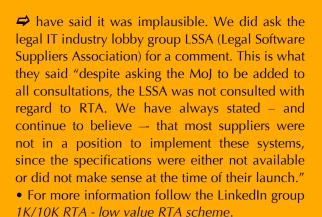**LEGAL TECHNOLOGY INSIDER**

Labour's portal isn't working

The new Tory/Lib-Dem government didn't waste any time implementing its election pledge to scrap Home Information Packs, which were suspended from the end of last week and will be replaced by energy performance certificates. Maybe now it could turn its attention to another baleful legacy of Labour, namely the Ministry of Justice's botched attempt at A2A communications associated with the Personal Injury Portal (PIP) for handling low value road traffic accident (RTA) claims.

We've seen some of the email exchanges between the MoJ, top 100 law firms and case management software vendors. While it appears the men from the ministry are now trying to pass the buck to the hapless prime contractors Polaris, the underlying theme is one of specifications and schemas being changed on multiple occasions and without notice, leaving neither firms nor IT vendors any opportunity to change their systems to accommodate the changes.

The MoJ's failure to grasp the realities of computing is best summed up by this exchange with a vendor. **MoJ** The schema has changed, we will send you the new format. **Ven** Does that mean going live will be delayed? **MoJ** No. **Ven** But if the schema is changed it means submissions to the portal will be rejected? **MoJ** Yes. **Ven** So how should be submit them? **MoJ** Through the portal. **Ven** But they will be rejected? **MoJ** Yes.

If that exchange had appeared in an episode of *Yes, Minister* or *The Thick of It* we'd ⇨

have said it was implausible. We did ask the legal IT industry lobby group LSSA (Legal Software Suppliers Association) for a comment. This is what they said "despite asking the MoJ to be added to all consultations, the LSSA was not consulted with regard to RTA. We have always stated – and continue to believe –- that most suppliers were not in a position to implement these systems, since the specifications were either not available or did not make sense at the time of their launch."
• For more information follow the LinkedIn group *1K/10K RTA - low value RTA scheme*.

And the Law Society isn't working either

One of the criticisms raised about the MoJ's PIP debacle was 'what was the (English) Law Society doing when they were consulted on the project?' We suspect the answer is 'not a lot' – a view echoed by Richard Susskind in his column in *The Times* a fortnight ago when he asked "Does the Law Society know there's an internet generation?"

Commenting on Chancery Lane's *Access to Justice Review* consultation paper, Susskind said the report is little more than an attempt "to find new ways to fund old fashioned lawyers." With 85.9% of firms having four or fewer partners and 44.2% sole practitioners "this looks like a cottage industry, with members who handcraft labour-intensive and bespoke solutions." Susskind went on to say "in 15 tendentious sentences, lawyers are simplistically discouraged from entering the information age". Maybe the new government could scrap the Law Society as well?
• Susskind also added that back in 1996, "senior figures in the Law Society" said he should not be allowed to speak in public because he had predicted that lawyers and clients would soon communicate by email and that such innovation would bring the profession into disrepute.

Integreon nets Cameron £583m mega deal

In what is believed to be the single largest outsourcing deal in the global legal market to-date, CMS Cameron McKenna has signed a contract with Integreon worth £583 million over the next 10 years. The firm is effectively outsourcing its entire 'middle office services', including substantial portions of accounting and finance, HR and training, marketing, learning and development, library and information services, research, IT, facilities and other services to Integreon – in other words pretty much all of its non-billable activities. The firm says the move will allow it to focus on its core competency – providing high end legal services to clients – while leaving support operations to Integreon.

Comment: Not surprisingly market reaction to the news seems broadly split between 'Camerons must be mad' to 'wake up and smell the coffee, this is the way all firms must go if they hope to compete and survive'. Other aspects of the story include: Camerons is expected to sublet part of its City premises to Integreon, who will create a support services centre there. Although this deal will initially serve just Camerons, it is expected middle office outsourcing will be rolled out to the entire CMS network of nine European law firms over the next three to four years. And, just as the Osborne Clarke contract last year saw the creation of an Integreon outsourcing service centre for mid-sized firms (Foot Anstey is the latest firm to sign up for it), so it is expected the new City operation will provide a hub for selling outsourcing services into other large firms.
• It is believed about 200 Cameron support staff will transfer over to Integreon. And, in a twist of fate HCL Technologies, who are currently half way through a five year, £10 million IT co-sourcing deal with Camerons, will soon find their contract managed by another outsourcer, Integreon.

