

CHARLES CHRISTIAN'S

LEGAL TECHNOLOGY INSIDER

THE SOURCE FOR INDEPENDENT LEGAL TECHNOLOGY NEWS, COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

LAWLINK UK LAUNCH

After months of talking, last week the IFG Group finally launched its Lawlink and SecureMail services in the UK. Using the same business model that has operated successfully in the Irish Republic for three years, the Lawlink web portal and SecureMail email services are both subscription-based services but are available separately.

SecureMail is a secure electronic messaging service that is compatible with all industry standard email systems, allows users to retain existing email addresses and offers a number of additional benefits, including email to fax, virus checking, confirmation of delivery and itemised billing.

SecureMail is not a point-to-point system, users still have to check their mailboxes for incoming messages, but the service will support both dial-up and open leased lines to the server. The service also allows messaging to and from the internet, with incoming email automatically virus checked. IFG already offers encrypted email in Ireland and this will be extended to the UK when relevant standards are agreed. Licences cost £18-£20 a month and SecureMail messaging costs an average of 10 pence per transaction.

Lawlink offers subscribers a portfolio of web based news and information for £35 per month (single user rate). With some of the services free and others pay-per-view, it may sound the same as other web portals to commercial information providers but Lawlink has done its homework properly and negotiated some attractive deals. For example, whereas the FT group normally charges an annual up front subscription of £16,000 for its Extel cards service, Lawlink users can access it on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Lawlink is keen to stress it is a "growing and dynamic service" with many new information feeds, including court listings and Smith Bernal case reports, coming online in the next few months. Interestingly, Lawlink is not opting for the "big bang" approach of distributing thousands of CDs in the hope of achieving a critical mass. Instead it will work with legal "communities" with a clearly definable need for such a service. For example Laserform is using it to provide updates to its 1500 + electronic forms users.

- Phone 0171 380 1500 or visit <http://www.lawlink.co.uk>

LIFE WITHOUT MICROSOFT ?

In an exclusive interview with Legal Technology Insider, Corel's president and CEO Mike Cowpland explains his company's vision of the future of computing where, thanks to thin client technology and multi-platform WordPerfect, lawyers will have a viable alternative to Microsoft products.

WordPerfect special report Page 4

LEGAL ACCOUNTS FOR UNDER £100

Irwin Associates has been assigned the copyright to the DOS version of the Kestrel Legal Accounts system by Laserform Law and is now selling the Year 2000 compliant product for just £99 +VAT. Graham Irwin, one of the product's original authors, says Kestrel is an ideal solution for those one-to-three partner Legal Aid and pro bono firms who genuinely cannot afford more expensive systems. Irwin Associates (0171 237 6356) will also supply support and maintenance services for Kestrel users.

STOP PRESS

- **ALL CHANGE AT CENTAUR**
Following last Thursday's sudden resignation of Mark Wyatt, *The Lawyer* magazine's publisher, Rachel Lesiter, who is widely credited with turning the Lawtel online service from a disaster area into a success story, has been appointed in his place. This move has prompted speculation that the next few months will see increased convergence between Centaur's conventional paper and newer digital legal publishing operations.
- **KEYSTONE BUYS BHL**
Keystone Software is in the final stages of acquiring the Australian legal systems house BHL. AIM-listed Keystone is refusing to comment pending a formal Stock Exchange announcement but is expected to make BHL its Australian reseller and offer BHL's largest users the Keystone system as an upgrade option.

THE INSIDER IS THREE

This week Legal Technology Insider marks the third anniversary of its launch in October 1995 with the introduction of a new web-based subscriber-only service.

Reader Services Page 7

EDWARDS GELDARD SELECTS VECTUS

Edwards Geldard, which has offices in Cardiff, Derby, Nottingham and Deeside, has chosen Vectus from Hatton Blue for its new case management system. Vectus will be used in the firm's plaintiff and defendant personal injury and property management departments and replaces a number of stand alone systems.

Hatton Blue describe Vectus as a "customer-centric solution" that "creates a holistic customer view for more effective relationship management". They also claim Vectus can "raise case throughput per fee earner by at least 75 percent".

