

Case Study— Litigation Tools

BDO Consulting's Forensic Technology Services Practice Enhances E-Discovery Capabilities with LexisNexis® Early Data Analyzer and LAW PreDiscovery™ Software Tools

BDO Consulting

Overview

Firm: BDO Consulting

Location: Over 40 offices in the United States, with 50,000 professionals serving multinational clients through more than 1,000 offices worldwide

Industry: Forensic & Litigation Advisory

Customer Profile:

BDO Consulting provides litigation, investigation, forensic technology, restructuring, valuation, risk advisory and industry-specific consulting services to major corporations, law firms, insurance companies, financial service entities and government organizations.

Business Situation:

BDO Consulting's Forensic Technology Services (FTS) practice is called upon to perform comprehensive e-discovery services, including everything from data collection to testimony. In an effort to control the costs associated with e-discovery, BDO Consulting's FTS practice enables clients to take advantage of early data assessment (EDA) tools to process electronic data faster and quickly remove less relevant files.

Solution:

In 2010, BDO Consulting was introduced to LAW PreDiscovery™, an e-discovery imaging and electronic processing software from LexisNexis® that filters and culls non-responsive e-discovery and scanned documents before review. Two years later, the firm acquired another product from LexisNexis called LexisNexis® Early Data Analyzer, which indexes, searches and filters data at the source—on networks and external drives, which significantly reduces the volume of data that requires more costly review. These e-discovery software tools were integrated into BDO's workflow when managing e-discovery for their clients.

Benefits:

- Decrease the number of files that clients need to electronically process by filtering out as much as 85 percent of non-relevant data
- Expedite the early culling of electronic files
- Reduce costs associated with e-discovery by decreasing the amount of non-relevant data for processing, and thereby increasing the speed of processing data

Product Summary:

Litigation Tools & Professional Services

- LexisNexis Early Data Analyzer
- LAW PreDiscovery

BDO Consulting works with organizations and their counsel on a wide range of issues related to litigation and investigative matters requiring the specialized skills of its Forensic Technology Services (FTS) practice. BDO Consulting's FTS practice assists clients by providing comprehensive e-discovery services, encompassing everything from data collection through to testimony on the entire e-discovery process. Leveraging sophisticated e-discovery technology to identify potentially responsive documents to an investigation or litigation, BDO Consulting's FTS practice removes non-relevant data through data filtering, de-duplication, near de-duplication, metadata analysis, keyword searching, and other custom filters—applying procedures that are most cost-effective for clients.

More time is spent on discovery than on any other legal task and it can represent anywhere from 50 to 90 percent of total litigation costs. According to BDO Consulting Managing Director Michael Barba, its FTS practice provides various e-discovery services for cases of all sizes, ranging from big-ticket civil litigation matters to small projects involving only one or two custodians. "We help attorneys plan for FRCP Rule 26(f) meet and confers and participate in them if appropriate," said Barba. "We also leverage the early data assessment (EDA) tools to process electronic data faster and filter more irrelevant files sooner, reducing e-discovery costs to clients."

Solution

BDO Consulting's FTS practice was introduced to LAW PreDiscovery™, a data processing software tool from LexisNexis®. LAW PreDiscovery helps ensure costs are controlled by first culling non-responsive and duplicate files, then further refining the document set by searching text and metadata to locate relevant files. This "precovery" process not only reduces the amount of files that need to be processed, it also allows users to begin the review process sooner with fewer files for attorneys to review, providing considerable cost savings.

"We were impressed with the software right away and knew LAW [PreDiscovery] would be a good tool to use in e-discovery matters," said Barba.

BDO Consulting acquired LAW PreDiscovery software in 2010 and began implementation soon after.

“In one case, we were able to load nine million records into our workflow overnight and have the entire collection processed by first thing the next morning. In another, we processed 170,000 records in a 20-gig PST file in less than two hours. The processing speeds enabled by using Early Data Analyzer and LAW [PreDiscovery] allow us to meet the needs of our clients, and exceed their timing expectations.”

—Michael Barba
Managing Director
BDO Consulting

“During this period of getting up to speed on how to get the most out of the software, the LexisNexis technical support team was tremendous and really helped us to get our arms around the product,” he said.

Two years later, the firm was introduced to an EDA product from LexisNexis called LexisNexis® Early Data Analyzer. LexisNexis Early Data Analyzer is innovative e-discovery software that enables litigation professionals to more efficiently conduct early data assessment and significantly streamline processing of electronic documents. The tool was specifically developed for the beginning phase of the e-discovery process, even prior to running the files through LAW PreDiscovery. It enables litigation teams to quickly capture an entire document set, assess the contents, and then eliminate irrelevant, duplicate and non-responsive documents prior to the more costly and time-consuming processing and review phases of e-discovery.

“We were impressed by the speed of Early Data Analyzer software and liked the idea of being able to run the software on a single machine,” recalls Barba. “We recognized that this could be a great addition to our workflow.”

BDO Consulting acquired LexisNexis Early Data Analyzer software in 2012. The FTS practice took advantage of the tool’s fast data output, quickly putting that data directly into LAW PreDiscovery for further refining and filtering. The two e-discovery software tools from LexisNexis were integrated directly into the FTS practice workflow for managing e-discovery for their clients.

Benefits

With the assistance of these powerful software tools, BDO Consulting’s FTS practice was able to enhance its e-discovery capabilities for its clients.

- **Data Reduction**

“The combined use of LexisNexis Early Data Analyzer and LAW PreDiscovery has enabled us to more quickly decrease the number of files that need to be processed and subsequently reviewed, by filtering out up to 85 percent of irrelevant data,” said Barba.

- **Enhancing Client Service**

The FTS practice differentiates itself with clients by focusing on superior client service and utilizing the appropriate tools for each and every matter. Conducting early case assessment using the LexisNexis Early Data Analyzer and LAW PreDiscovery tools, BDO Consulting is able to provide clients with electronic file processing efficiencies that drive down the costs associated with e-discovery—thereby best serving the needs of its clients.

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- **Speed**

“In one case, we were able to load nine million records into our workflow overnight and have the entire collection processed by first thing the next morning,” said Barba. “In another case, we processed 170,000 records in a 20-gig PST file in less than two hours. The processing speeds enabled by using Early Data Analyzer and LAW [PreDiscovery] allow us to meet the needs of our clients, and exceed their timing expectations.”

- **Cost Savings**

By managing data sets more efficiently and with greater speed, LexisNexis Early Data Analyzer and LAW PreDiscovery enable BDO Consulting’s FTS practice and their clients to avoid the costly and time-consuming review of irrelevant documents. This filtering out of most files before importing the data set into processing tools has translated into substantial cost savings per case, which delivers financial benefits for all parties involved.

“Our investment in LAW PreDiscovery and Early Data Analyzer has been extremely valuable because it’s allowed us to process data for our clients much faster,” concludes Barba. “This allows us to deliver work more quickly and for less expense, which is good for our firm and good for our clients.”

LexisNexis Early Data Analyzer is available as a standalone product and as a fully integrated module within LAW PreDiscovery. LexisNexis Early Data Analyzer and LAW PreDiscovery are most effective when used in conjunction with each other to reduce the cost of assessing, managing and processing e-discovery.

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