



TWO REALITIES THAT ARE INCREASING THE COMPLEXITY OF EDISCOVERY — AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

Managing the sheer growth of information in the enterprise is a challenge in itself, but exploding data volumes are increasing the quantity of documents that must be preserved, collected, processed, analyzed and reviewed for litigation. Here are two new factors that are creating completely new challenges — and some tips for addressing them.

Decentralization of data

The challenge

Today's corporate data is no longer housed in a relatively small number of enterprise systems and servers. It lives everywhere—in the cloud, on mobile devices, in social media, and even in everyday objects (the “things” in the Internet of things or IoT). This makes collection—and potentially even preservation—more difficult and time-consuming than ever. It also makes developing and maintaining a data map extremely difficult.

How to address it

The more dispersed an organization's data is, the more important it is to develop and maintain a robust and dynamic data map that provides an understanding of not only where data resides, but what type of information the data contains and its ownership. A current and accurate data map is the first step and key to an effective information governance and eDiscovery plan. Additionally, a discovery or litigation repository reduces the need to re-collect the same data across multiple projects so you can focus resources on collecting net-new data as needed. More importantly, a repository that tracks all sources of information (e.g., email server, file share, Dropbox, Office365, etc.) enables you to cross-check your data map to ensure that you've accounted for everything and can further inform and update the data map as needed.

Shadow IT

The challenge

The data decentralization challenge is further compounded by the fact that **there is a lot of data being created and managed by applications that IT isn't aware of**. With cloud computing and bring-your-own-device (BYOD) enabling line-of-business departments and even end users to deploy applications quickly and independently, corporate data isn't just decentralized, it's completely fractured—and the data map will have significant gaps.

How to address it

Organizations need to modify or expand acceptable use policies to include the use of non-IT-delivered applications. In addition to defining the “rules of the road,” they also need to build in a process for making IT aware of these deployments. A discovery repository can help here as well. Capturing data from shadow applications uncovered during one matter can help ensure that those applications or sources are accounted for in the preservation and collection process for subsequent projects and that the data map is updated accordingly.

About Mindseye

Mindseye is a leading provider of eDiscovery software solutions. The company's flagship eDiscovery platform helps organizations manage risk, minimize legal exposure, and eliminate wasted time and money throughout the discovery process. Organizations that use Mindseye can quickly input and access early data to make cost and resource estimates, formulate strategy and case direction, and ultimately move less but more relevant data to review.

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