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ZL Technologies Software Looks to Tame Unruly World of Dark, Unstructured Data

The software aims to give companies control over the 'corporate dumping ground' of file shares for compliance, e-discovery and security needs.

Ricci Dipshan, Legaltech News

April 22, 2016 | [0 Comments](#)

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For any legal practice or team, managing and tracking electronic communications is not just a necessary aspect of any litigation, it is a crucial aspect of [delivering business value and compliance](#). But what of the data alongside this communication, the furtive information that makes up [dark data](#) and the files outside databases?

In an effort to tackle this problem ZL Technologies announced the release of ZL File Analysis and Management (FAM) software. Farid Vij, lead information governance specialist at ZL Technologies, noted that the software will be a break from the “dozens of tools in the marketplace that provide a ‘rule-based policy management framework’” but do not easily allow for executing policies on unstructured data.”

A part of the ZL Technologies’ “Unified Archive Platform,” FAM scans through and provides reports on unstructured content on a metadata and content level. It also executes policy-based actions, allowing users delete, retain, secure, or preserve unstructured information.

The software seeks to streamline to what Vij described as a “cumbersome and costly process to analyze mountains of data before making a decision” through its “content-at-a-glance” function, based on ZL’s Accelerated Analysis technology.

Vij explained the function “provides an overview of the file share without lengthy and costly content indexing of the entire file environment. It shows areas of the file share and the places that data types like potential records, essential business documents, legal hold data, and other sensitive information are located.”

Other technologies the FAM employs includes ZL Policy Management Engine which allows “policies to be applied based on a single rule or a combination of several rules based on both metadata (data owner, age, location) and content (keywords, phrases, patterns, etc.),” as well as “ZL’s unique BigDB technology that drives enterprise analytics and allows data classification to be driven through a combination of rules inputted by humans with machine-learning algorithms.”

With cloud technology and the [popularity of shadow IT](#), unruly and unorganized data are the becoming the ever-prevalent downside of employee collaboration.

“File shares have long been the ‘corporate dumping ground’ where petabytes of data have been generated over the years, but unlike other data types like email or Sharepoint, where there is at least some management as far as clean-up policies and retention, file shares have been completely unmanaged,” Vij told Legaltech News.

“Without being able to answer simple questions like who created and owns this data, where it’s located or what it’s about, organizations are hard-pressed to create effective rule-based policies to manage those file shares, and the value of these tools is severely limited,” he added. “This has been a debilitating factor for the data scientist world, who have often run into legal and governance roadblocks when trying to analyze enterprise content.”

Specific challenges unstructured data creates, explained Vij, includes the over-retention of content that should be defensibly disposed of, the breach risks of unsecured sensitive data, incomplete e-discovery collections, and the lack of governance of business or regulatory records that remain unmanaged accordingly to organizations’ retention schedules.

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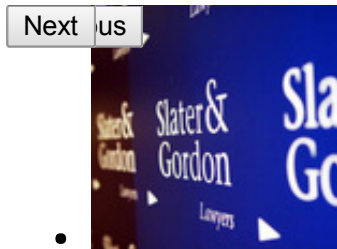
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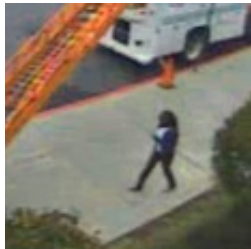
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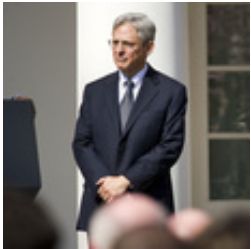
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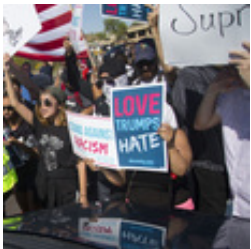
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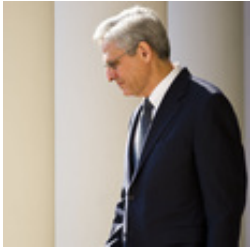
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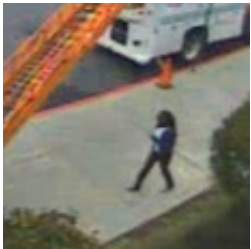
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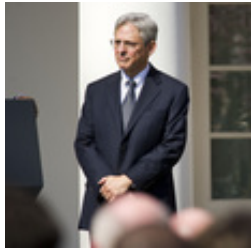
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