Axxia continues to bleed

LexisNexis Axxia is apparently still the vendor currently least popular with its users, with two more firms announcing swap-out orders this month. Dorset-based Dickinson Manser is to replace its Axxia software with a 58 user TikitTFB Partner for Windows case and practice management system. Sister company Tikit NIS will supply and manage the firm's hardware.

And, Jacksons Solicitors, which has offices in Newcastle upon Tyne and Stockton-on-Tees, has selected Pilgrim Lawsoft to replace its legacy Axxia practice management system. The firm said it was not a decision taken lightly – it has been an Axxia user for over 20 years – but felt that despite the long association with Axxia, Lawsoft was the more impressive system.

Comment: One vendor told us they were now receiving more enquiries and ITTs from Axxia sites than any other source. The three vendors Axxia users most frequently approach are Pilgrim, TikitTFB and IRIS Legal. The last of these probably raises the most eyebrows, as 18 months ago it was IRIS that was viewed as the supplier with issues.
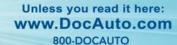
May's new wins

A&O builds walls with IntApp
Allen & Overy has selected Wall Builder from IntApp Inc to enforce confidentiality policies and to track compliance across the firm. Wall Builder is a web-based confidentiality management app.

Speechly says yes to Copitrak
Speechly Bircham has swapped out its Billback cost recovery platform in favour of Copitrak. The firm's IT director Robert Cohen said he commenced trials with Copitrak because he was unhappy with service and technical aspects of the incumbent system, including experiencing reliability issues with secure printing. ➡

May's wins continued

Wedlake Bell go with FWBS
London commercial practice Wedlake Bell has signed an agreement with FWBS to take the company's MatterCentre system to handle client and matter processes. Head of IT Linda Webster said the firm would use the system "to solve some urgent business challenges around firm-wide client information and reporting, as well as case and matter management in the near future",
• Brighton-based Woolley Bevis Diplock has also signed up for FWBS MatterCentre to handle case, document and matter management. FWBS say the deal came down to a two horse race with Eclipse, with MatterCentre winning due to its ease of use and operation within Microsoft Office.

Norton Rose rolling down the Riverbed
Norton Rose is currently rolling out a Riverbed IT infrastructure performance monitoring system to help optimise IT bandwidth and network performance. The system was bought from Tikit.

Hill Dickinson give DX a fresh lease of life
Like a lot of firms, Hill Dickinson is on the DX but had found that increasing volumes of post were being sent by Royal Mail because its DX directory was limited. Using an address book refresh service from AFD Software, the firm has quadrupled the number of DX addresses on its database and made it available firmwide. IT & operations director Keith Feeny said in the six months since the address cleansing process "we've seen a marked increase in DX use, saving us upto 40% in costs compared to Royal Mail".
www.afd.co.uk

Harrowells scans with Cleardata
York-based Harrowells has invested in an on-site document scanning solution supplied by Cleardata. As part of a paperless office project, the firm needed to back archive and add to their DMS approximately half a million documents from current live client files but without them leaving the site. Harowells' new platform includes two Kodak i1440s with barcode scanning for filing.
www.cleardata.co.uk

Old Buildings gets new technology
Barristers chambers XXIV Old Buildings in London has upgraded to IRIS Meridian Law Connected to take advantage of enhanced diary, fees and chambers management functionality.

JBHS switches to SOS Connect for case
Jackson Brierly Hudson Stoney (JBHS) is upgrading to the latest SOS Connect software for practice management. The Rochdale firm is also standardising on SOS for case management. The firm, which is also dropping its Ochresoft conveyancing system in favour of SOS, said the acquisition of another firm (A H Sutcliffe & Co) was an incentive to standardise business process.

TikitTFB win Mountain swapout
Nottingham law firm Marchants has selected a Partner for Windows case and PMS from TikitTFB to replace its old IRIS Mountain FoxPro software. The firm said the trigger "to look for something fresh" was the scheduled withdrawal of support for FoxPro in July 2011.

