

Alfresco Case Study: Boise Cascade

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.

Scalable Invoice Management & Retention

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.

The key requirements for the project were as follows:

- To deliver an updated invoice management system
- To use modern document formats
- To deliver more flexible control over distribution and retention
- To adhere to the seven-year retention policy
- To enable a tax audit from date of creation

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.

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

Myron Blaine, Systems Architect, Boise Cascade



To summarize, Alfresco was selected for the following reasons:

- Ease-of-use
- Simple configuration of document distribution, transformations, lifecycles, and rules
- Metadata and content integration
- Ability to replace existing systems

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 an LPR print queue.

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.

Benefits of Using Alfresco

Boise Cascade has identified the following benefits while 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



Alfresco Software,
Suite 700,
2839 Paces Ferry Road,
Atlanta, GA, 30339, USA
Tel: 877-238-4651

Alfresco Software,
The Place, Bridge Avenue,
Maidenhead, SL6 1AF, UK
Tel: +44 (0) 1628 876 500
Fax: +44 1628 876 501

info@alfresco.com
www.alfresco.com
Bosie1110