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# Legal Tech Eyes Automation to Ease EU Data Compliance Challenges

Legal technology providers are leveraging automation to help global organizations bring their data storage and organization processes in line with Privacy Shield and GDPR regulations.

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Many global organizations face a daunting challenge in complying with the EU-U.S. Privacy Shield and the EU's upcoming General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), given the two regulations' directives on how citizens' data is to be stored, processed and accessed. In an effort to make compliance easier, however, legal technology providers are innovating solutions that bring automation to data location storage and classification processes.

Since EU data privacy laws apply to any company handling EU data, they also intimately affects those enrolled in the EU-U.S. Privacy Shield.

[Writing in Legaltech News](#), Francoise Gilbert, global privacy and cybersecurity attorney at Greenberg Traurig, noted that "the Privacy Shield principles follow closely the general privacy principles set forth in the 1995 EU Data Protection Directive and the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which will replace the directive as of May 2018."

Alvin Tedjamulia, chief technology officer of document management service NetDocuments, explained that trying to account for such location-based rules governing data without stifling workflows has been a steep challenge for many global organizations.

"In-country data storage regulation and requirements have been an incredible challenge for firms with global offices and a global corporate client base. Creating silos or libraries to solve data storage regulation undermines a firm's overall information governance initiatives," he said.

NetDocuments, however, has jumped on the opportunity to try and address this pain point. The company recently announced the launch of ndFlexStore, an optional feature for its cloud-based document management system that allows users to configure documents, matters, case files or whole repositories to be automatically saved and accessed from any company-owned local server and Microsoft Azure cloud storage location around world.

A file hosted on a Germany-based database that is organized to be GDPR-complaint, therefore, could be accessed, edited and saved by an employee in the United States without the file ever being hosted in the United States, thereby forgoing any Privacy Shield barriers.

To make sure files never leave their local servers, ndFlexStore also offers administrator access so that managers can restrict employees' rights to specify storage locations. The ability to essentially "lock"

files to one server location, Tedjamulia noted, "eliminates the need for an individual to know or think where the document is stored when they are working on it. In this scenario, a user simply opens, edits, and works on documents as they would if they were using NetDocs cloud storage."

While making adherence to local data governance laws a passive and automated process goes a long way, companies may also struggle with locating and organizing all their EU data as well. Linda Sharp, associate general counsel at enterprise information governance technology provider ZL Technologies, explained that compliance efforts can be stifled by the amount of unstructured and unaccounted-for data organizations may hold.

This is especially true, she noted, with file shares that "have been left unmonitored and uncontrolled with no records retention applied to them. We've seen companies with 15, 20 and more years of data sitting in their file shares."

In an effort to better manage this data, ZL Technologies' ZL File Analysis and Management solution aims to "automate locating what data sits in these data stores, and get through the cleanup process much more efficiently, as well as implement technology and processes to keep it cleaned up on a go-forward basis," Sharp said.

The solution works in a multistep process that allows organizations to first get rid of redundant and/or outdated data. From the smaller data set, it then starts to "identify and tag the information in keeping with the companies' policies and regulatory requirements," Sharp said.

She added that though the process is largely automated, it does require some manual oversight. "Someone has to look at those folders and identify what's in them. They need not look at every single document, but someone needs to determine whether this is the type of information that meets their business requirements, or contains personally identifiable information."

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