Sharepoint 2010 set to be a monster ?

Speaking at last week's *Legal IT Leaders Think Tank* conference in London, Rob Saccone, the VP & general manager of XMLAW/Hubbard One, said "the number one question I'm now asked is can I install Sharepoint 2010 as my DMS?" Saccone said the latest version was a step up from Sharepoint 2007, offering much improved scalability, a range of within-firm social networking tools with great potential in knowledge management applications, a better out-of-the-box user experience and a genuine enterprise search capability. (Sharepoint now offers its own search engine or Microsoft FAST.) But does all this make it a legal DMS?

Saccone's view is that while Sharepoint 2010 is a leap forward on 2007, it is not a cheap product and you would need more than just cost savings to justify swapping out an existing DMS. He says the issue with current DM products is "they've grown way too complicated, as vendors add more bells and whistles." Instead, he suggests firms should take the opportunity to look at the bigger picture and ask if they really want a discrete system or whether document management should now become part of the infrastructure. "Sharepoint offers a lot of opportunities to do things better. It's the next level above Windows. If you are not using it soon, you'll be left behind."

• Saccone also confirmed reports both Clifford Chance and Baker & McKenzie are currently looking into the viability of basing their next generation DM strategies around Sharepoint.

More May wins

Hill Dickinson refresh with Phoenix
As part of a major IT refresh project, and following a formal ITT process, Hill Dickinson has chosen Phoenix Business Solution to implement an ⇨

⇨ Autonomy iManage DMS. The project will see iManage deployed across 1200 users in its UK Singapore and Piraeus offices. IT & operations director Keith Feeny said "the solid out of the box search, email and document management functionality iManage offers made it by far the favourite choice of DM system. Phoenix also has its Worksite Assist suite of products that add value to the implementation."

Wilkin Chapman swaps out AIM for Linetime
Wilkin Chapman LLP, one of the largest law firms in Lincolnshire and East Yorkshire with 32 partners and 254 staff, has signed to take Linetime's Liberate system to replace its old IRIS AIM Evolution software. The firm is merging with Grange Wintringham in August and selected Liberate for accounts, online billing, case and practice management.

New product launches

Aderant users get clearer view
Aderant has launched Expert ClearView, a new SharePoint-based application designed to provide law firm management with a consolidated view of both operational and performance data, to facilitate improved decision making.
• Aderant has also announced the general availability of its StarLaw integrated suite of email, document and records management applications.

New civil billing module from DPS
DPS Software has released its new civil billing module for e-forms and bulk upload of CMRF and CMSF forms. The facility allows firms to undertake 75% of means and 25% of merits testing online.

Watchdog Server will bite
DocAuto is shipping its Watchdog Server in the UK through Tikit. The system monitors iManage Worksite DMS activity in the background to help prevent content theft and unauthorised IP use.

Voice technology news

Speech recognition might win prizes

Nuance Communications, the company behind the Dragon NaturallySpeaking speech recognition application, has launched a *Speech Recognition Success @ Work* competition. The closing date for entries is 30 July and there are three categories: *Company Growth & Cost Savings, Productivity & Career Prospects* and *Quality of Life at Work*. You can find full details and entry forms on the web.
www.nuance.co.uk/dragon-at-work

Bighand add document capabilities to Blackberry

Bighand has launched v4 of its Blackberry dictation app. New features include central configuration of Blackberry client setting from BES, advanced profiling, full work-in-progress visibility and the ability to access and review finalised documents on a Blackberry. In addition – and these features will probably attract the most attention – v4 also allows users to take and attach photos to dictations, as well as attach documents to dictations on a Blackberry and submit them to the relevant workflow. Any file that can be browsed can be attached.
• Bighand is embarking on a nationwide breakfast briefings tour next month (15 June to 20 July) to demonstrate its latest software and to introduce its longer term strategy. For more details or to register email **mobile@bighand.com**

Winscribe running Blackberry seminars

Winscribe, in conjunction with Blackberry and Rekoop will run two seminars next month looking at how mobile solutions can offer fee earners flexible working while maintaining optimal productivity. There is a breakfast briefing in London on 22 June and a late afternoon session in Manchester on 24 June. To register visit
www.winscribe.com/mobile
• Rekoop (01606 814860) now works with a number of digital dictation systems suppliers.
www.rekoop.com

