

EDD Case Study—Charlotte, North Carolina

Document Technologies, Inc. offers electronic data discovery. But how does it apply to real-world cases?

Electronic data discovery (EDD) — the process of obtaining, processing and handling of electronic documents—is creating a buzz in law firms across the country. That's because this deeply hidden data can be critical to the outcome of litigation.

When we sit down to a computer and begin to compose a document, from an Excel spreadsheet to an e-mail, we are also creating metadata. Metadata, or electronic information, reflects characteristics of a given file, such as last print date, last saved date, last revised date, etc. Once a document is originated, more than 100 associated “fields” are created. Attorneys are finding these hidden fields to be very helpful to their cases.

In a recent expedited copyright arbitration, Robinson, Bradshaw & Hinson, P.A. (RBH) received electronic documents from opposing counsel for a copyright case, but didn't know how to determine when the documents were actually created. Lawrence Moore, a litigator with RBH, turned to DTI for help. DTI's charge was to capture all of the data associated with these electronic documents to provide a clear understanding of who, what and where they came from.

First, DTI took a consultative approach with Robinson, Bradshaw & Hinson to discover what exactly their expectations were. After assisting them in determining what exactly they were looking for, DTI sent the information, which was stored on CDs, to their National Technology Center in Atlanta for processing. DTI processed the electronic documents to produce the meta-data within the documents, which included all of the electronic information related to those documents, such as last print date, author, how many times the document has been revised, creation date, etc. DTI then returned the processed documents to Robinson, Bradshaw & Hinson, preformatted for their litigation database.

Robinson, Bradshaw & Hinson attorneys were then able to sort the documents by field. They chose to start with the date the document was last saved—immediately going to the oldest version of the defendant's work. In the first few documents they reviewed, RBH found their needle in a haystack—a line in the document revealed that the defendants had copied the plaintiff's work and had run a find-and-replace to change the names. DTI was happy to provide an affidavit that authenticated the metadata, which RBH then admitted in the arbitration.

With DTI's help, Robinson, Bradshaw & Hinson reduced their discovery time and found the key information they needed to successfully represent their client.

If you would like to learn more about Document Technologies or our electronic discovery tools, please contact your local sales representative. Call us at 1-866-DTI-CORP or send an email to corporate@dtiglobal.com.