The European Court of Human Rights (in Strasbourg) is a supra-national court established by the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and hears complaints that a contracting state has violated the human rights enshrined in the Convention and its protocols. Complaints can be brought by individuals or other contracting states, and the Court can also issue advisory opinions. The Convention was adopted under the auspices of the Council of Europe, and all of its 47 member states are parties to the Convention.

**USER PROFILE**

ECHR rulings affect over 800 million inhabitants in 47 member states, and under the Convention (Article 44 § 3), it is required to make its judgments public and easily accessible to interested parties.

**THE CHALLENGE**

The ECHR wanted to develop a new document search and sharing system that would allow more than 4.6 million site visitors each year to search for and retrieve documents from an ever-expanding library of over 90,000 ECHR judgment-related documents.

The challenges were to leverage its legacy investments in SharePoint and Hummingbird DMS and to combine them with new search technologies to build an intuitive search and sharing platform that could be used by professionals and the public alike.

**THE WORKSHARE® SOLUTION**

The ECHR chose to build a platform based on Workshare’s search and share capabilities to meet this requirement. The new platform, built on the organization’s HUDOC document database, combines Microsoft FAST’s search capabilities with new and innovative Workshare Web 2.0 technologies to create a unique, real-time search experience for users accessing legal-ruling documents.

Workshare worked closely with the ECHR and Microsoft to improve granular search functionality of the ECHR HUDOC document library and produced an intuitive user interface hosted on Microsoft SharePoint Internet sites.

"This project will greatly enhance the ECHR’s capacity to distribute its case law to as wide an audience as possible, as well as allowing us to leverage our investment in Microsoft SharePoint and Microsoft FAST."

John Hunter
Head of IT, ECHR

In addition to delivering the most relevant documents based on specific search criteria, the platform has also been designed to accommodate large volumes of traffic. Following a major ruling, it is typical for the ECHR’s site to receive up to 5,000 simultaneous visitors, including legal professionals, the general public, global news organizations, local legal institutions, and government institutions from many of the 47 member states of Europe.

**THE BENEFITS**

The new platform developed by Workshare will ensure that the public can search for and access documents within seconds of being published. It will also provide a set of new features, such as search refiners, that will allow users to find the information they need more effectively. This will transform the document delivery process and enhance overall usability of the ECHR online document repository.
The European Court of Human Rights

ABOUT WORKSHARE
Workshare is a leading provider of secure enterprise file sharing and collaboration applications. Workshare allows individuals to easily communicate, create, share, and manage high-value content anywhere, on any device. Workshare enhances the efficiency of the collaborative process by enabling content owners to accurately track and compare changes from contributors simultaneously. Workshare also mitigates the commercial risk posed by inadvertently sharing confidential or sensitive documents and information.

More than 2 million professionals in 70 countries use Workshare’s award-winning desktop, mobile, tablet, and online applications.

ENTERPRISE-CLASS INFRASTRUCTURE
Workshare provides enterprise-class data security and availability for its clients by applying the latest technology and best practices to safeguard data, prevent unauthorized access, and guarantee availability.

Workshare’s desktop and server applications are sanctioned by corporate IT services and are installed behind the firewall.

DEPLOYMENT OPTIONS
Workshare flexible deployment options enable organizations to leverage a secure, scalable, cloud-enabled desktop, mobile, or online environment.

Desktop – For organizations that require direct control and onsite management of their digital content, Workshare Compare, Protect, and Professional desktop applications are installed behind a corporate firewall.

Mobile – For organizations that require direct control and onsite management of their digital content shared via mobile devices, Workshare Compare and Protect Server and applications are installed on the server side.

Public Cloud – Workshare’s cloud deployment leverages Workshare’s full capabilities online, with an advanced data center architecture that provides exceptional security, availability, and scalability.

Hybrid Cloud – For organizations that require direct control and onsite management of their digital content, Workshare can be installed behind a corporate firewall.

CUSTOMERS
Workshare works with organizations of all types and sizes, particularly those that have a high degree of collaboration and communication among distributed stakeholders and cross-functional teams or work in highly regulated sectors where document security is a prerequisite. Sectors include:

- Legal & professional services
- Business management/consulting
- Banking & financial services
- Creative & advertising services
- Healthcare & pharmaceutical
- Government & non-profit

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