



Moving legal documents faster to improve accuracy of public records

AT A GLANCE

Industry

Legal & eDiscovery

Products

Aspera Shares
Aspera Connect Server
Aspera Console

Challenge

Speed up the process of moving large sets of digital legal documents between Houston, Texas and external vendors, as well as enable ad hoc file exchange with courthouses and customers.

Solution

CourthouseDirect selected Aspera Shares and Connect Server to quickly and reliably exchange large sets of digital files with distant vendors and courthouses across Texas and nationwide.

Results

- Reduced turnaround time for large sets of files sent, processed, and returned from vendors to less than a day, down from 1-2 weeks and sometimes up to a month.
- Instead of waiting to receive enough data to fill a hard drive, CourthouseDirect can now send data for processing immediately as it receives it.

CourthouseDirect.com provides online access to national courthouse records, grantor/grantee indexes and real property records including deeds, mortgages, liens, oil & gas leases, abstracts of judgment, releases, bankruptcies, property taxes, etc. To maintain compliance, CourthouseDirect.com must update these records with any new activities, documents and information. Attorneys, escrow officers, title companies and other customers rely on the information's accuracy, so timely updates are crucial to keep the records current and maintain CourthouseDirect's high quality of service.

When new information is received from courthouses nationwide, the data must be extensively processed and reformatted prior to ingest into CourthouseDirect's system. To speed up the turnaround time and ensure customers are receiving the most up to date records as quickly as possible, CourthouseDirect uses high-speed file transfers powered by Aspera to send large sets of digitized legal records to and from a third party processing vendors, saving a significant amount of time and cost.

CHALLENGE:

Traditionally, courthouses send data with a broad range of types and formats, requiring CourthouseDirect to send it through an additional processing step before it can be

loaded by their internal system, a labor and time intensive effort for CourthouseDirect's staff to manage. To reduce turnaround time and free up resources, CourthouseDirect decided to outsource the work to external vendors that could complete these projects more efficiently and affordably. However, this presented a significant new challenge – how to regularly move large data sets quickly, securely and reliably between CourthouseDirect's headquarters in Houston, Texas and distant vendors over wide area networks (WAN) with high latency.

“To be able to transmit and receive data efficiently has been a huge benefit for our business and our reputation with customers.”

● Jack Kelly
System Administrator, CourthouseDirect.com

Previously, the most reliable form of transport involved physically loading hard drives with anywhere from 2 to 300GB of data for shipment to the vendors. However, the shipment alone often took over a week – and sometimes as much as a month if the hard drive got held up in customs – adding to the total time it would take to get data processed and returned.

Customers accessing information on CourthouseDirect.com rely on the

BENEFITS

Fast transfers: Powered by Aspera's patented FASP high-speed transfer technology, CourthouseDirect maximizes available bandwidth to deliver large files across long distances to its 3rd party vendors, as well as exchange files ad hoc with customers and other vendors, at the fastest possible speeds, regardless of file size, transfer distance, or network conditions.

Ease of use: Aspera Shares provides an intuitive user interface that allows users to effortlessly upload and download files, with little instruction or training required.

Strong security: Aspera's enterprise-grade security plan features built-in, thorough SSH authentication, encryption in transit and at rest, and data integrity verification for each transmitted block, protecting sensitive records throughout the transfer process.

Reliability: The Aspera solution provides reliable transfers between distant locations, particularly with CourthouseDirect's external vendors that experience poor connections and high latency over the WAN.



ABOUT COURTHOUSEDIRECT

CourthouseDirect.com is committed to providing fast, accurate and affordable courthouse documents and research by using the potential of the Internet to cut cost and save time associated with obtaining public records and thereby eliminating inefficiencies and revolutionizing the delivery of courthouse information nationwide.

downloaded records to be completely current and accurate, so it's vital to update documents and data as quickly as possible. Transferring its large digital files over a global WAN was an appealing solution, but the high latency between the US and distant vendors severely degraded the performance and reliability of most transfer solutions.

SOLUTION:

CourthouseDirect.com deployed solutions from Aspera to transfer large sets of records to and from external vendors, as well as support ad hoc transfers with courthouses and customers.

Using Aspera Shares, CourthouseDirect shares digital files via a centralized repository that can be accessed internally and externally by authorized vendors and customers. Internal users, customers and vendors simply use the free downloadable Connect Browser Plug-in to securely upload and download legal files and data. With Aspera's patented FASP technology at the core, the Aspera solution can overcome high latency to maximize its available bandwidth and provide stable, high-speed transfers with reliable delivery times, even over inherently unreliable long distance international links.

Today, CourthouseDirect simply uploads new sets of records at maximum speed to 3rd party vendors, which process and format the data before sharing it with the team in Houston via another high-speed Aspera transfer. Once data is received by CourthouseDirect, an additional step is automatically triggered to direct files to the appropriate location dependent on the type of file or index, saving further time.

RESULTS:

The solutions deployed by Aspera substantially decreased the time it takes to turnaround data and update information.

Previously, CourthouseDirect waited until it had received enough data to load and ship

on a hard drive. With Aspera, there is no need to waste time waiting for data to slowly trickle in; the team can immediately send data to the vendor for processing as they receive it.

"When you say you're going to have something in a timely fashion, you need to have it there. To be able to transmit and receive data efficiently has been a huge benefit for our business and our reputation with customers," said Jack Kelly, System Administrator at Courthouse Direct.

High-speed file transfers have effectively reduced the time it takes to deliver property data and other public records to distant vendors from over a week and up to a month with hard drive shipments to less than one day with Aspera. The ability to send data to a vendor and receive system-compatible results back by the next day enables CourthouseDirect to achieve their business imperative of providing customers with the most up to date property information available.

"Our first tests were absolutely unbelievable. The installation process was straightforward, and the amount of attention we received from the sales and support staff was phenomenal - they were at our beck and call and absolutely responsive to everything we needed," said Kelly. "Plus, not a lot of work is required on the user end. We're all very happy with the solution."

About Aspera

Aspera, an IBM company, is the creator of next-generation transport technologies that move the world's data at maximum speed regardless of file size, transfer distance and network conditions. Part of IBM Cloud, Aspera software is powered by the Emmy®award-winning FASP® protocol to deliver the fastest, most predictable file-transfer, share and sync experience across on-premises, cloud, and hybrid infrastructure. 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.

Learn more at www.asperasoft.com

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