

PRODUCTS/SOFTWARE: NEXTPOINT REVIEW

## DEMOCRATIZING E-DISCOVERY

Nextpoint is a simple solution for your basic review, production, and trial preparation needs.



BY BRETT BURNEY

**IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY** a cloud computing “veteran” in the legal space today, but Nextpoint could be the frontrunner. In 2001, the company provided trial support services and eventually built a software-as-a-service (SaaS) technology for trial preparation and deposition management. When customers started using the service for document review as well, Nextpoint made the necessary improvements to create a powerful platform covering the multiple phases of litigation.

I’ve always considered Nextpoint more of a “bona fide” SaaS provider, because the company truly focuses on the software part of SaaS and outsources its data storage to one of the most secure and trusted cloud computing companies on the planet—Amazon. Nextpoint partnered with Amazon Web Services early on because it couldn’t build

a more secure or scalable infrastructure than what Amazon had already created and maintained. (You can read more about Nextpoint’s security practices at a special site they built to answer questions: <http://trust.nextpoint.com>).

### ONE LOGIN, MULTIPLE FEATURES

You get a lot of bang for your itty-bitty buck with Nextpoint. A single login gives you access to data processing, document review, production exports, and trial prep tools. That last feature includes a unique Theater mode where you can create callouts and highlight text for your trial presentation needs.

Importing documents into Nextpoint is now a drag-and-drop operation, and data processing starts immediately (you get a notification when it’s finished). Nextpoint is one of the best ways to view the contents of a PST file since it does a terrific job of parsing out email messages and attachments.

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One of the major appeals of Nextpoint (and other cloud-based document review tools) is the simplicity of the interface. I work with lawyers every day that get frustrated when traditional review tools try to show too much information or offer too many features on the front page when all they want to do is view their documents. Nextpoint provides a simple Document List with the tagging and coding fields easily accessible on the right side. And all you need to access Nextpoint is a web browser on a computer or mobile device.

The columns on the Document List can be customized (under General Settings) and integrated into templates that can be swapped out from a dropdown box. I also

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like that the column widths can be easily adjusted, which is helpful for the “Title” column since it usually contains the long Subject line of an email.

Nextpoint “Folders” (formerly Sub-Reviews) allow administrators to organize documents for review. Folders can be used to simply identify a document’s source or to assign reviewer sets. They can also be checked as “Inactive” if you need to exclude certain collections from search results.

### FIELDS, FUNCTIONS & FEATURES

Document coding fields and metadata appear in the right panel of the screen. Codes for Relevancy and Privilege status can be customized, and Confidentiality Codes can be used to apply a stamp to the bottom of documents (e.g. for Protective Orders).

Custom Fields can easily be created, and any coding field can be promoted as a “Hot Field,” which means that it appears at the top of the right panel for easy access.

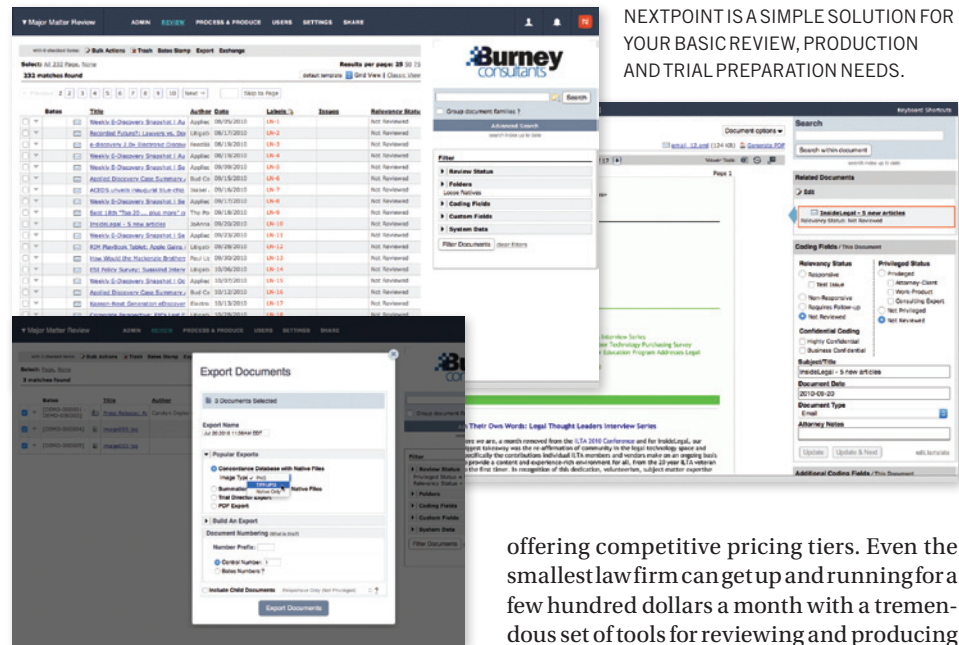
An always-present search box lets you find documents or search the text of a document. When you need more options, the Advanced Search page lets you build a complex search string. Saved Searches can either be private or available to everyone in the matter.

On a related note, case administrators can also set up certain words that will be consistently highlighted in the text of documents when viewed by reviewers.

EVEN THE SMALLEST LAW FIRM CAN GET UP AND RUNNING FOR A FEW HUNDRED DOLLARS A MONTH WITH A TREMENDOUS SET OF TOOLS FOR REVIEWING AND PRODUCING DOCUMENTS IN LITIGATION.

Nextpoint has also added a Time Tracker for reviewers. The tracker must be started manually, but the metrics can be tremendously helpful for managers overseeing the pace of a review project.

One of my favorite new features is document “splitting” for when opposing counsel stubbornly sends you a single PDF file containing hundreds or thousands of individual documents. You can now easily break apart that PDF into the separate documents you should have received in the first place.



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### PRODUCTION & PRICING

When you’re ready to produce documents, the “Production Ready” link on the administrator’s front page brings up all of the documents marked responsive but not privileged. Clicking the “Export” button pops up a box where you can select “Popular Exports” (Summation, Concordance, PDF) or build your own. Bates stamps can be configured under Settings.

offering competitive pricing tiers. Even the smallest law firm can get up and running for a few hundred dollars a month with a tremendous set of tools for reviewing and producing documents in litigation.

In the past, Nextpoint has trumpeted its ambition to “democratize e-discovery” so that every lawyer and law firm has access to the same powerful tools. There may be a perception that cloud-based tools are only for solo lawyers and small firms, but Nextpoint is challenging that incorrect impression. I see even the largest firms using Nextpoint for some of their smaller cases, or for lawyers who insist on managing their matter on a mobile device, or for collaborating on a case with co-counsel.

For those watching the evolution of cloud-computing services in the legal space, you should certainly make sure that Nextpoint is added to your list. You won’t find the latest predictive coding or text analytics tools here, but Nextpoint is a simple solution for your basic review, production and trial preparation needs.

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