

SMARTER DRAFTER

This contract automation platform assembles contracts automatically based on comprehensive and dynamic questionnaires tailored to the specific area of law.



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Which practitioners would find this technology useful?

Any legal practice looking to expedite its contract drafting process.

How does it work?

Smarter Drafter has a document bank of pre-built automated documents and content that is pulled together to assemble contracts across a wide array of legal practice areas (eg, from commercial leasing to intellectual property) based on answers to the comprehensive questionnaires. The questionnaires are not static, but a dynamic and intuitive workflow that ask further specific questions depending on the answers given and to ensure all fields are covered. The specificity goes well beyond details such as parties to the contract, but to the various clause mechanisms relevant to that type of agreement. Significant legal input has been sought in the creation of the workflows and the result is a high quality but tailored contract that is able to be generated more automatically and quickly than via a traditional drafting method, whether drafting from scratch or through “cutting and pasting” clauses from other precedents.

The system is designed to deliver a complete and comprehensive contract at the end of the process. This sets Smarter Drafter apart from typical precedent banks that exist within practice management software which often merely populate matter details into the agreement (eg, parties, addresses, jurisdiction). Smarter Drafter requires the user to understand legal concepts and answer the questions in their entirety, which is not something that could be completed by a lay person.

Benefits

The pre-built documents bank that Smarter Drafter generates contracts from is also a form of precedent bank and is therefore excellent for new firms and sole practitioners who may not have their own precedent libraries or are looking for a competitive edge based on fixed contract pricing and responsively producing contracts. Unlike some triage and “bot” systems where the practitioner or firm must create the workflow from scratch, Smarter Drafter’s processes allow immediate productivity in generating contracts merely by answering the questions.

However, where practitioners want more bespoke processes, Smarter Drafter also enables editing of the workflows or even the creation of new ones from scratch. This functionality may appeal to larger firms with greater resources and scalability that wish to create more distinctive offerings within the Smarter Drafter functionality.

The platform also contains in-built guidance notes that provide context to the implications of question/answers. This provides

additional guidance to the practitioner throughout the completion of the questionnaire and can thereby be a training tool for junior lawyers and paralegals.

Parts of the questionnaire can be sent to clients to complete their relevant details and which will in turn populate the contract within Smarter Drafter. This can decrease the correspondence between lawyer and client in order to finalise the contract.

Smarter Drafter is tailored to the laws of each state in Australia.

Any changes made to the questionnaire will automatically update every relevant part of the contract ensuring greater accuracy compared to manual edits where there is a greater possibility of such updates being missed.

Cost

Pricing starts at \$499.17 per month with one user. A free trial is available.

Risks

Cyberisk, as with any cloud offering, is present as regards confidential and sensitive data moving beyond a firm’s internal systems. Smarter Drafter data is held in Australia in an encrypted format via Microsoft Azure servers.

Downsides

The language and content of the contracts generated is unchangeable at the workflow level (depending on plan level, higher plan tiers come in both PDF and Word format) which limits the ability of practitioners to craft contract language to their own firm’s style and drafting preferences. Contracts generated by users of Smarter Drafter will be in many respects identical in content which may be a disadvantage where firms are directly in competition with one another (albeit the contracts will vary depending on the questionnaire answers).

However, the look and feel of the contract, including branding, can be tailored to the firm’s requirements so it may only be the contract content that will be similar across firms and clients may be less attuned to the similarities given the difference in “look and feel”. Firms are also then free to amend the agreements at their discretion once the Smarter Drafter process is completed. ■

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SNAPSHOT

What is Smarter Drafter?

A contract automation platform which generates complete contracts based on populated forms

What type of technology?

Cloud platform

Vendor

FluentDocs Pty Ltd

Country of origin

Australia

Similar tech products

Josef, Settify

Hot Docs

Contracts Express

Practice management software with precedents that can be populated through in-built fields

Non-tech alternatives

Lawyer, paralegal

More information

www.smarterdrafter.com.au