BIDDLE SAY QUALITY WAS KEY FACTOR

London solicitors Biddle (the firm has dropped the "& Co" suffix from its name) says the decision to order the Pilgrim LawSoft system, instead of the rival LegalMIND product, had nothing to do with uncertainty surrounding Admiral's commitment to the legal systems market.

Practice manager Gareth Mason told the Insider that selection was made entirely on product merits "after long, detailed and extensive investigation of several packages including LawSoft and LegalMind. In the event Pilgrim's system proved significantly better than any of its competitors and it was on this basis we selected and installed LawSoft." The site went live on 21st September.

BUZZWORD CORNER

Management consultancy Gartner Group has coined a new phrase the Insider predicts will soon appear on slides and PowerPoint presentations at law firm IT and management conferences. The phrase is "zero latency" which Gartner defines as the ability of a business to react immediately to any information it receives. Gartner predicts the growing use of "push" technologies and practice wide intranets, that can publish new information to all interested parties as soon as it is captured, will make zero latency one of the most important trends in IT over the next five years.

MARKETING SYSTEMS COMPETITION HOTS UP

The competition between Cole Valley's MarketEase system and Interface Software's InterAction for a share of the UK legal sector's marketing and relationship management systems market is hotting up.

After Berwin Leighton ordered InterAction earlier this summer (Insider sources report Lovell White Durrant is in the process of finalising a 1300 seat order for InterAction), MarketEase's UK distributor Lawtech Services has now secured an order from Davies Arnold Cooper (DAC).

The order follows the arrival at DAC earlier this year of new marketing director Paul Jaffa, who wanted something more powerful to replace the firm's existing marketing software, a module in Axxia's Arista practice management system. Lawtech will be integrating MarketEase with Arista to provide contact, billings and matter information on fee earner desktops.

Lawtech's Mike Stichbury says the company is currently pitching MarketEase to seven Elite and three CMS sites in the UK who want to replace their systems' respective PDS and Market Sense marketing modules.

- Lawtech is one of the sponsors of this month's Professional Services Marketing Group annual conference for law firm marketeers of the Landmark Hotel in London on 20th October. New City Media, the Quarry Dougall publishing subsidiary, is also a sponsor. Full details can be found on the web. <http://www.psmg.co.uk>

ACE SITES FALL TO PARAGON

Legal Technology Insider has learned that two former ACE Infinity sites in London - Seddons and Rochman Landau - are now in the process of installing the Paragon practice management system.

- The story in LTI 67 on Paragon offering full integration with the OMS office management system has prompted requests for more information on the background to OMS.

The system was developed by Franklins Walker Business Systems (FWBS) of Northampton (01604 828228). The company's directors are Michael Franklin, the managing partner of Franklins Solicitors, plus a number of his partners, the firm's IT manager Mark Hemmings and software designer Mike Walker. Mike Walker's father David (no relation to David Walker of Solace) was a well-known player in the UK legal systems market during the 1980s.

<http://www.fwbs.co.uk/>

LAW SOC PROJECT ON COURSE

Latest reports from Chancery Lane suggest the English Law Society is now putting the final touches to its new "Software Solutions" initiative for smaller solicitors' practices and will be launching the scheme, which will include a list of five "preferred suppliers", during November.

BOWHAWK LOW COST LIT SUPPORT MOVE

Bowhawk Consulting has launched a new litigation support service called Discovery Express which is designed to provide solicitors' practices, particularly smaller firms, with a discovery list in an electronic format without having to invest in new IT systems, software support and training.

According to Discovery Express head Nicholas Fowler, "within days" Bowhawk can covert the contents of paper files into data stored on a CD-Rom, which the solicitor can then exchange with other parties, from £300 a file.

Discovery Express uses a streamlined version of Oxford Law & Computing's OpenLaw software. This allows users to search, sort and review documents and then generate discovery lists from a scanned and coded database. For details call: 01252 716694.

● Oxford Law & Computing has moved office. The new address is: Tatham House, Northcourt Lane, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 1PN. The new phone number is: 01235 203690.

TCO TO PREVIEW MIS AND WEB ENHANCEMENTS

Tech Computer Office (TCO) is to preview two major enhancements to its OfficeBase practice management system at the Northern Legal Office Exhibition at GMEX in Manchester later this month.

