera can also recognize specially tagged objects placed on the screen. MSNBC's coverage of the 2008 US presidential election used Surface to

share information and analysis. At LEX we can see the potential for using it to create the collaborative Review environment of the future. (For more information about Surface visit: www.microsoft.com/surface).

APPLE IPHONE/ITOUCH: if you can view pictures and movies on your iPhone, you can also review imaged documents. As iPhone applications multiply, it can surely only be a matter of time before we have a mobile, iPhone enabled, document review tool.

