

## The Supreme Court of India

# Using .NET Technology to automate The Supreme Court of India

*The Supreme Court of India registers almost 500 new cases per day, which requires massive storage space for case documents, files, and listings in the designated judge's courtroom. Speedy disposal of cases by the apex court of India is often hampered due to the disadvantages of maintaining and navigating through vast amounts of papers and files.*

*With the help of Microsoft® .NET, Trisoft Systems implemented a Microsoft SharePoint-based E-Filing solution to reduce the time involved in filing, correction and registration of Cases and providing a means for securely storing of Case documents. This system has improved the efficiency of the day-to-day operations and allowed end users to retrieve case documents on demand, from anywhere in India.*

### Situation

On the 28th of January, 1950, two days after India became a Sovereign Democratic Republic, the Supreme Court came into being. The Supreme Court of India comprises the Chief Justice of India, and 25 other Judges appointed by the President of India.

As the apex body of the law in India, The Supreme Court has original, appellate and advisory jurisdiction. Its exclusive original jurisdiction extends to any dispute between the Government of India and the States, between the Government of India and any State, and disputes between States.

Trisoft Systems was engaged to build a new E-Filing solution based on Microsoft.NET, Microsoft SharePoint Portal Server, Microsoft Exchange Server 2000 and Microsoft SQL Server 2000. This new system allows the Advocate on Records, the Registry Staff and the Judges to file, manage and process court cases more efficiently.

### Solution

#### E-Submission over the Internet

In response to the Supreme Court requirements, we proposed an E-Filing solution using Microsoft.NET and Office XP, which would enable the Advocate on Records to file the case electronically over the Internet from the comfort of their office or home.

A wide-ranging set of templates for case preparation was developed using Microsoft Word XP to enable the Advocates to prepare the case quickly and without errors. This eventually was transformed into a word Add-In and was of great help to the advocates who were already familiar with MS Word.

## Solution Overview

### Customer Profile

#### **Industry**

The Supreme Court of India

#### **Business Situation**

The Supreme Court of India uses a .NET-SharePoint based E-Filing system for electronic filing of cases from anywhere in India, registration of cases and subsequent listing and hearing of the cases in the ECourt.

### Solution

#### **Business Scenario**

.NET-SharePoint based E-Filing solution.

#### **Benefits**

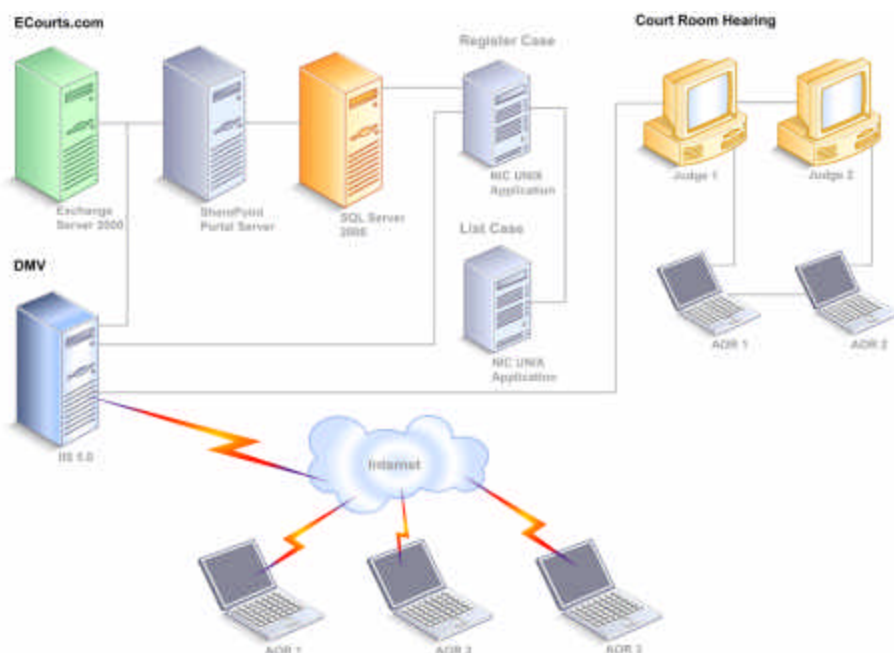
The solution enables Advocates on Records to file cases electronically from any location over the internet thus reducing considerable time and money.