The first is a new management information (MIS) system called Chameleon that allows lawyers to create or adapt reports on-the-fly without having to call in an IT specialist to modify the interface between the MIS and core database.

The other enhancement, ClientLink, is effectively a web enablement facility designed to give users limited access to OfficeBase via a web browser and provide fee earners, clients and other relevant parties, who need to share data or are working from remote locations, with interactive access via the internet or an intranet/extranet link.

Both products were originally developed for two of TCO's non-legal market customers: Montgomery Watson and AMEC. Chameleon is shipping now and ClientLink will be commercially available early next year.

THE REAL ELECTRONIC DX

Quick to install, runs on all Windows platforms, easy to use, saves times, has a regular update service and free to Hays DX subscribers. It is Address Plus, a handy PC utility offering an electronic alternative to looking for addresses in a DX directory. And when you have found an address it can be pasted directly into a range software applications. Hays (01753 630630) admit the product could be sold on a commercial basis but are giving it away free in an attempt to wean users off the expensive to produce and distribute paper version of the directory. <http://www.haysdx.co.uk>

RECRUITMENT NEWS IN BRIEF

● SUPPORT & TRAINING STAFF

Lawbase is looking for customer support and training staff to work with its new range of Windows case management software. Candidates should know the legal market, have Microsoft and wordprocessing skills and be willing to travel. Send CVs to Manus Ward at Lawbase Legal Systems, Chapel House, Nutford Place, London W1H 6AE.

● BEEN THERE, DONE IT

The last issue of LTI reported that former Linetimer Paul Wyatt had moved to Axxia Systems. Well, he's been there, done it, got the tee-shirt, didn't like it and is now working at Solicitec on debt collection system sales.

● AIMING FOR LEEDS

AIM has appointed John Wood as general manager in charge of the company's Leeds operations. He will be responsible for debt and case management systems for the local government and private practice sectors, as well as the company's Debtco 3 software for corporate credit management departments.

● INTERIM RESULTS STRONG

AIM-listed headhunter Longbridge has reported a 56 percent increase in turnover to £2.77million on its half year to 30th June and a 39 percent increase in net profits before tax. IT accounts for 15 percent of the group's turnover.

● CALLING DPS TRAINERS

Alternative Team, one of the UK's leading developers of DPS case management software, is looking for an additional trainer to help users with applications training, support and development. The salary is negotiable but candidates must have an expert knowledge of Microsoft Word plus a working knowledge of Novell Groupwise, WordPerfect, Windows and the DPS system. The London-based job will also include working with email, network faxing, modem support systems and telephone hotlines. Send CVs to Raoul Dutta at Alternative Team Ltd, 17 Mountgrove Road, London N5 2LU.

WORDPERFECT NEWS IN BRIEF

● HOLD THAT UPGRADE

Corel says it will have completed testing WordPerfect 5.1 for DOS for Year 2000 compliance by Christmas. LTI will report on the results as soon as they are ready.

● COMING TO THE UK

Although WordPerfect Version 9.0 will receive its public preview at the COMDEX show in Las Vegas on 16th November, it will not be commercially available in the UK until next March. One of the earliest opportunities to see it will be at the NEC Legal Exhibition (March 16-to-18 1999), where Corel has booked a stand. This is believed to be WordPerfect's first ever official appearance at a UK legal event.

● STARRING ROLE

The now notorious Starr Report into President Clinton's activities with Monica Lewinsky was prepared both for printing and posting onto the internet using WordPerfect 8.0.

● NO SILENCE IN COURT

Over 1000 federal judges in Canada now use WordPerfect and its accompanying Dragon NaturallySpeaking speech recognition software to prepare rulings and judgments. Corel says the system does not replace the keyboard and mouse and admits that, because it still takes a lot of time to "train" the system, it is not for everyone, particularly people only using it for short documents. "Power users" needing to input large volumes of text can expect to reduce the time taken on such tasks by as much as 60 percent.

● MIGRATING FROM WORD

Corel is running a campaign to win the hearts and mind of UK legal systems developers to ensure those who have gone the Microsoft-with-everything route still offer WordPerfect as an alternative to MS Word. Recent converts include Bar software supplier Meridian Information Systems, who report being pleasantly surprised at how little time and coding was needed to provide WordPerfect integration, and Avenue Legal Systems, who will now supply it when requested.

