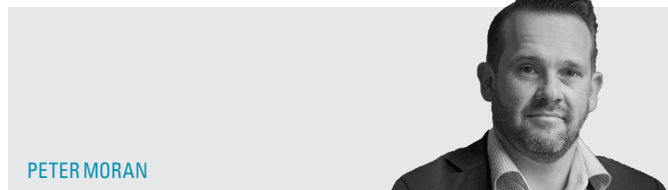


EBRIEF READY

This document-sharing platform is easy to use and suitable for lawyers who might not be particularly tech savvy.



Which practitioners would find this technology useful?

Barristers, litigation solicitors, judges, court reporters, expert witnesses and anyone involved in the litigation process.

How does it work?

eBrief Ready is an integrated platform that performs optical character recognition (OCR) on documents (meaning the documents are scanned into a pdf format but with all text being searchable) as they are uploaded to the electronic document bundle and automatically paginates and orders them according to set parameters. Once the documents are scanned and uploaded to the platform, they can then be assembled and re-ordered more efficiently into an eBrief or a court book. The entire document bundle is text searchable allowing for efficient research, annotation, collaboration and ease of reference to key points during litigation. An index is also automatically created and updates as and when documents are added, removed or re-ordered. As each matter has its own file, the system can also serve as a de facto document management system for the barrister.

Benefits

eBrief Ready is designed to be easy to use and is well suited to lawyers who might not be particularly tech savvy. It is useful for barristers as a way of storing and interacting with their briefs and the documents contained within the briefs. Documents can be annotated in the system and, given the text search functionality, can allow the barrister to interact with large briefs without requiring other software. The system is particularly useful for barristers who prefer to work in a paperless format as opposed to working from a hard copy brief. The functionality might also enable barristers to become more paperless by allowing them to use with electronic documents the same methods traditionally used when dealing with hard copy documents (eg, highlighting, annotating, tabbing).

A further benefit is that, as and when court books and submissions are prepared, the barrister's annotations and tabs can be synced and thereby retained, meaning the barrister can continue to work from the documents in an electronic format even though the documents have been moved into the court book. Again, this is particularly useful for barristers looking to work from electronic notes and court books for the purpose of their submissions in a court hearing itself.

Another benefit is cybersecurity: as all documents in the matter are transferred and contained within the one platform, the data is secured by eBrief Ready and encrypted within the platform rather than the vulnerabilities that can arise with various other methods such as

sharing the documents via email, USBs, OneDrive etc.

Costs

Pricing ranges from \$0 to \$30 per month, with scan-to-text OCR service/functions and brief sharing free for all users.

Full functionality is available to law firms from \$10 per user per month and from \$6 for barristers' chambers (depending on user numbers).

A "Pro Account" is available from \$30 per user per month.

Risks

Cyber risk, as with any cloud offering, is present as regards confidential and sensitive data moving beyond a firm's internal systems. However, the risk is less than exists for transferring such data via email, given the inherently insecure nature of unencrypted email. eBrief Ready data is held in Australia in an encrypted format via an Amazon Web Services server.

Third parties handling data on the platform sign confidentiality agreements and there is an automated system for error detection and reporting as well as automated back up of critical user-provided data agreements. See <https://www.ebriefready.com.au/faqs/>

Downsides

At the moment, the platform only holds documents in PDF form. However, eBrief Ready intends to expand functionality to be able to hold native form documents including emails, spreadsheets and Word documents. The software may have some overlapping functionality with law firm practice management software, however, given the benefit to the barrister and the other cybersecurity benefits, there may also be reason for solicitors to use the system other than because it is the preferred system of the barrister they are briefing. However, the use of the system by solicitors creates an additional cost over and above the cost of a document management or practice management system and could lead to double handling with filing and document management. ■

Peter Moran is managing principal at Peer Legal and founder of the Steward Guide, an online technology guide for lawyers (www.stewardguide.com.au)

SNAPSHOT

What is eBrief?

A document sharing and collaboration platform between barristers and solicitors, in particular for briefs and court books.

What type of technology?

Web portal

Vendor

TA Law

Country of origin

Australia

Similar tech products

Law In Order: document bundling service.

DropBox, OneDrive, Google Docs and other document storage and sharing platforms
Legal practice and document management software: Leap, Practice Evolve, ActionStep

Non-tech alternatives

Paper brief

More information

<https://www.ebriefready.com.au/>