



Pedro Espada: Legal Document Retention

Pedro Espada is the IT Manager for the law firm Langston, Hess, Augustine, Sojourner & Moyles P.A., located in Maitland, Florida. The firm of 15 lawyers specializes in Worker's Compensation Law and is "Board Certified," which holds it to high standards for retaining documents produced from cases.

Current Approach is Expensive and Data is Vulnerable to Disaster

At a law firm, documents take on a life of their own. Even a couple of years ago, Langston-Hess had collected 2,500 storage boxes of legal documents, which are kept in a special document retention warehouse. One problem with physical documents is that you cannot protect them from disasters. Another problem is the cost of warehouse storage. For these reasons, Langston-Hess hired a full-time clerical person to scan hard copies of legal documents and create digital records.

While laws governing record retention vary depending on case type, Langston-Hess plans to archive documents for every case it has ever had digitally. This represents a large amount of information.

Langston-Hess implemented a high-performance scanning process based on the Ricoh IS760D scanner with the scan software by iDatix Inc. running on a standard PC. The scan server includes a mirrored RAID, with two 80-gigabyte drives. Each page of a case file requires 40KB of storage when stored at the standard 300 dpi.



It wasn't long before scanned documents filled up their RAID system. The collection of documents to archive when they started using the process required 1TB of storage. The capacity requirements were expected to increase by 500GB (or 13,500 document pages) in subsequent years.

Pedro made the decision to buy a Drobo and offload the digital documents from the RAID. He used Acronis to automatically back up scanned documents to the Drobo.

Easy Setup - Time is Money

"I like things that are simple. My time is money and I want to know there is a straightforward way to set up computer equipment. I am not one those IT guys who likes to sit around figuring things out. That is the best feature of the Drobo. It's simple, it just works."

Another Drobo benefit that Pedro enjoys is that it can be transported. With computers at three satellite offices to update and repair, he often travels with a Drobo carrying 150GB of program images. "You can't do that with a thumb drive, but this is just as handy," Pedro explained.