LIFE OUTSIDE THE MICROSOFT UNIVERSE

In an exclusive interview Corel's president and CEO Mike Cowpland told Legal Technology Insider that the company's commitment to WordPerfect and the legal IT market was a long term relationship.

"Although we have been going through a transitional period with the closure of our Orem site and relocating all WordPerfect development to Ottawa, the move has actually gone better than expected. We will shortly be launching Version 9.0 but we are already planning Version 10. As a company Corel has just posted a return to profit in its Q3 financial results. We are recruiting extra support and development staff in Canada, Dublin and the UK. And we have no intention of losing the 60-70 percent share of the US legal wordprocessing market we still possess."

Corel accepts file compatibility between WordPerfect and Word is a key to the product's future: "Version 9.0 will offer a seamless round trip to Word and back without any loss of functionality," says Cowpland. But, this is not the only element in Corel's strategy to compete with Microsoft.

According to Cowpland: "Users will find the WordPerfect 9.0 suite is bigger and better in every way than Microsoft Office. WordPerfect has more functionality than Word, Quattro Pro has more functionality than Excel and Presentations has more functionality than PowerPoint."

Cowpland also believes WordPerfect offers a better deal than Office. "At a time when Microsoft is increasing prices, we are already two to three times less expensive. We also allow concurrent licensing and recognise users may want to use the same application at different times on different machines - in the office, at home and on a laptop."

WordPerfect has always been a multiplatform product and Corel is to continue this with Version 9.0 launching on Windows, Macintosh and Linux/Unix platforms. But Cowpland also sees "Java as being the glue" that holds this multiplatform world together.

To this end Corel is now investing heavily in "thin client" projects. In the next few weeks SyBase will begin incorporating Corel's J-Bridge thin client technology into its systems. J-Bridge is positioned as a "second generation" alternative to Citrix Winframe and Microsoft Terminal Server. And, Corel's hardware subsidiary Corel Computer will soon be shipping its new NetWinderWS low cost thin-server-in-box product. These Linux-based systems will be bundled with WordPerfect software and support any client.

Undoubtedly this is the biggest difference between Corel and Microsoft. Whereas Bill Gates is committed to an all Windows strategy, Cowpland believes in a "free and open future that provides an alternative to Microsoft."

● WordPerfect 9.0 uses the same XML (rich text extension of HTML) file format Microsoft will use in its new Office 2000 suite. Cowpland is also optimistic it will still be possible to launch a version of the WordPerfect legal suite, which includes Amicus Attorney and HotDocs, in the UK.

COOKIES AND "PUSH" TECHNOLOGY

Last week Butterworths launched *PI Online*, the latest addition to its *Butterworths Direct* web-based law library, and on the 21st of this month it will be launching *Legislation Direct*, which includes the full text of over 17,000 Acts of Parliament and statutory instruments of general application in England & Wales.

Along with expanding the scope of the *Butterworths Direct* service (since its launch in May this year this has already built up a user traffic equating to 700 sessions a day, with each session lasting seven minutes), the latest developments coincide with a major enhancement to the *Law Direct* current awareness service.

Originally designed to deliver, via the web, a daily summary of the latest development in areas of law each subscriber had identified as being of interest, this service is now being revamped to use "push" technology in the form of daily email alerts. Thus, instead of having to log on to the web to read the summaries, they will be delivered directly to the subscriber's desktop via email.

● COMMENT

Butterworths say that by dispatching emails at midnight they will overcome the delays inherent with internet email traffic (which previously forced Sweet & Maxwell to drop trials of a "next day" update service) and still be able to deliver the summaries by the start of the next working day.

Readers will recall that when launched *Butterworths Direct* came in for a lot of criticism on both its pricing policy and use of "cookies". While subscriptions are still based on the total number of named individual users in an organisation, as distinct from the floating concurrent user basis most readers would prefer, Butterworths has simplified licensing so it is now possible for one subscriber to access the service from different machines, typically one in the office and another at home, without having to arrange an additional subscription. This has been made possible by Butterworths no longer using secure cookies to restrict access. But, because the service is built around Microsoft's SiteDirector system, users must still have cookies "enabled" on their browsers before they can log in.