V7 users can now yodal on Blackberry

Digital dictation systems supplier V7 Technology has launched a mobile version – called Yodal – that will run on a Blackberry (OS 4.2 with a memory card). Firms that have already adopted the Yodal + Blackberry platform include King Sturge LLP and London criminal lawyers EBR Attridge. *The Insider is currently trialling the software and will report back later.*
www.v7technology.com

Winscribe v4.0 gets templates update

Winscribe has enhanced its v4.0 DDS software by giving users of its speech recognition integration the ability to build a library of standard text templates that authors can select at the point of dictation. In effect this is the dictation equivalent of pasting in clauses from a WP templates library. Templates are held centrally on the Winscribe server. The update is available as a free upgrade.
• In other Winscribe news, Nikky Briggs has joined the company as marketing executive. Prior to this she headed marketing communications for part of Babcock International and she has also worked as a radio journalist.

News in brief

Another 1300 sign up for IRIS portal

In complete contrast to the MoJ RTA portal, the new IRIS Legal web portal not only works but continues to attact new users, with an additional 1300 users registering over the past two months. With a total of over 1800 users, it now provides access to a wide range of both IRIS product related and general legal practice information. For details email **legalportaladmin@iris.co.uk**

New UK sales manager for Capensys

Ian Brown, who has extensive experience of implementing e-learning and blended training projects, has been appointed the new UK sales manager for e-learning specialists Capensys.

SaaS clouds... and ash clouds

Cloud computing continues to go from strength to strength with two more vendors announcing new software as a service initiatives. As part of its SaaS strategy to service mid-size law firms, Pilgrim Systems has announced a partnership with IT services providers K-Cloud and 2e2. MBM Commercial already runs Pilgrim Lawsoft on a SaaS contract, while K-Cloud has also developed contractual relationships with Bighand, Open Text, Mimecast and Microsoft.

Meanwhile, LexisNexis has launched a Managed Services operation offering LexisNexis DNA as a fully-hosted, integrated practice management solution for small-to-mid sized firms. LexisNexis Managed Services will be provisioned by well-known managed services and hosted solutions provider E-know.net Limited. LexisNexis will also be offering Axxia DNA customers the opportunity to run other hosted applications, including LexisNexis Interaction, VoIP, Microsoft Exchange, Sharepoint and document management.

• Still in the cloud, only with the additional complication of clouds of volcanic ash, IRIS Legal report that two barristers chambers' users of the IRIS Hosted Service – Mark Sayers, chambers director of Park Lane Plowden and Stephen Ward, managing director of Clerksroom – were able to continue working, more-or-less business as usual, despite being stranded by swimming pools in, respectively, the Canaries and Goa, India, following the recent Icelandic volcano eruption.
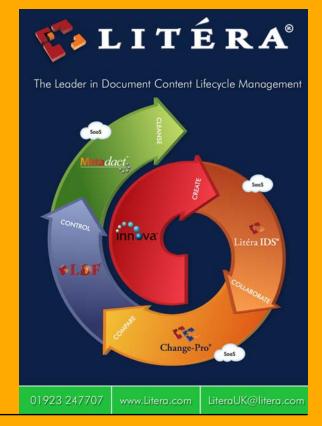
UK not ready for data breach or e-disclosure

New research commissioned by Recommind suggests that neither UK businesses nor law firms are ready for 'information risk' issues, such as data breaches and e-disclosure requests. For example, whereas 38% of organisations in the survey sample had allocated some of their ➡

➡ current information management budgets to document management and enterprise search, only 17% had made email management a priority and just 7% had factored social media and Web 2.0 into their 2010 spend plans. The last statistic is all the more worrying as 35% of the sample said social media/Web 2.0 represented one of the biggest risks associated with their information.

Recommind research also found that while 50% of businesses (70% in the financial sector) had seen an increase in e-disclosure requests over the past year, two-thirds of those surveyed still dedicate less than 5% of their IT budgets to preparing for e-disclosure requests. The research suggests 32% are unable to search their email archives, only 15% can instantly assess the cost and risk of an e-disclosure event, and 17% have no e-disclosure capabilities whatsoever.

