

Rippe & Kingston and IBM deliver cloud- based IT solutions for the legal industry

IBM i Solution Edition for Rippe & Kingston offers a full range of legal applications while cutting costs and simplifying IT infrastructure



Highlights:

- Provides a comprehensive, customizable cloud-based solution for law firms of any size
- Enables firms to capitalize on robust, enterprise-grade applications while dramatically reducing the total cost of ownership
- Simplifies IT infrastructure by consolidating applications into a single, integrated environment and delivering applications to lawyers and staff through a web browser

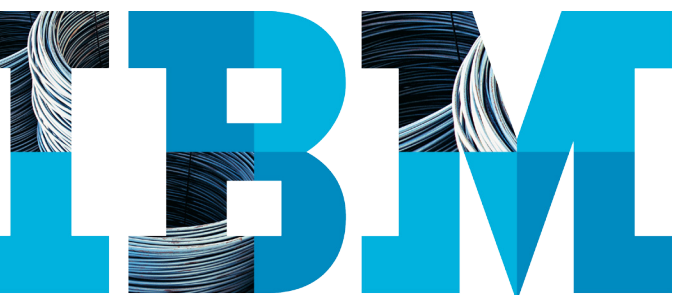
Legal firms of all sizes turn to IT solutions to help maximize productivity and responsiveness to clients. Applications for billing, profitability management, scheduling, document and case management, discovery and more hold the promise of optimizing workflow to maximize the time spent in the practice of law.

Yet many law firms have discovered that acquiring high-quality software applications, middleware and server hardware can produce a complex IT environment that is costly and very difficult to manage. “Law firms need ways to consolidate their IT infrastructure and simplify management while still providing all the functionality and quality of modern legal software,” says Paul Truax, director of consulting services at Rippe & Kingston.

Rippe & Kingston's cloud-based solutions simplify legal IT

Rippe & Kingston offers customizable cloud computing solutions that deliver the functions that law firms require while simplifying IT. The company's Legal Management System (LMS+) can be deployed with a full range of financial and practice management applications, including time and billing, profitability management, case and document management, docketing, CRM, data warehousing, business intelligence, workflow and more. The solutions are available as an internal cloud—running on a single internal server behind the law firm's own firewall—or as a managed service hosted in the Rippe & Kingston data center.

The web browser interface that is available through these solutions helps enhance user flexibility and simplify the typical IT requirements. “With a web browser interface, lawyers and staff can access applications from any location,” says Truax. “A web browser interface also eliminates the need to install multiple software applications on the desktop, accelerating deployment and reducing IT support overhead.”



Rippe & Kingston solutions integrate open-source middleware, including workflow engine, web portal, data warehouse and business intelligence components. “By embedding open-source middleware into the LMS+ solutions, we help cut middleware licensing fees dramatically,” says Truax.

Meanwhile, using servers based on a 64-bit architecture helps to deliver highly consolidated and virtualized solutions on a single, cloud-based IBM server. “With a 64-bit design, we can take full advantage of the memory capacity to run multiple software applications with only a single server footprint. In many cases, we are running 12 or more applications on a single server.”

IBM i Solution Edition for Rippe & Kingston software provides a single, integrated environment

The IBM® i Solution Edition for Rippe & Kingston software uses IBM Power Systems™ to create a fully integrated platform for law firms of all sizes. Rippe & Kingston internal cloud solutions are available for the IBM Power 720 Express and the Power 740 Express. The company also uses mainframe-level IBM Power Systems internally to host the managed cloud environments in its data centers. Built on the 64-bit POWER7® architecture, these systems represent a true leap forward to more intelligent systems that reduce complexity, decrease energy consumption and minimize downtime while driving down operational costs.

IBM i provides a secure, reliable and integrated operating environment. By including a relational database, security, web services, networking and storage management capabilities, IBM i provides a broad and highly stable software foundation for efficiently deploying legal applications using a true cloud design.

IBM i Solution Editions are designed to help businesses take advantage of the combined experience and expertise of IBM and independent software vendors (ISVs), such as Rippe & Kingston, in building business value with IT investments. Coupled with the total integration delivered by IBM i and the Solution Edition system discount, these solution offerings deliver the performance today’s businesses need along with low cost of ownership. Each Solution Edition provides a simplified, easy-to-manage, high-performance IT environment for core business applications.

“Running our software on IBM Power Systems enables us to deliver consolidated, cloud-based solutions that can have a very positive impact on the practice of law at a significantly lower cost than using other platforms.”

—Paul Truax, Director of Consulting Services, Rippe & Kingston



IBM Power 740 Express (rack-mount)



Cloud-based solutions help significantly reduce IT costs

Implementing a cloud-based solution from Rippe & Kingston can help firms dramatically reduce the costs of owning and supporting their IT infrastructure. “Law firms no longer have to buy and manage a fleet of servers with expensive proprietary software,” says Truax. “Running our software on IBM Power Systems enables us to deliver consolidated, cloud-based solutions that can have a very positive impact on the practice of law at a significantly lower cost than using other platforms.”

Adopting Rippe & Kingston solutions also can help firms cost-effectively introduce new applications that improve productivity and increase revenue without having to change anything in the IT infrastructure. New legal applications can be added via IBM PowerVM™ virtualization technology

Cloud-based solutions can help law firms of all sizes access Tier 1 practice management applications without excessive costs or complexity. The IBM® i Solution Edition for Rippe & Kingston software offers a fully integrated cloud design, with customizable applications, that can meet the precise needs of specific practice areas of the firm while cutting costs and simplifying IT infrastructure.

without having to alter the IT footprint. For example, firms can implement applications that help lawyers stay on top of each case by providing access to contacts, critical dates, documents and billable time from the case, all in a single view. Previously, this type of highly integrated application was out of the reach of small and medium-sized firms because of the complex and costly IT infrastructure required.

Firms access superior applications without adding complexity

While helping to save money, Rippe & Kingston solutions also enable firms of all sizes to access superior, enterprise-class legal applications. “In the past, the cost and IT overhead of running Tier 1 legal applications put them out of reach for the small and medium-sized firms,” says Truax. “Now they can access the applications they need, cost-effectively, via the cloud design on a single internal server or via a hosted solution in the cloud. Using cloud technology, smaller firms can capitalize on the same software used by the largest firms.”

Cloud-based solutions running on a single virtualized server also help to simplify IT management. “Many small firms lack the resources to manage multiple servers, and many large firms are looking to cut costs and not add IT personnel,” says Truax. “Whether a firm has 3 lawyers or 2,000, our cloud-based solutions can help them accomplish their goals without requiring additional IT staff.”

The bottom line

Together, IBM and leading ISVs provide solutions that combine the power of IBM Power Systems and IBM i with the strengths of business applications, along with superior services and support. IBM i Solution Editions can help businesses achieve:

- Increased insight for more assured decision making
- Improved productivity, efficiency and responsiveness
- Reduced costs through increased flexibility
- Adaptability to business change
- Higher productivity
- Competitive total cost of acquisition and proven total cost of ownership

For more information

This IBM i Solution Edition is available as an offering when a customer selects both new IBM hardware and software or services from Rippe & Kingston. For more details, visit ibm.com/systems/power/hardware/editions/solutions.html or legal.rippe.com.



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Systems and Technology Group
Route 100
Somers, NY 10589

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