



Information retrieval

Organisations around the world are drowning in documents. It is estimated that the total number of documents stored on information systems worldwide increases at a compound rate of 40% each year. This means that three-quarters of the documents stored on the world's computers have been created in the last two years, and 95% in the last five.

It is not easy to have people delete the documents they no longer need. They will not delete the documents they are currently using. They'll be reluctant to delete the documents they've been using recently, in case they need them again. By the time people have truly finished with a document, they will be busy with other things and simply will not have the time to trawl through their computers, emails and online storage looking for material they no longer need.

Much of this accumulated material ends up being useless, but some of it won't be:

- Some documents you have to retain for commercial, regulatory or legal reasons.
- Some contain valuable intellectual property, or customer relationship and marketing information, or strategic or legal advice.
- And some are dangerous – they contain protected data such as financial and health information, out-of-date information that might infringe data protection rules, or restricted or confidential information the company no longer needs to retain (or sometimes, shouldn't have in the first place), or is storing it in inappropriate, insecure locations.

Few organisations have a clear idea of what information is sitting on their information systems. The data on those systems are, after all, the product of dozens or hundreds of individuals, and it is a rare organisation that can continually keep track of everything every member of its staff is doing or has done over the years. Every computer network contains hidden gems or hidden booby traps.

Do you know what is stored on your computer systems? Maybe it's time to find out what is really there?

Our Services

For the last 15 years, Grant Thornton has been the market leader in processing, analysing and searching big data. We get called to help when organisations have big data problems they need to solve:

- they are in a legal case and need to find and discover legal documents;
- they are facing regulatory scrutiny and need to determine what has happened in the past;
- they are taking part in a large financial transaction, like a takeover, a merger or a funding round, and need to perform due diligence;
- they have suffered a cyber-security breach and need urgently to determine what data has gone astray.

Grant Thornton has developed a highly streamlined process, backed by cutting-edge technology, which allows organisations to deal with these kinds of problems quickly, efficiently and with as little cost and hassle as possible. We use conceptual analytics and discriminative AI technologies to allow organisations to plough through vast numbers of documents incredibly quickly. Our systems are designed to allow for reviews to be done by one or two subject matter experts within the organisations we help, instead of the armies of legal reviewers who have done this kind of work in the past. These new technologies and techniques have allowed our clients to complete projects and win their cases quickly and efficiently.

What we are offering now is the opportunity for organisations to use these technologies in other ways, for example:

- To find what intellectual property (technology, methods, trademarks, domain names) is housed on servers or the organisation's infrastructure.
- To capture and consolidate the data and knowledge produced by a departing employee.
- To identify legal, consulting or other advice provided to the firm in the past, so that it does not have to be paid for again.
- To find unwanted material on the network:
 - o outdated personal information in breach of GDPR;
 - o confidential financial and personal data stored in insecure locations;
 - o confidential material from former customers;
 - o misappropriated information loaded onto the network by users without management knowledge;
 - o user-generated inappropriate or defamatory material that might pose a legal risk to the organisation.

If you have any task that involves finding important or valuable data buried anywhere on your information systems, please give us a call to discuss how we might be able to use our technology to help you.

Our clients choose Grant Thornton because:

Our IT Investigations & Information Retrieval team are highly experienced and established experts who are available 24/7. We have extensive experience dealing with high-profile and sensitive cases of all kinds, many consisting of the retrieval and review of hundreds of millions of documents. Our mission is to utilise our technical skills to tailor and devise strategies that help our clients navigate and overcome complex data, legal and regulatory obstacles. We have significant experience in the preparation of legal statements and reports, having submitted hundreds of affidavits on our clients' behalf.

Both our biometrically secured Forensic Laboratory and Digital Forensic network are ISO27001 and Cyber Essentials Plus certified.

We have operated Relativity and Nuix solutions for well over a decade. We have developed several unique technologies and QA methodologies, unavailable to any other firm, to streamline and optimise high-accuracy Technology Assisted Review ("TAR"). We are constantly committed to the innovation of our technology and workflows ensuring that they remain beyond the cutting edge of industry standards.



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About Us

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