● *PI Online* costs from £295, *Legislation Direct* from £1850 with discount rates for existing *Halsbury's* subscribers.

<http://www.butterworths.co.uk>

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Within the last few months both Sweet & Maxwell and Butterworths have abandoned their traditional approach to marketing, in which new products tended to escape rather than be launched, and appointed PR agencies to handle publicity for their burgeoning digital operations. Butterworths has appointed Axicom PR and Sweets has appointed long-time legal market specialists Marketeer.

LEGAL TECHNOLOGY DIARY DATES

● AIM SEMINARS

A series of free seminars around the UK (the Scottish dates are Edinburgh 27th October and Glasgow 10th November) until 17th November to promote AIM's case and practice management systems. Call AIM on: 01482 326971 for details.

● AVENUE SEMINARS

A marathon series of free seminars at 57 locations around England & Wales to promote Avenue Legal Systems' Wisdom suite of case and practice management software. The seminars run until 13th April 1999. Call Clare Wynn at Avenue's Manchester office on: 0161 776 4387.

● AXXIA SEMINARS

A series of free seminars running until 12th November on fee earner productivity and case management to promote Axxia products. Call Claire Jones or James Lambert on: 0118 960 2602 for details.

● NORTHERN LEGAL OFFICE

The second Northern Legal Office Exhibition takes place at the GMEX Centre in Manchester on 21/22 October. The doors open at 9.30 and close at 19.00 on Wednesday and 17.00 on Thursday. With a number of suppliers, including TCO, Sanderson and Meridian planning to launch or preview new systems at the event, the trip to GMEX should be worthwhile. Admission is free, for tickets call: 0181 742 3399.

● LEGAL MONTE CARLO 98

Major "networking" opportunity for inhouse lawyers to meet law firms pitching for corporate business. The event runs from 30th October to 2nd November. Call: 0171 578 7235.

● KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

One day Centaur conference on Monday 16 November looking at the role of intranets and know-how systems within law firms. Speakers from Allen & Overy and Ashurst Morris Crisp. The chairman is Clive Whitfield-Jones of Jeffrey Green Russell. Starts 9.30, ends 17.30. Tickets £417 + VAT. Call: 0171 970 4770.

Y2K WEB SITES

After wasting over a year on publicity stunts, the UK government has accepted its millennium compliance project has fallen apart. Instead of a team of 20,000 "computer bugbusters" it has managed to scrape together just 26 people. And at the Labour Party conference last week minister Margaret Beckett admitted she had "come late and somewhat reluctantly to the view that we cannot be confident we can deal with all the problems".

Fortunately private enterprise has displayed more initiative than politicians and the civil service and the following web resources may be worth visiting:

- **LEXIS-NEXIS**

This site carries recent Year 2000 articles, outside Y2K links and information on obtaining Y2K-compliant research tools.

<http://www.lexis-nexis.com/y2k/>

- **NEW DIMENSION**

Y2K bug specialist Data Dimensions has revamped the UK government's Action 2000 register of leading PC software products to make it simpler for users to determine a product's Y2K compliance.

<http://www.bug2000.co.uk>

- **EDS VENDOR 2000**

The US systems house EDS has made its millennium compliance database of over 3000 vendors and 125,000 software products, which was originally developed for its own customers, freely available on the web.

<http://www.eds.com/vendor2000>

WEB NEWS IN BRIEF

- **DATABASE HAS NEW HOME**

Information Providers, who used to run the English Law Society's original web site, has moved its searchable database of legal resources and links to a new site.

<http://www.internet-law.co.uk>

- **E-DOCS WEB SITE**

E-docs plc, which last month launched its slightly less-than-revolutionary electronic document exchange service, now has a supporting web site.

<http://www.e-docs.plc.uk>

NEW FACE TRYING TO CORNER LEGAL WEB

This week sees the launch of a new legal market oriented internet service provider. Called Lawyers Online, it hopes to get off to a flying start by distributing the access software, including Internet Explorer, free of charge on 84,000 CDs that will be attached to the front cover of the *Law Society's Gazette*. After that users only have to install the software, phone for a user name and login password, sign up for the service and then they can begin using the service.