The Supreme Court registry staff no longer needs huge storage spaces for filing the case documents. The documents are filed securely in an electronic format.

Whereas registration of a case in The Supreme Court of India took about 22 days, it is now possible to register the case in 7 days.

Role Based and secure access to documents from anywhere benefited both the lawyers and the judges with the SharePoint Search engine at their disposal.

The browser based solution required Windows NT authentication and the entire case submission workflow was divided into 13 steps to clearly define the entire process.



Counter Affidavits, Rejoinder Processing, Re-Submission of defect cured documents and pro-active alerts were also some very important functions of the solution. A comprehensive SharePoint based search was also provided which allowed the Advocates to search through their previous cases with pinpoint accuracy thereby facilitating instant references to historical documents.

### Empowering the Registry Staff

The mundane tasks of booking a case, going through document hard-copies for defect discovery, resending the documents back to the advocate for defect-curing, subsequent registration of the case and listing of the cases for hearing were extremely time-intensive. Our solution allows the entire process to be quick, thorough and efficient, thereby raising productivity levels across the system.

### Benefits

#### Hi-Tech Court Rooms

The court masters no longer need to prepare stacks of files and folders containing the case documents. Judges as well as advocates appearing for a case are provided with state-of-the-art computers, which directly access case files from the SharePoint repositories.

Smart navigation features such as "Go To Page Number" and "Go To Bookmark" help the users to quickly jump to the contested clause during a case hearing. Additional features such as creation of personal bookmarks by both the advocates and the judges allow them to prepare, contest and counter arguments more effectively, saving a lot of time.

The court masters and recordists have their own separate workstations where they record the court proceedings in detail.

*Pro-active alerts using the email on case status kept the users well informed in advance to take necessary actions.*

#### Microsoft Products Used

- Microsoft Visual Studio.NET
- SharePoint Portal Server 2001
- Microsoft SQL Server 2000
- Microsoft Exchange Server 2000
- Microsoft Windows® 2000/XP
- Microsoft Office XP

#### Microsoft Speak

*We would like to take this opportunity to thank Trisoft's Supreme Court Development team for the excellent initiative undertaken by each one in showcasing the E-Filing module of the E-Courts Application to be deployed at the Supreme Court of India. We would also like to appreciate the excellent efforts put in for a in-time and bug free deliverable.*

*This first milestone could not have been possible without the perfect teamwork. We still have a long way to go to deploy the solution and complete subsequent phases. We will work together to deliver the best.*

### **Extended Connectivity**

With the solution in place, even the judges have the flexibility and convenience of going through their scheduled cases right from home. This was made possible by designing a VPN, a Virtual Private Network that allowed secure connectivity. This allows the judges to prepare for cases to be heard in the coming days and also allows them to store bookmarks and personal notes on any points of discussion.

A powerful scheduling feature allows parties to view case schedules for the week sorted by case type, view re-scheduled cases as well as stay informed about upcoming holidays.

### **Future Plans**

Our solution is currently the first phase. In subsequent phases there is an intention of setting up Remote Courts complete with real time audio-video streaming of court proceedings. It makes it possible for advocates to contest cases from remote locations. There is also a plan to setup a Service Bureau which would facilitate preparation of case documents, provide image scanning services and case preparation services for less-equipped advocates. Alerts on smart devices, IVR support on current cases and integration of the existing laws and historic cases are also on the cards.

A further objective is to do away with all manual work by setting up Electronic Notaries and providing an on-line payment system for the advocates to pay their court fees.

### **About .NET**

.NET is Microsoft's platform for XML Web services, the next generation of software that connects our world of information, devices and people in a unified, personalized way. The .NET platform enables the creation and use of XML based applications, processes and Web sites as services which share and combine information and functionality with each other by design, on any platform or smart device, to provide tailored solutions for organizations and individuals. For more information please visit: <http://www.microsoft.com/net>

### **About Visual Studio.NET**

Visual Studio.NET offers a comprehensive set of tools for creating XML Web services. It also includes the .NET framework, a development environment built on industry standards that supports multiple programming languages.