

Autonomy iManage Universal Search for Legal Practice Support

Law Firms Face Unique and Growing Information Management Challenges

Law firms today struggle to keep pace with an exploding volume of information, including both internally-generated documents and third-party legal research, in sources scattered across geographic regions and legal specific enterprise stores. In fact, the very nature of legal content makes it more difficult to search due to the frequent cut-and-paste repurposing of existing documents which results in a highly repetitive corpus in which documents are very similar in content, sentence structure and phrasing. While professionals in other fields may be well-served by “conceptual” search engines that return a variety of related results, for lawyers, precision is essential: only exact matches will do.

Unique Requirements Call for Unique Solutions

Today’s attorneys are primarily focused on working the matter, business development and risk management, and each requires specialized information retrieval tailored to the task they are working on. The effectiveness with which attorneys can find matter content, best practices and firm guidelines or gain insight into past litigation, expertise and industry experience depends on their ability to perform tailored search using different source collections, document types and relevancy requirements. One-size-fits-all solutions simply do not maximize benefits of today’s technology, and lead to frustration and wasted time for attorneys.

Simplicity, Control, and Accuracy for Legal Search

iManage Universal Search: Professional Services Edition offers unparalleled control, accuracy, and ease of use for legal practice support, helping firms deliver optimal service while reducing non-billable time for lawyers. The solution provides the best WorkSite integration available today; unifies content from other legal-specific enterprise knowledge resources, including federated subscription and legal Web resources; and provides the tools for attorneys and firms to make effective use of all the content at their disposal.

A highly secure, rapidly deployable next-generation architecture delivers high scalability, reliability, and performance. Connectivity and federation make it simple to add common legal enterprise data sources, third-party feeds, and other search engines, further extending the value of the firm’s investment.

Practice-Specific Support for Attorneys

For lawyers, iManage Universal Search: Professional Services Edition combines the precision and power of advanced search with the convenience of consumer search. Role-based collections make it simple for attorneys to search information based on their own practice group. Role-based relevancy factors enable more precise search results to be returned based on specific source, document formatting, freshness and proximity weightings predefined for each practice group. Administrator-defined “Mashups” provide an easy way to search for specific matters, clients, and people based on industry focus, time and billing data and other factors. A point-and-click interface makes post-search navigation simple by exposing hidden relationships via clustering extracts and faceted navigation which enables users to drill down via pre-defined metadata fields like client, matter, author, document type and date range. Facets can also be presented graphically for at-a-glance comprehension, simple navigation, and click-and-drag ease of use. Attorneys can also subscribe to and monitor new relevant information through alert notifications—helping them stay in touch with matters and practices with minimal effort.

Highlights

- Simple web-search interface
- Intuitive post-search navigation tools like clustering and faceting
- Relevancy tuning capabilities for more precise results
- Role-based personalization to support each practice
- Spotighting and boosting for high-value content
- Advanced processing capabilities like stemming, synonyms and language recognition.
- All within an easily configured framework that requires little or no programming



Control and Insight for Effective Practice Support

For professionals who work in a practice support role, iManage Universal Search: Professional Services Edition provides tools, information, and resources to boost visibility of best practices. By merging precedent searching and work product searching in one place, firms can ensure that lawyers apply proven know-how throughout their daily work. Key precedents and best practices documents can be spotlighted at the top of the results page for specific searches to raise their visibility. Practice managers can define customized collections by increasing the weighting of sources and queries that provide maximum relevancy and coverage for their group, ensuring that no source goes overlooked while eliminating extraneous "noise." Reporting tools provide insight into the way lawyers are actually using search, helping practice managers further refine and tailor the solution to enhance its effectiveness. "Mashups" can be created to support the practice's unique requirements and maximize the value of information by presenting it in context with related information from multiple enterprise systems for a true 360-degree view of a matter, person or client.

Firm-Wide Benefits

By unifying distributed information, iManage Universal Search: Professional Services Edition enables easy access to all of a firm's content resources and provides needed context for search results while maintaining security and confidentiality. iManage Universal Search: Professional Services Edition helps to maximize the firms existing investments in knowledge and legal technology by bringing together multiple enterprise systems in a single, dynamic environment, including the industry's deepest integration with iManage WorkSite, the main legal productivity application and content repository for lawyers. Firm-wide topical expertise and best practices can be highlighted and help professionals in every location make effective use of its most valuable resources. Finally, personalized practice support tools help firms provide a highly efficient and accurate search capability that reduces non-billable time for lawyers, aiding professional satisfaction, retention and business development.

Social Search Enhancements

Moving forward, iManage continues to build on the effectiveness of iManage Universal Search: Professional Services Edition with the latest search methods and technologies. The next release brings the power of Web 2.0 social computing to the law firm in the form of social tagging, commenting and voting as well as the ability to share queries and search results with other attorneys in the practice group. The group-wide enrichment and sharing of knowledge will build yet another level of value by allowing firms to further maximize their existing investments. To help firms take advantage of the new insight derived from this social revolution, iManage will also provide a simple yet powerful dashboard to provide visibility into this social interaction and reveal hidden trends, identify problem content areas and recognize the most active information seekers and social contributors.

About Autonomy iManage

Autonomy iManage is the leader in information management applications for the legal and professional services market. Building on Autonomy's advanced Meaning Based Computing platform, Autonomy iManage offers the most comprehensive suites of information management applications all on a common platform. Autonomy iManage has over a decade of experience working with law and accounting firms to understand how these professionals interact with information and their need to find, manage and process large volumes of content quickly and intuitively. Organizations from all over the world, including 75 of the top 100 global law firms, are standardizing on Autonomy iManage which uniquely spans the complete EDRM on a single technology platform, including document and email management, information governance, archiving and records management, knowledge management, policy management and eDisclosure, legal hold and review. Autonomy iManage can now link over 1,400 law firms with the data inside over 20,000 corporate clients using powerful, familiar tools, and is the only vendor to offer the ability to access and analyze corporate information in-place for a case, eliminating point solutions and the risky and costly hand-offs of data used for investigations and litigation.

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