Novelis preserves data and saves money with OpenText

Novelis Corporation brings eDiscovery in-house to deliver on complex cases with OpenText™ EnCase™ eDiscovery

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Susan Jackson
Legal Counsel
Novelis
Novelis is the global leader in aluminum rolled products and aluminum can recycling. The company operates in 11 countries, has approximately 11,000 employees and reported revenue of $9.6 billion in fiscal year 2017. Novelis supplies premium aluminum sheet and foil products to automotive, transportation, packaging, construction, industrial, electronics and printing markets throughout North America, South America, Europe and Asia.

With mounting eDiscovery fees and cases in the news, the Novelis Corporation General Counsel decided to bring the eDiscovery process in-house. Service provider costs on one large case alone exceeded one million dollars, and the company wanted to gain control of these expenses. Given the budget crunch the legal department was facing, the question was, how fast could the capital spend be recouped in savings?

In addition to escalating service provider costs for eDiscovery, internal policies required electronic data for terminated and retiring employees meeting certain management criteria be preserved with metadata unaltered during collection. The corporation’s needs demanded the law department have the best tools in the market and people knowledgeable in the legal complexities of eDiscovery.

“The most highly respected and most often mentioned solution at industry trade shows was EnCase eDiscovery, so Novelis purchased it, along with training passports for the Novelis eDiscovery team. This enabled the team to get up to speed quickly and build a defensible, repeatable in-house process,” said Susan Jackson, Legal Counsel, Novelis. As part of this process each team member received their EnCEP™ (EnCase Certified eDiscovery Practitioner) certification.

The company now preserves electronic data and saves case files in accordance with their electronically stored information policy. EnCase eDiscovery is used for the acquisition of user-created information and collects from different data sources forensically. The company can collect and preserve whole disks or target specific files and directories, as needed, while preserving metadata and audit integrity with EnCase’s trusted Logical Evidence File (LEF). If further review is warranted, either for a business purpose or in response to litigation, data is culled in EnCase eDiscovery and relevant information is exported and loaded into other eDiscovery review platforms.

“In just nine months of using EnCase eDiscovery, the company has saved more than $1.5 million in service provider fees,” Jackson noted. EnCase eDiscovery has proven to be a good solution for the corporation, as many plaintiffs’ lawyers attempt to use eDiscovery to leverage settlements. Novelis can now focus on evaluating a case based on its merits alone, instead of being bound by the daunting costs of hiring outside counsel and third-party service providers to deal with the overbroad requests of plaintiffs’ counsel.

In the future, the eDiscovery team will continue to use EnCase eDiscovery software to its full advantage, allowing Novelis to focus less on service provider costs and more on the merits of the cases filed.