

The Path to Secure and Productive Work in Law Firms

As technology continues to evolve and shape the legal industry, law firms face a range of new challenges.

The legal profession is undergoing a rapid transformation as technology continues to reshape the way legal services are delivered, introducing an array of challenges that can no longer be ignored. From managing vast amounts of data to ensuring the security and confidentiality of client information, law firms must navigate a complex landscape of technologies while balancing their need for efficiency, profitability, and compliance.

Top Challenges for Law Firms

Prolific data sharing

Collaboration and communication, both within the firm and outside, often requires sharing sensitive data such as client information, case files, and legal documents. Formal processes and portals for sharing introduce complexity and delays, and mishandled documents create serious issues. Law firms need tools that empower their legal staff without slowing them down.

Clients expect speed and efficiency

The market for legal services is highly competitive. Clients come with high expectations, and firms must always be working to deliver more efficient and cost-effective legal services. Meeting client expectations requires law firms to invest in technology solutions that improve their ability to communicate with clients, manage cases, and deliver legal services more efficiently.

Rapid adoption of new technologies

The legal industry has historically been slow to adopt new technologies compared to other industries. However, with increasing competition and pressure to improve efficiency, law firms must embrace new technologies such as SaaS, AI, cloud computing, and automation to remain competitive.

Increasingly targeted by cyber attacks

Law firms are frequently targeted by cybercriminals due to the sensitive and confidential nature of their clients' data. Today's sophisticated phishing techniques, ransomware campaigns, and business email compromise attacks keep legal defenders on their toes.

Maintaining regulatory compliance

Legal professionals must adhere to a wide array of regulations, including data privacy laws, electronic discovery requirements, and ethical rules. Failure to comply with these regulations can result in severe financial penalties, reputational damage, and legal action.

The Stakes for Law Firms

[Law firms seeing record low profits moving into 2023](#)

The Thomson Reuters "2023 State of the Legal Market" report shows rising costs and decreasing overall demand for legal services, driving lowest profits since 2009.

[Law firms are frequent targets for cyber attacks, and few are ready to respond](#)

The "ABA 2022 Legal Technology Survey Report" shows that 27% of surveyed law firms acknowledge that their firm has experienced a security breach, but only 42% had prepared an incident response plan.

[Cyberattack hobbled Cadwalader for weeks](#)

An intrusion forced the firm's IT staff to shut down access to critical services including Citrix VDI, eliminating access to email, network, and internal document management systems. Some attorneys reportedly fell back to using personal computers to access client documents.

The Way Forward for Law Firms

Addressing these technology challenges requires a strategic approach that considers the unique needs and priorities of each law firm, and their clients. By leveraging the right technologies and best practices, law firms can gain a competitive advantage while ensuring compliance, security, and efficiency.

Embrace Digital Technologies

It's clear that competitive law firms must capitalize on new and emerging technologies to get a leg up on their competitors by reducing costs, opening new revenue streams, and improving experiences for employees and customers.

Improve Governance and Control

When driving digital transformation, law firms must maintain effective control and governance over key processes and data, in order to protect sensitive client information and avoid potential regulatory fines against misuse or data loss.

Leading the Way with Island, The Enterprise Browser

Island pioneered the Enterprise Browser – the ideal enterprise workplace, where work flows freely while remaining fundamentally secure. With the core needs of law firms naturally embedded in the browser itself, Island delivers complete control, visibility, and governance over the last mile, while delivering the same smooth Chromium-based browser experience users expect.

With Island, law firms can address a number of critical use cases:

- Protect sensitive information across all SaaS and web applications with integrated DLP, secure storage, and dynamic last-mile controls like screenshot protection, copy/paste control, and data masking.
- Enable safe access by contractors or third-parties to documents and applications, with full audit records of every action and last-mile controls to prevent data leakage.
- BYOD or BYOPC access with application boundaries to ensure sensitive data stays within the law firm's systems and under their control.
- Safe browsing to block malicious content, phishing attempts, or other web-based threats and complete forensic logging to investigate incidents.
- User experience enhancements to speed up common tasks and increase user productivity.