• In an attempt to raise awareness of information risk issues, Recommind (in conjunction with Field Fisher Waterhouse, Chris Dale's eDisclosure Information Project, IntApp, Legal Technology Insider and others) has launched the Info Risk Awareness online resource for organisations in the UK and continental Europe.
www.inforiskawareness.com

Fire and water blights legal IT events calendar

Natural forces have been taking their toll on legal IT events over the past month. First to be hit was Aderant's annual Momentum user group conference in Miami in April, which opened on the weekend the Icelandic volcano first shutdown international air traffic. The result was the UK contingent of about 30 delegates was down to just two. Don't despair, Aderant is running an EMEA regional user conference in London on 6 & 7 July.

Then it was the turn of ILTA, which has had to put its annual conference plans on hold after flash floods swept through Tennessee, causing damage, loss of life and flooding the venue of the 2010 event – the Gaylord Opryland hotel in Nashville – which has now closed for six months while water damage is repaired and the hotel refurbished. ILTA has now relocated the event to the Aria Resort Hotel on the Las Vegas Strip – same dates 22-26 August.

Finally, Chilli IQ's *Legal IT Leaders Think Tank* conference in London last week was deprived of its co-chair Browning Marean, of DLA Piper, after his flight from the USA was cancelled because of another pesky plume of Icelandic volcanic ash. In this instance however technology came to the rescue and his co-presentation, with QBD senior master Stephen Whitaker on ediscovery trends, still went ahead thanks to a videoconference over Skype link-up.

The next event that could be in the firing line – if the wind is blowing in the wrong direction – is the *Legal Week* Strategic Technology Forum in Spain in a fortnight's time.

Litigation support news

Hobs Legal partners with Clearwell
Hobs Legal Docs has partnered with Clearwell Systems and added the Clearwell product for processing, analysing, reviewing and producing ESI to its service portfolio.
www.hobslegaldocs.com

Trilantic opens in Dubai
Trilantic has opened an office in Dubai to service its Middle East and Gulf projects. The office is on the 18th floor of the Burjuman Business Tower in Dubai City. (Tel +971 4509 6716)
• Nick Evans, previously a director with FTI Consulting and Lovells, has joined Trilantic as senior project manager and consultant.

Lineal partners with CDS
London-based Lineal has entered into a strategic partnership with New York-based Complete Discovery Source (CDS) in a deal that will see both companies provide ediscovery support services to their respective customers on both sides of the Atlantic.
www.linealservices.com

Iron Mountain gets new commercial director
Iron Mountain has promoted Russell Sanderson to the role of commercial director for professional services in the UK.

Virtual practices are different practices

Talking to Stephen Parry, the business development director of the Virtual Practices arm of SOS last week, and he mentioned that whereas the business began as a hosted/SaaS software plus outsourced legal cashiering service for smaller firms, over the past couple of years the type of firm they are attracting has subtley changed.

Instead of older 'sunset' firms that cannot afford inhouse IT, or else their bookkeeper has retired (which remains a steady source of work for some other bureaux) SOS Virtual Practices is now attracting an increasing number of start-up, boutique and breakaway firms. For them, the 'virtual' approach to IT and cashiering is a deliberate strategic choice, so they can focus resources on developing their legal practice rather than saddle themselves from the outset with a capital investment in back office systems and staff. Parry adds another attraction of the company's approach is the SaaS service can be accessed from anywhere via an internet link, which fits in with start-ups that are also opting for a virtual approach to office premises. The service can also address business continuity and disaster recovery issues.

Looking further ahead, because the Virtual Practices service is based on SOS Connect case and practice management software, growing firms have a clear migration path once they outgrow the service. (The cut-off point is around 20 users.) Reflecting the increasingly sophisticated demands of users – and taking advantage of the fact the service runs on the same database as the full SOS Connect system – Virtual Practices can now offer users a wide and frequently delivered range of accounts and practice management reports. (For the Scottish market, the company already delivers daily cashbook reports).

• The most recent wins for Virtual Practices are Sarah Goulbourne's commercial and civil litigation start-up S J Legal and niche property start up Matrix Legal. After reviewing other hosted offerings, Matrix founder Tariq Mubarak opted for case management (which went live in two weeks) as well as the accounts and cashiering service.

