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Review of CaseMap 10

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Litigators once used word processing software for all sorts of tasks for which it was less than ideal. This gave rise to litigation software, including CaseMap, which organizes your case's key information and documents. In this issue of LitigationWorld, Pennsylvania litigator and longtime CaseMap user Thomas Groshens reviews CaseMap 10, including new features such as DocManager, bulk importing, integrations with other software, custom spreadsheets, reports, and more. He also comments on CaseMap's technical support. For those new to CaseMap, Tom explains how it fits into your litigation workflow.

As lawsuits develop, we litigators constantly add new information to old, and case data often grows exponentially, both in quantity and variety. Faced with looming summary judgment motions or critical depositions, we must often wade through a morass of disconnected information. If not exclusively in paper form, much will reside in multiple software programs that can't communicate and may be hard to search. To analyze such widely dispersed information, we typically prepare fact chronologies, deposition digests, witness outlines, and research memoranda in a word processor.

Since its inception, CaseMap has provided an intuitive, automated alternative to the above profoundly inefficient approach. Released early this year, LexisNexis' CaseMap 10 adds powerful document ma-

agement tools and other important enhancements to the CaseMap platform. For purposes of this review in LitigationWorld, I received a complimentary copy.

AN OVERVIEW OF CASEMAP

Recognizing that existing off-the-shelf database software had steep learning curves and required much customization, CaseSoft co-founders Greg Krehel and Robert Wiss developed CaseMap as a platform integrating a group of customized "spreadsheets" designed to collect and analyze information most important to litigation.

CaseMap 10's basic layout hasn't strayed from the concept behind its earliest versions, combining in a unified database spreadsheets for facts, "objects" (which include people, organizations, documents, pleadings, demonstrative evidence, and now in version 10 user-defined custom spreadsheets), key legal issues, legal research, and open questions.

CaseMap's primary fields for tracking facts include all elements typically found in chronologies, including "Date & Time," "Fact Text," and fields for identifying the sources of the information. Fields for analyzing information include "Material," "Disputed/Undisputed," "Status," "Linked Issues," "Key," and "Attorney Notes." By defining both long and short names for all CaseMap objects and by using these labels consistently

Object ID	Dates	Pages	Date	Full Name	Short Name
P001232	1 Sat 12/26/2002 10:10 a.m. ET	1	12/26/2002	Email from Phil Hawkins at 20021010 to William Lang	P001232
P001233	1 Tue 08/02/2005	1	08/02/2005	Hawkins Letter of 6/2/2005	P001233
P001234	1 Mon 09/19/2005	1	09/19/2005	Hawkins Letter of 9/19/2005	P001234
P001235	1 Fri 11/11/2005	1	11/11/2005	Lang Letter of 11/11/2005	P001235
P001284	1 Tue 05/03/2005	1	05/03/2005	Vanvoro Tip Letter	P001284
P001334	22 06/17/2004	22	06/17/2004	Hawkins Employment Agreement	P001334
P001357	6 08/17/2005	6	08/17/2005	Hawkins Performance Review	P001357
P001401	1 Mon 09/19/2005 3:14:05 p.m. ET	1	09/19/2005	Email from Phil Hawkins at 20050923 1514 to William Lang	P001401
P002000	1 Mon 04/19/2005 10:23:48 p.m. ET	1	04/19/2005	Email from Phil Hawkins at 20050419 2223 to multiple recipients	P002000
P002001	1 Tue 04/19/2005 9:52:50 a.m. ET	1	04/19/2005	Email from Phil Hawkins at 20050419 0952 to George Ny	P002001
P002002	1 Fri 04/15/2005 3:15:41 p.m. ET	1	04/15/2005	Email from Phil Hawkins at 20050415 1515 to Hank Randle	P002002
P002003	1 Fri 04/15/2005 3:18:31 p.m. ET	1	04/15/2005	Email from Phil Hawkins at 20050415 1516 to Hank Randle	P002003
P002004	1 Mon 04/18/2005 4:01:41 p.m. ET	1	04/18/2005	Email from Phil Hawkins at 20050418 1601 to multiple recipients	P002004
P002005	1 Mon 04/18/2005 10:22:21 p.m. ET	1	04/18/2005	Email from Phil Hawkins at 20050418 2222 to Hank Randle	P002005
P002006	1 Mon 04/18/2005 11:53:33 p.m. ET	1	04/18/2005	Email from Phil Hawkins at 20050418 2353 to Karen Thomas	P002006
P002007	1 Mon 04/18/2005 11:25:56 p.m. ET	1	04/18/2005	Email from Phil Hawkins at 20050418 2325 to Hank Randle	P002007
P002008	1 Tue 04/19/2005 3:20:25 p.m. ET	1	04/19/2005	Email from Phil Hawkins at 20050419 1520 to Frank Vanvoro	P002008
P002009	1 Tue 04/19/2005 5:01:01 p.m. ET	1	04/19/2005	Email from Phil Hawkins at 20050419 1801 to Karen Thomas	P002009
P002010	1 Mon 04/18/2005 4:06:25 p.m. ET	1	04/18/2005	Email from Phil Hawkins at 20050418 1606 to multiple recipients	P002010
P002011	1 Tue 04/19/2005 5:45:42 p.m. ET	1	04/19/2005	Email from Phil Hawkins at 20050419 1746 to Karen Thomas	P002011
P002012	1 Tue 04/19/2005 2:18:48 p.m. ET	1	04/19/2005	Email from Phil Hawkins at 20050419 1418 to Linda Collins	P002012
P002013	1 Tue 04/19/2005 10:54:10 a.m. ET	1	04/19/2005	Email from Phil Hawkins at 20050419 1054 to Linda Collins	P002013

throughout the database, you can link facts to objects, and both facts and objects to one or more legal issues or questions.

