

Law firms predicted to be early adoptees of emerging Internet document management tools

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EDUCOM Business Solutions, the Australasian distributor of the DOCS Open electronic document management (EDM) system, recently announced a revolutionary product strategy to ensure business to business document exchange and management over the Internet. The announcement is particularly relevant to the many users of electronic document management in the legal industry.

The new product lines, based around DOCS Open, will cover a wide range of advanced document management functions. They will allow customers to seamlessly integrate the formerly disparate worlds of enterprise document management and publishing on the Internet.

The product roll out will be delivered in three stages: named Mercury, Venus and Jupiter. Mercury, which will be available in the second quarter of this year, is designed for widespread access, searching and publishing of documents both on the Internet and corporate Intranets. This capability will provide easy, low cost access to DOCS Open using browsers and Internet tools like Netscape Navigator and Microsoft Explorer. Users will also have the ability to publish documents on the Net in a DOCS Open Library.

Venus will allow organisations using DOCS Open the opportunity to utilise the Internet as the backbone for sharing secured information with other organisations anywhere in the world. Organisations will effectively be able to use the Internet as their Wide Area Network (WAN), resulting in significantly lower network operating costs.

Full application integration and cross platform support including the DOCS Mobile capability will also be a

feature of Venus, giving field workers using laptops complete access to all company documents via the Internet.

Venus, a fully-featured document management system for the Internet, is scheduled for release in the second half of 1996.

Jupiter will feature the development of a JAVA client as well as JAVA applets. This will extend the reach of DOCS Open's full document organisation and control, and security to users of a wide variety of current and future computing platforms and devices.

David Libesman, Managing Director of EDUCOM Business Solutions comments:

"The Internet will be the low cost, wide area network of the future. However, without document management capabilities like version control, audit trail and advanced security, businesses will only use the Internet for interpersonal messages and non-critical documents. By using DOCS Open to manage documents on the Net, customers will have an unprecedented business advantage."

"A Sydney based solicitor attending a country court hearing provides an example of the practical benefits of the new technology. The solicitor will be able to access the corporate World Wide Web site via laptop and modem from their country motel and download documents direct, make changes to those documents and then upload the changed files back to the web site, with a full audit trail of all changes and amendments."

"Many legal firms have implemented electronic document management software such as DOCS Open across the enterprise to provide improved security, more accurate billing and better litigation support."

"Controlling staff access to, and use of, the intellectual property of the enterprise is a significant issue. The meteoric rise in the use of the Internet has compounded this problem for many organisations. However, EDUCOM's new Internet strategy will offer an integrated enterprise wide solution to these emerging problems, with the added promise of reducing network operating costs," concludes EDUCOM's David Libesman.

In Australia and New Zealand, the growth of EDM is evident in the number of current individual DOCS Open users, now numbering over 9,000, a 150% increase over the last 12 months.

Leading legal firms using DOCS Open include Gadens Ridgeway, Mallesons Stephen Jaques and Ebsworth & Ebsworth.

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