In terms of costs, there is a one-off set-up charge of £25 and a monthly charge of £9.99 a month although the company is hoping users will commit for a full year's service for an up-front price of £99.99. (Add VAT to all prices.) Once signed-up, users can log on to the service using an 0845 local call rate number but it is worth noting that both the initial call to obtain a user name and any subsequent calls to the support helpline are charged at a £1.50 per minute premium charge rate.

Technical director Bill Naylor says users will find the service fast because it can handle both ISDN and V.90 calls (V.90 is the recently agreed 56 kbps modem standard that replaces the rival x2 and K56Flex proprietary standards). In addition to an email account with an "unlimited" number of addresses, subscribers get 10 Mb of web space, so they can have their own web sites. The company also offers domain name registration, web site design services and, in an attempt to create a commercial "portal", firms can pay to have their own hyperlinked logos displayed on the Lawyers Online site from £100 a month.

- **COMMENT**

The company sells itself as a service for lawyers that is run by lawyers (in fact it is sponsored by the Association of Conditional Fee Lawyers) with subscribers strictly limited to members of the profession. (Email messages can still be sent to and from anywhere on the internet.) Naylor says it may not be the cheapest service (the new Dixons service is free) but believes lawyers will be attracted by the exclusivity and knowing the servers only host legal traffic. Users wanting additional security are being advised to subscribe to the Verisign commercial encryption system.

Not only does the Lawyers Online launch come hard on the heels of the E-docs and Lawlink announcements but there are at least three other organisations - including the John Moores University in Liverpool, internet backbone provider Worldcom and legal publishers Legalease - either investigating or gearing up to enter the secure email/legal portal market. Sit back and enjoy the show as prices plummet and would-be web entrepreneurs lose their shirts.

- On a technical note, at LTi we found the web site had some Java features that crashed with Internet Explorer but were compatible with Netscape. Incidentally, the site is unrelated to the Lawyers Online.com site in the USA.

<http://www.lawersonline.co.uk>

SHOW ME THE MONEY

The Civil Justice IT Strategy Development Group's new consultation paper *civil.justice - resolving and avoiding disputes in the information age* cannot be faulted in terms of its diagnosis that the English civil justice system is little more than an outdated circus involving large numbers of judges, court officials, lawyers and litigants wasting time and money adhering to procedural rituals that have long since ceased to make sense or have any practical relevance.

The paper's proposed IT-oriented remedies, which include the replacement of paper-based procedures with multimedia electronic files, greater use of courtroom automation and litigation support technologies, the introduction of case scheduling and management systems and the use of video conferences and online forums to create "virtual hearings", also cannot be faulted, not least because many of the technologies mentioned are already in use in the offices of both law firms and their clients.

But who is going to pay for it? This is by far the weakest section of the paper, in fact it appears to have been tacked on as an afterthought. One proposal is for costs to be recovered from court users "through greater income from fees", which sounds a good way to alienate the public.

The other suggestion is for greater use of the private finance initiative (PFI). Are they serious? Has it escaped the Lord Chancellor's Department's notice that almost every PFI project involving the justice system has been a disaster? There are calls for the Public Accounts Committee to investigate the management of the MASS magistrates courts IT project. Magistrates court staff have also described the PFI procurement process for the LIBRA project as a "farce". And it now appears the case tracking and listing systems to support the Woolf reforms will not be ready until "early 2000" - in the interim 60 clerical staff will attempt to perform the task using manual methods.

- The closing date for consultation is 18th December and the full text of the consultation paper is on the web.

<http://www.open.gov.uk/lcd>

LITIGATION SUPPORT FOR THE REST OF THE MARKET ?

Combined Solutions Group (CSG), which was recently set up to provide litigation support services on a bureau basis for small-to-medium-sized firms, has moved to 14 Tiller Road, Docklands, London E14 8PX (0171 538 8800).

Legal director Mark Burrows (another exile from DPA Egami) believes that while there are plenty of litigation support companies targeting the larger City firms, the needs of smaller solicitors' practices, particularly provincial firms, have largely been ignored. CSG aims to fill this gap in the market and will be offering a range of products and services in association with companies such as IGL, Sellers Imago and Software Dimensions, the developers of Adest, the top selling Irish document management system.

