



Judicial Authority

Israel's Judicial Authority
Implements Nationwide e-Filing System



Client: State of Israel Judicial Authority
Url: www.court.gov.il
Region: Europe and Middle East
Industry: Government
Technology: Microsoft Windows Server 2003, Microsoft Windows Server Datacenter, Microsoft SQL Server, Documentum 5 Enterprise Content Management

Summary

Since 1988, Ness Technologies has been involved in helping to computerize Israel's Judicial Authority. In one of the most ambitious projects of its kind worldwide, the State of Israel decided in 2003 to create a nationwide paperless court system, bringing all court-related documents and communications online to enable electronic case filing. Ness was selected as the main outsourcing body for developing and implementing the complex project, involving more than 40 locations and over 3,000 court system personnel throughout Israel. One of the largest end-to-end Microsoft-based IT projects in the world to date, the centralized system links court and case file information to all of the country's 600 judges and their support staff, as well as other public bodies, law firms, and the general public.

Client

Israel's court system, an independent unit within the Ministry of Justice, includes all of the country's courts of law: the supreme court, district courts, magistrates courts, traffic courts, family courts, juvenile courts, and national/regional labor courts. The courts are deployed in 50 regions throughout the country and organized into six districts. The courts' directorate oversees the proper functioning of the court system, including its computerization.



Challenge

Israel's national court system covers eight different courts of law and 40 courthouses throughout the country. With about half of the one million files initiated each year within the court system never reaching a judge, the courts' directorate aimed to streamline the costly and inefficient case-filing process. Creating a groundbreaking system that would connect thousands of judicial authority personnel and tens of thousands of external users to an online system involved a two-stage challenge. First, there was the need to significantly upgrade the courts' computer systems with state-of-the-art technology. Second, it was necessary to move from a paper-based to an electronic filing system, incorporating tens of thousands of new documents each day.

"We now have a reliable and robust platform that meets our vision of e-enabling all operations, coping with the huge workloads generated by creating thousands of new documents per day and supporting tens of thousands of users."

*Yarden Yardeni
CTO Israeli Courts and Administration Organization*



Solution

In Israel's largest data processing project to date, Ness headed a team of 120 workers representing 10 subcontractors, including IBM, Taldor and Microsoft, in developing the e-filing system. As the project's lead contractor, Ness was involved in all aspects of the system, from system definition to data transfer to training.

Built around a central database, the user-friendly system comprises powerful workstations equipped with Microsoft Windows XP and Office 2003. Replicating the Office end-user experience via its GUI, the system features a smart client front-end for internal users and a Web-based front-end for external users.

Covering the entire lifecycle of each case filed, from submission to ruling, the online, self-learning system intelligently distributes tasks among the relevant judicial authority parties in order to streamline the process. For example, a daily diary of court hearings automatically synthesizes data from such discussions into the personal log of each judge.

The open system enables attorneys to submit requests and receive court responses regarding files for which they are responsible, and grants Web access to the public for file viewing. By interfacing with the State Prosecutor's Office, Israel Police, and law firms, all authorized parties involved in the legal process can view, submit and update file information anytime.

The system runs on Microsoft platform, and is on of a few systems worldwide that run on .NET environment with an SQL server database. The system integrates the Documentum enterprise content management tool, and the BPM-K2 tool for business process management.

BENEFITS

- ▶ Increased court system efficiency
- ▶ Enhanced user productivity
- ▶ Improved quality of public service
- ▶ Lower total cost of ownership

About Ness Technologies

Ness Technologies (NASDAQ: NSTC) is a global provider of end-to-end IT services and solutions designed to help clients improve competitiveness and efficiency. Specializing in outsourcing and offshore, systems integration and application development, software and consulting, and quality assurance and training, Ness serves a blue-chip client base of over 500 public- and private-sector customers. With over 5,700 employees, Ness maintains operations in 15 countries across North America, Europe and Asia Pacific, and more than 100 alliances and partnerships around the world.