



The Open Source Alternative for
Enterprise Content Management



Company Details

- ❖ Privately held US Manufacturer of paper and wood and building materials distributor
- ❖ Sales of over \$5bn
- ❖ Over 10,000 employees and operations in United States, Canada and the United Kingdom
- ❖ Four businesses comprising: Boise Building Materials Distribution, Boise Packaging and Newsprint, Boise Paper, Boise Wood Products

Industry

- ❖ Manufacturing – paper and wood products
- ❖ Wholesale building materials distribution

Business Challenges

- ❖ Update invoice management system
- ❖ Use modern document formats
- ❖ More flexible control over distribution and retention
- ❖ Seven year retention
- ❖ Potential three year tax audit from date of creation

Technical Challenges

- ❖ Ease-of-use
- ❖ Simple configuration of document distribution, transformations, lifecycles, and rules
- ❖ Metadata and content integration
- ❖ Replace existing systems

Alfresco Case Study: Boise Cascade

Scalable Invoice Management & Retention

Boise Cascade is a privately held US manufacturer of paper and wood as well as a major distributor of building materials. It is a leader in areas such as:

- Specialty and Premium Paper Products
- Plywood, Lumber and Particleboard
- Packaging and Newsprint
- Wholesale Building Materials

The company has over 10,000 employees in the United States, Canada and the UK, with revenues in excess of \$5bn. Business units include Boise Building Materials Distribution, Boise Packaging and Newsprint, Boise Paper and Boise Wood Products.

The company had a requirement to update its invoice management system. It wanted to use modern standards and formats. Boise Cascade also required more control and better management over the distribution and retention of invoices. Current laws mandate a seven year plus retention policy with a potential three year tax audit from the date of creation.

“Alfresco offered the functionality of other Enterprise Content Management systems at a fraction of the cost.”

Myron Blaine
Systems Architect, Boise Cascade

Integrating Alfresco with DB2 for List Management

The project had a number of major technical goals. The first was to provide an easy-to-use system for invoice management using standards such as PDF. This had to integrate with existing systems to extract metadata and access distribution lists. The distribution lists could be for email, fax or print. Metadata and list information was stored in DB2. The second goal was to retire a number of legacy systems. These were ImagePlus on an IBM AS400 and also the Systemware Records Management system on an IBM mainframe.

Alfresco – Simple to Use with Scale-out Over Multiple Machines

The Alfresco solution is as simple to use as a shared drive, hiding the underlying sophistication of the system. Simple to configure rules govern the lifecycle management of documents. These documents are associated with external meta-data and distribution data that is accessed from DB2. Information is sent out either via email, through RightFax, which can send faxes via email with MIME attached PDF documents or to a printer queue. In the latter case a postfix server is used that will strip out MIME attached PDF documents from an email and place them in a LPR print queue.



Benefits

- ❖ Simple installation
- ❖ Ease-of-use
- ❖ Full document lifecycle management – auditing, version control and document lifecycle management
- ❖ Significantly reduced cost
- ❖ Able to retire legacy systems
- ❖ No proprietary tie-in

Why Alfresco

- ❖ Dramatically lower cost than traditional ECM vendors
- ❖ Use of standards for retention
- ❖ Superior product
- ❖ Designed to easily scale-out
- ❖ Experience of the team

Technical Profile

- ❖ CPU - 2
- ❖ Database MySQL

The Benefits of Using Alfresco

- Simple Installation
- Ease-of-Use
- Full Document Lifecycle Management – Auditing, Version Control and Document Lifecycle Management
- Significantly Reduced Cost
- Able to Retire Legacy Systems
- No Proprietary Tie-In

“Alfresco’s ability to scale-out over a number of machines further reduces the Total Cost of Ownership.”

Myron Blaine
Systems Architect, Boise Cascade

Why Boise Cascade Chose Alfresco

Boise Cascade chose Alfresco for its offer of similar functionality and robustness to other enterprise systems but at a significantly lower cost. The ability to “scale-out” by simply adding new low-cost machines was also seen as a key technical and cost differentiator.

The use of standards was similarly important in preventing proprietary tie-in and allowing longevity of document access – critical for long-term retention. Another key factor was the experience of the team behind Alfresco which came through during the evaluation process.

Contact Alfresco

Alfresco Software Inc., 428 University Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301, USA

Telephone: 877-415-0053

Alfresco Software, Park House, Park Street, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 1SL, UK

Telephone: +44 1628 860 500
Fax: +44 870 868 1233

info@alfresco.com www.alfresco.com

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