

A major law firm

Accelerating eDiscovery and litigation support with secure, high-speed data sharing

At a glance

Industry

Legal & eDiscovery

Products

- IBM Aspera High-speed Transfer Server
- IBM Aspera Shares
- IBM Aspera Console

Challenge

The law firm needed to overcome the challenges of collecting and sharing large volumes of sensitive files stored around the world. Existing tools proved to be slow and unreliable when transferring data across geographies, resulting in missed deadlines for eDiscovery and litigation support.

Solution

The law firm deployed IBM Aspera High-speed Transfer Server and IBM Aspera Shares to provide secure, high-speed file sending and sharing across the firm's 1,000+ global employees. Case teams can now easily collect gigabytes of files from anywhere in the world and securely share with team members at high-speed.

Results

- Transfer speeds between global offices and central data storage in NY have improved over 144%, making it possible to meet strict timelines for high profile client cases.
 - Software-only solution using existing hardware and network bandwidth eliminates additional infrastructure costs.
 - The firm and its clients have peace of mind knowing sensitive data is protected with Aspera's complete stack of security capabilities.
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A law firm with more than 1,000 professionals in North America, Asia and Europe is trusted by industry leading organizations for a wide range of legal services including litigation, corporate law, transactions and regulatory compliance.

The firm needs to tightly coordinate large scale data collections for eDiscovery and litigation support across global teams and clients. This includes securely collecting multiple gigabytes of files from a wide variety of sources and locations and then sharing with legal teams for processing, preservation and review.

Speed and security are paramount when helping clients meet strict court mandated or regulatory driven timelines. Using IBM Aspera Shares with IBM Aspera High-speed Transfer Server software, the law firm was able to transform its eDiscovery and litigation support process, accelerating data collection and improving the client experience.

Challenge

For each client the firm assembles a core case team consisting of paralegals, legal associates, technology advisors and attorneys. These global teams work together to collect, process, review and preserve electronically stored information (ESI) pertinent to the client's case.

ESI is collected at any one of the firm's 12 offices depending on the location of the client and uploaded to their central Dell EMC Isilon storage in NY. Case teams need to frequently access these files to make progress on time sensitive matters.

Individual data sets can reach three to four gigabytes in size with most teams collecting and reviewing multiple sets of data for each case. Data volumes for an individual client matter can quickly add up.

Historically, the firm utilized Robocopy and native Windows File Sharing over a VPN internet connection to share case data between offices and central data storage in NY. Teams accessing multigigabyte files over high latency global networks experienced long delays. At the worst, it could take an entire week to move critical ESI from a client site to a local office and finally, to a reviewing associate in another time zone. Court related matters follow strict mandated timelines. Waiting a week for critical ESI to arrive was simply not an option.

Benefits

- **Streamlined global eDiscovery:** IBM Aspera software reduced global file transfers from days or hours to minutes, making it possible to meet strict eDiscovery deadlines.
 - **Strong security and compliance:** IBM Aspera's native integration with existing user access management systems, enterprise-grade security and robust transfer reporting and logging, protects highly sensitive client data while helping to meet strict compliance requirements.
 - **Robust management capabilities:** Real time transfer control and reporting makes it easy for administrators to manage the transfer environment. Additionally, IBM Aspera's VLink feature provides bandwidth controls from within the software allowing teams to maximize transfers without impeding the network.
 - **Easy to use:** IBM Aspera's intuitive, web-based user experience allows teams of all technical abilities, high or low, to easily share files at high-speed with minimal learning curve.
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Solution

After considering a number of solutions, the firm determined Aspera was the only offering capable of meeting all of its needs. Aspera High-speed Transfer Server with Aspera Shares software were deployed on an existing Windows host in the NY datacenter with a connection to the Isilon storage. Aspera High-speed Transfer Server enables high-speed global data transfers in and out of the central datacenter with Aspera Shares providing a user-friendly web client for teams to quickly and securely share files. All of this was achieved without additional hardware.

The firm also chose to deploy IBM Aspera Console for full transfer logging, reporting and control. Not only does this help administrators manage the transfer environment, but it also provides detailed logging needed for compliance reporting.

Aspera's native integration with Microsoft Active Directory enabled the firm to retain its existing user management platform making it easy to securely onboard, credential and manage large groups of users. New associates are added to case team groups through Active Directory. Aspera Shares then grants or removes access to case team files automatically, without any administrative effort. Coupled with robust data encryption in transit and at rest, Aspera provided the firm with an all-in-one security offering, a standout among the competition.

Rounding out the solution was Aspera's built-in Virtual Link (Vlink) bandwidth management capability. Bandwidth across the offices varied between 10Mbps to 1Gbps. The Vlink feature enabled IT to easily create office specific bandwidth policies from within the software. Seven Aspera Vlinks were deployed with IP-based bandwidth rules across 18 managed subnets allowing each office to maximize their transfer speeds without congesting the network. This granular control was key to preserving network performance.

Results

With IBM Aspera high-speed transfer software, the firm can now move a 3GB file from the US to Japan in under 15 minutes compared to previous tools that took up to 36 hours. This represents a 144% improvement in transfer speeds over global internet connections. Additionally, software defined bandwidth controls using Aspera's Vlink technology ensures the fastest possible transfer speeds while protecting the network from saturation. The Aspera solution has significantly reduced turnaround times for collecting and processing large amounts of ESI.

From a user experience perspective, Aspera Shares provides case teams with an intuitive and easy-to-use web based file sharing experience. This is important given the diverse range of technical expertise among the end users. Automated email notifications alert teams when new files have arrived further streamlining collaboration.

“Thanks to Aspera, file transfer speeds have improved 144% making it easy to meet court mandated deadlines and better serve our clients.”

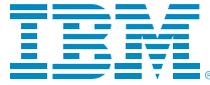
Aspera’s software based solution was easy for IT to deploy and integrate with existing platforms including Active Directory. The integrated user management saves IT and users the time and effort associated with managing a separate set of credentials. The combination of Aspera’s robust encryption, transfer reporting and integration with existing user management platforms, helps protect the firm’s sensitive client data and ensures compliance requirements are met.

About IBM Aspera

IBM Aspera offers next-generation transport technologies that move the world’s data at maximum speed regardless of file size, transfer distance and network conditions. Based on its patented, Emmy® award-winning FASP® protocol, Aspera software fully utilizes existing infrastructures to deliver the fastest, most predictable file-transfer experience. Aspera’s core technology delivers unprecedented control over bandwidth, complete security and uncompromising reliability. Organizations across a variety of industries on six continents rely on Aspera software for the business-critical transport of their digital assets.

For more information

For more information on IBM Aspera solutions, please visit <https://www.ibm.com/products/aspera> or contact us at aspera-sales@ibm.com



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