New product launches

QlikView for a quick view
Informance is now reselling and implementing Qlik Tech's QlikView business intelligence system, along with a market-specific dashboard, into the legal market. Recent customers include Winkworth Sherwood and Tods Murray.
www.informance.co.uk

Phoenix launch Worksite Guardian
Phoenix Business Solutions has launched its Worksite Guardian utility for Autonomy iManage site. It allows firms to monitor, warn and report unusual activity against sensitive documents and matters. Salans has been evaluting the system.

LexisCheck now at v3.0
LexisCheck v3.0 legal references validation software can now handle web-based content as well as recognise the new Supreme Court citation.

New product launches

Tikit launches FileNote for iManage DMS

Tikit has broadened its inhouse developed software portfolio with the launch of Tikit FileNote, a new app for the Autonomy iManage DMS platform. FileNote replicates what law firms had back in the days of paper files, namely a cover sheet attached to the front of a manilla folder (or even scribbled on the cover) recording useful information and key facts about the file. Tikit FileNote provides an electronic version of this, covering such things as file notes, key dates and matter activity. FileNote can be accessed and updated using Outlook however because the connectors have been written in Web Parts, it will also run across intranets and SharePoint portals.

Four firms – delivering a total of over 4000 users between them – have already signed up to implement FileNote. The first firm to go public is Taylor Wessing, IT director Tim Hyman commented "iManage provides a robust and functional electronic repository for our matter filing. Whilst the filing and search tools work well, our lawyers identified a number of functions that haven't quite made the transition from the paper file to the e-file. With Tikit FileNote we are able to plug some of those gaps utilising the *white space* currently associated with a matter workspace. Tikit has effectively bought the old file cover sheet back to life, creating an obvious home for previously hidden key matter information."

FWBS enter the MatterSphere

FWBS has extended its MatterCentre software with a new product – MatterSphere – that extends the Microsoft Office environment to the cloud. The browser interface uses Silverlight rather than HTML and has extensive configuration capabilities, including supporting RSS feeds of time recording and related client/matter activity.
Comment: On paper, MatterSphere sounds pretty dry and really does merit being seen in a demo. Essentially this gives users not only 'anywhere, any device access' to all information (subject to access rights) stored on the office server but also the ability to manipulate it, including document check in/out. The version we saw was running on ⇨

⇨ Microsoft Windows 7 multi-touch, allowing iPad/iPhone/*Minority Report*-like manipulation of documents across the virtual desktop.
• This announcement ties in with an update (code named *Valencia*) to the core FWBS MatterCentre system, which is now fully embedded within Office 2010 (as well as retrospectively into 2003 and 2007). Other features include enhancements to the Autonomy iManage interface and the modular capability of the software.

Litera hits the Launchpad

Following the recent release of Litera Live, the company's SaaS version of its core software, Litera has announced another product: Launchpad. This is described as a 'context recognition and activation engine' to simplify the implementation and integration of third-party document production and lifecycle management utilities and add-ins within the Microsoft Office environment. Initially it only runs with Litera's own software but it will be extended to other systems in the future.

Legal IT gets women's support group

Last month saw the launch of LILIConnect (LILI = Ladies In Legal Information), a new group set up to support, develop and encourage women working in legal information. Membership is open to all women in IT/information roles in law firms and inhouse legal departments, to provide networking with colleagues and peers in the industry, as well as an environment for professional and career development.

A 15-strong executive committee (chaired by Janet Day, director of technology & infrastructure services at Berwin Leighton Paisner, supported by vice chairs Jan Durant, IT director at Lewis Silkin and Julie Berry, IT director at Reynolds Porter Chamberlain) has already been set up and the organisation is now recruiting for members (as well as developing a website).

LILIConnect is putting together a programme of events for the coming year. These will be sponsored by suppliers and take the form of either social networking forums or information seminars. Some meetings will be held before work and others will be in the evening. Although events will initially take place in London, LILIConnect plans to hold regional events and roadshows as the group expands.

EMEA news round-up

MTV playing DMS tune with KnowHow
KnowHow Consulting has won a contract from MTV Networks Europe to implement the rollout of a new EDMS to 20 sites in 17 countries. The core of the project is Open Text's eDOCS DM however KnowHow will also be providing an integrated scanning workflow platform, combining scanners with DocsCorp pdfDocs software.

