



What's new in Legal IT?

David Riggall reports on the latest newest gizmos available on the legal IT scene



David Riggall

Welcome to my inaugural column! Imagine how I felt when invited to become your "roving reporter" re Legal IT; delighted with the opportunity to be of service to readers of the YSG Magazine. Q? When was your life - first touched - by the internet?

I was recently privileged to hear one of the founders of Freeserve,

describe their meteoric growth from '98 to 2002 during which their "n" millionth client, a lady, thanked him for facilitating a life changing experience, i.e. by offering ISP access free. As we all know, increased access to the internet, fuelled by innovative marketing initiatives has transformed the use of IT at home and at work; the internet has changed many lives, whether for news, learning, remote working and / or retail therapy. Will HAL from 2001 Space Odyssey, FIVE from Five Alive or the robot, featured relaxing with the microwave and vacuum cleaner in the current TV ad, become a reality? You bet your life they will, but not during this decade; that said, we can soon expect to see "Embodied Linguistic Agents" conversing with us on the net, eg Alex (Lexicle.com), that can gesture and move, in context, as they talk. Deployment of net ELAs may provide an alternative

to moving "Call Centres" offshore, as well as, bring new faces to 24/ 7 -TV news channels.

So what's new in Legal IT - everything and nothing, based on what was on show at Legal IT at the Armouries, in Leeds, during the 2nd week of October. What a transformation : - most, if not all, of the applications are familiar; but browser & internet versions offer new opportunities and savings. In publishing, <http://www.butterworths.com> is consolidating its LexisNexis interface, whilst www.emispp.com's inhouse publishing & knowledge based system can now be directly referenced from within Emis's "SENECA" case management software. On the mobile computing front, Norwel has a new - Pocket Desktop - mobile diary & desktop - facilities for your Palmtop and one of AIM's clients, "AMS Law", are putting their clients in control, with e-zemoves.com, based on AIM's "ClientConnect" e-commerce technology, whilst others, e.g. Videss, are offering to manage

your IT 4 u on either an ASP & / or outsourced basis. Axxia, another of the UK top 3, have created a new browser interface, called, PKC - their personal knowledge centre, and TFB's new "PartnerAlert" system can send users its alerts by : e-mail or fax, as Outlook tasks to pcs, laptops or PDAs or by SMS text messages to ones mobile phone. Your "roving reporter" was delighted to discover another new marketing initiative; c www.pcomm-grp.com who offers 24/ 7 "fax to e-mail", FOC, to the user, as the senders pay to call your fax number.

Back to what's new at the exhibition? Far too much to cover in detail in this column! Steady "rover" - making a bid for more column inches, already. Seriously though, I'd be happy to provide a full review, on request, as well as receive your views & ideas on what IT subjects, you would like covered, in future columns.

Please feel free to call, me, on 07715 494 186 or e-mail : david@andb.freeserve.co.uk, with and / for "more input".



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