READER SERVICES

● LTI-NET DIRECT

The Insider is available electronically in an HTML file format (delivered as an email attachment) that can be accessed via internal intranets, cut and pasted into Lotus Notes databases or just read and printed from the desktop. If you have an Internet Explorer, Outlook Express or Word 7.0 (or later) you can open a file directly by clicking on it. LTI-NET is supplied complete with hypertext links. Subscription rates start at £135 (£115 + VAT). For details phone: 01379 687518.

● LTI-NET ON THE WEB

The full text of the Insider, along with an archive of past issues, is available on the web. This is a secure, subscriber-only site. For details phone: 01379 687518.

<http://www.cloudnine.co.uk/lti-net/>

● INSIDER WEB SITE

For the latest news and links to legal IT web sites visit the Insider home page.

<http://www.cloudnine.co.uk>

● EXTRA COPIES

Tired of waiting for the latest issue of the Insider to make its way around the office and arrive at your desktop? For details of discount rates for bulk sales and group subscriptions phone: 01379 687518.

● E-PR@CTICE NEWSLETTERS

A series of free current awareness email newsletters providing news and comment on areas of legal practice. Titles available: *Local Government Law Digital Newsletter* and the *Internet Law Digital Newsletter*. To subscribe, send a note of your email address to: info@cloudnine.co.uk

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LEGAL TECHNOLOGY INSIDER

For all editorial and subscription matters contact: Cloudnine Technology, Ferndale House, North Lopham, Diss, Norfolk IP22 2NQ, United Kingdom

Editor: Charles Christian

Tel: 01379 687518 - Fax: 01379 687704
Videoconference line: 01379 687690 x 2
Email: info@cloudnine.co.uk

● NEXT ISSUE

Issue 69 of the Insider will be published on Wednesday 21st October.

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Legal Technology Insider is available only on subscription. UK rates: £115 for 21 issues pa or £210 for 42 issues. (Rest of EU: £135 for 21 issues or £245 for 42 issues. Rest of World: £140 for 21 issues or £250 for 42 issues. Payment by International Money Order or Bankers Draft in £ Sterling drawn on London.)

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ANTHONY GOLD WANT THIN CLIENTS

Anthony Gold Lerman & Muirhead has begun rolling out a Norwel practice management system, as part of a £200,000 upgrade to the 12 partner firm's IT systems. The firm is currently replacing its existing TFB accounts software and later this autumn will begin implementing Norwel's new case management system. This will replace the personal injury system the firm co-developed for its own use in the early 1990s. Managing partner David Marshall says the new case management system has been designed with the *Woolf Report* reforms in mind and is intended to be more pro-active in its handling of case work.

● On the technology front, the Windows NT4/SQL Server based systems will be running on a Citrix Winframe "thin client" platform, which the firm believes will give it the scalability it needs to accommodate its expansion plans, while at the same time eliminating the cost of constantly having to upgrade or replace older desktop PCs and using less bandwidth, so as to reduce the cost of the kilostream link between its Streatham and central London offices.

NEWS IN BRIEF

● **LINETIME USER GROUP GETS NEW HEAD**
Norma Dias, of Gerrards Cross solicitors B P Collins, has been appointed the new chair of the Linetime User Group. Ms Dias says she is keen to "reposition" the user group as a forum for the exchange of ideas between Linetime's development team and not just the purchasers of Linetime software but also the people who actually use the systems on a day-to-day basis.

● **LOOSEMOORES STANDARDISE ON OYEZ**
Loosemoores has standardised on the OYEZForms range as the electronic legal forms system for its three offices and 82 staff in the Cardiff area. The Oyez software is also going to be integrated with the firm's case management system.

● **KNIGHTS RIDE OFF WITH MILES**
Knight & Sons, one of the largest firms in Staffordshire, has ordered the Precedent practice management software from Miles 33 to serve as the basis for its news accounts, client/matter and marketing information systems.

● **NEW TIMESLIPS SYSTEM ON ITS WAY**
The Sage group has launched Timeslips Version 9, a new 32-bit version of its time recording and billing package. The product will initially only be available in the United States but should be on sale in the UK by spring 1999. The new version, which has a Windows 98 user interface, includes a number of enhancements to make it easier for lawyers to customise it to match the way they work.

http://www.timeslips.com