Simmons & Simmons Netherlands roll out DDS
I.R.I.S. has completed the implementation of Bighand digital dictation workflow software within the Netherlands office of Simmons & Simmons. ⇨

Noerr says 'ja' to Autonomy iManage
German law firm Noerr Group, which has 13 offices across central and eastern Europe, and the US, says it is "maximising each billable hour" after implementing Autonomy iManage Worksite to handle document and email management.

Danes take 600 DocsCorp licences
Copenhagen-based law firm Kromann Reumert has placed an order with DocsCorp for 600+ pdfDocs Suite user licences.

I.R.I.S. buy Norwegian systems house
As part of its expansion into the Nordic market, the European I.R.I.S. Group (no relation to the UK's IRIS Group) is to buy the DMS division of the Norwegian software and systems group Software Innovation for €850,000. The division, which operated as Save-IT until 2007, is primarily a reseller and implementer of Open Text document management systems. The acquisition is expected to be completed this month.

And it's goodbye from...

Two more – voluntary – departures from the legal IT world this month. Solicitor turned journalist Rupert Kendrick, best known for his work on IT security issues in recent years but before that a long-time editor of the ILEX Journal, has 'semi retired' and will now be concentrating on writing about jazz and jazz promotion. Kendrick says he is mindful of the old Ronnie Scott comment that "if you want to make a million quid out of promoting jazz, start with three million quid". And, Gurpreet Binning, who has been the PR and marketing manager at Tikit for the past three years, has departed to take up a marketing post in the banking software sector. We wish them both well.

Charitable endeavours

More people doing things to raise money for charitable causes. Staff at Hatchers Solicitors in Shropshire are currently engaged in a series of sponsored bike rides aiming to cover 2000 miles and raise £20,000 in memory of Alex Wilson, the late son of one of the firm's partners. Funds will go to Breakthrough Breast Cancer and the Prostate Cancer Charity. You can sponsor them by emailing **bikerides@hatchers.co.uk**

Next, MDA Searchflow marketing director David Kempster and regional sales manager Wilfred Gomez will be attempting to cycle the 278 miles from London Blackheath to the Arc de Triomphe in Paris in under 24 hours on 23 July. They hope to raise £2000 for the charity Scope. **www.justgiving.com/David-Kempster**

Finally, Daniel Brown of TheKnowList, along with people from Halliwells, Ashurst and LG are planning to take part in the Nokia Coast-to-Coast cycle ride in September to also raise money for the Breakthrough Breast Cancer charity. **www.theknowlist.com/#/coast-to-coast/4540197747**

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News in brief

Workshare users say 'yes' to Microsoft 2010

EMEA VP Frank Boening reports that during Workshare's user group meeting in London earlier this month "We asked the 70+ audience how many were moving to Microsoft Office 2010 in the next 12 months. Most raised their hands. We also asked the same question about SharePoint 2010, and well over half also said yes."

Get up those Google rankings

Conscious Solutions are offering law firms a free Google ranking report, based on firms' locations, and will compare that ranking against any two competitor terms. Reports take approximately 72 hours to turn around.
www.conscious.co.uk/site/home/free_google_ranking_report.html

10 years ago today...

Two big stories dominated the news in May 2000. The first was the attack of the 'ILoveYou' LoveBug virus that infected an estimated 45 million PCs around the plant – and caused the premature departure of at least one City law firm IT director.

The other was the spectacular unravelling of the bid by Solution 6 to takeover the Elite ⇨

⇨ Information Group, a move that would have put the two biggest products in the global PMS market (Elite and CMS, now Aderant) in the hands of one company. The US Federal Trade Commission had already said it would challenge any merger deal, prompting Elite's management to terminate talks after six months of negotiations. And that should have been the end of the matter except in the aftermath of the collapse of another Solution 6 takeover bid, it was revelealed that the soon-to-be ex-CEO of Solution 6 – Chris Tyler – had been convicted by a Texas court in 1985 of "possession of between 50 and 200 pounds of marijuana" and given a 10-year suspended jail sentence. At the time of his 'mutually agreed' immediate retirement from Solution 6, Tyler said the drugs were for social and recreational use.

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