With these links among facts, objects, and issues, you can search the entire CaseMap database, specific spreadsheets, or just single fields. Much like Lexis.com, CaseMap's search features are enhanced through Boolean operators (and/or/not), proximity searches, and wildcards. You can use search results to create professional-looking and highly-customizable "Reports," which you can email, print, or export to a number of formats such as PDF. These Reports are invaluable for sharing case analyses with clients and lawyers without a CaseMap license.

CaseMap also has powerful "filter" functions that temporarily limit spreadsheets to only the specific information you want to see.

For example, when preparing a summary judgment motion, a spreadsheet can display only undisputed, favorable facts linked to specific legal issues. Again, you can print or export the filtered fact spreadsheet to create the summary judgment motion's core.

Likewise, when preparing for a critical deposition, the fact spreadsheet can show just text in which the deponent's name appears, together with all the corresponding data linked to the deponent. If you and your team are diligent in incorporating new information when received and building the database as the case develops, CaseMap provides an efficient alternative to scouring and re-scouring thousands of pages of transcripts and documents at each critical stage of litigation.

Acquired by LexisNexis in 2006, CaseMap has continued to expand its feature set for organizing and analyzing case information without detracting from its hallmark ease of use. Along the way, CaseSoft and subsequently LexisNexis introduced several companion products to supplement CaseMap, including TextMap for managing and searching transcripts, and TimeMap for creating professional-looking timelines.

CaseMap 10 adds powerful document management tools and other important enhancements to the CaseMap platform.

Although built atop Microsoft Access, with CaseMap 9 LexisNexis introduced CaseMap Server, which runs on Microsoft's more robust SQL Server database, enabling (via an administrator) multiple users across a local and/or wide

area network to access and edit case information. You can find a comprehensive review of CaseMap 9.1 in the TechnoLawyer Archive, including an in-depth discussion of the SQL Server option. See Bruce Olson, *Review of CaseMap 9.1*, LitigationWorld (September 7, 2011).

Version 10 now includes CaseMap's own bulk import tool, which not only simplifies importing PDF files, but enables you to import a wide range of other file types.

CASEMAP 10'S DOCMANAGER

CaseMap 10 provides a number of enhancements, including a new document review and indexing tool — DocManager — that incorporates many of the features found in ediscovery platforms. With DocManager, you can now review, search, and annotate linked documents and files in a convenient new window.

In prior versions (as well as in CaseMap 10 without DocManager), although searches returned facts and objects with linked files that included the search terms, you could review the linked files only by opening them in viewer programs such as Acrobat, and then running a second search using the viewer program's search function. DocManager replaces this cumbersome two-step process with a window in which you can view documents in near-native format, including navigating from one document to another in your search results with a single click.

DocManager also provides you with the ability to annotate documents, edit annotations, add notes to annotations, and even search annotated notes. When printing

annotated files, you have the option of either printing or hiding the annotations. In addition to its proprietary near native capability, DocManager enables you to open files in native format. Because it opens documents and images in a secondary window, DocManager's use is enhanced with multiple monitors.

OTHER NEW FEATURES IN CASEMAP 10

Many versions ago, CaseMap added the ability to "bulk import" multiple PDF files from Acrobat into CaseMap's document spreadsheet. Version 10 now includes CaseMap's own bulk import tool, which not only simplifies importing PDF files, but enables you to import a wide range of other file types, including all common word processing and image formats. Through an Acrobat add-on, CaseMap users have also been able to send PDF excerpts from Acrobat to CaseMap's fact spreadsheet. With Version 10, you can similarly send selected text from Microsoft Word and Outlook or entire documents and email messages from those programs respectively to any CaseMap spreadsheet.

CaseMap 10 has also enhanced its Reports. You can now create reports in PDF format that embed all documents and files listed in a search. Thus, in a report generated from the fact spreadsheet, all documents attached to those facts can reside in a PDF version of the report. A recipient of the PDF report can then open and review each of the embedded documents.

Having used CaseMap for over a decade, I have found the technical and customer support unsurpassed by any other vendor of litigation software vendor. LexisNexis has recently enhanced this support with its online "[CaseMap Answer Center](#)," which provides a massive amount of easily accessible information to assist in installing, operating, and customizing CaseMap. This free

web site also has links to a dozen white papers that provide a wealth of information on using CaseMap to its fullest capacity.

CASEMAP 10'S PERFORMANCE

With version 10, CaseMap is moving towards a fully unified knowledge management tool for litigators that can substitute for all other case analysis and document processing and review platforms.

However, in its current state, LexisNexis advises that unless you're using the SQL Server version, processing speeds may degrade when a database exceeds 100,000 documents. For these larger cases, CaseMap should continue to service as a knowledge management tool that supplements other ediscovery collection and review platforms such as LexisNexis' own LAW PreDiscovery and Concordance products among

others specifically designed to handle large sets of documents.

With version 10, CaseMap is moving towards a fully unified knowledge management tool for litigators Given its improvements, CaseMap 10 merits a TechnoScore of A.

TECHNOSCORE

Obviously, I like CaseMap 10. But I have a small wish list. First, I find it puzzling that TextMap continues to remain a separate (albeit linked) program. In theory at least, it seems that LexisNexis could incorporate TextMap's deposition processing and searching func-

tions into CaseMap. Second, as an Evernote fan, I'd like to see CaseMap add the ability to capture case information in a freeform fashion from more applications such as web browsers, and then incorporate this data in a format less rigid than its spreadsheets.

These suggestions aside, LexisNexis has with version 10 moved CaseMap in the right direction — towards a fully integrated litigation tool for collecting, analyzing, and sharing case information. Given these improvements, CaseMap 10 merits a TechnoScore of A.

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