

OPUS 2 MAGNUM IN PRACTICE

GLOBAL YELLOW PAGES LIMITED VS PROMEDIA PTE LTD ("GYP CASE")

The Singapore Judiciary is one of the most technologically progressive courts in the world. In Asia, its implementation of court technology is second to none. Yet, one key area has eluded the move away from paper to an electronic way of doing things: the trial itself.

As the volume of evidence continues to grow exponentially with the proliferation of electronic mails and electronic evidence, the typical courtroom in the Supreme Court is stacked with shelves loaded with lever-arch folders and ring-bound reams of paper.

While there has been talk of paperless trials, most Singapore lawyers and judges consider this a pipe dream. Not any more.

GYP CASE BREAKS NEW GROUND

The parties in the Global Yellow Pages Limited vs Promedia Pte Ltd ("GYP case") trial which took place in Court 4A of the Singapore Supreme Court last September and October, successfully conducted a paperless hearing, using the Opus 2 Magnum system ("Magnum").

Magnum offers a number of game-changing advantages. For a start, consider the very tangible cost saving benefits that

results from the use of Magnum in the GYP case:

- At the trial preparation stage of the GYP case, bundles comprising over 250,000 pages (equivalent to 500 arch lever files per set) were electronically created in less than 10 days, all paginated, with an index complete with volume, tab and document numbers.
- With over 250,000 pages in the GYP case, the cost of printing one set of trial bundle documents would have been S\$37,500. In a paper trial, traditionally 4 sets of each bundle are printed, so printing costs alone would have added up to over S\$100,000. The paper bulk would also have been a logistical challenge. Using Magnum, both parties were able to reduce the total print count to 2,500-3,000 pages per party.
- As both parties engaged our Opus 2 Magnum Electronic Presentation of Evidence (EPE) services during the trial, each party could do away with providing the "third chair" who traditionally assists in locating and retrieving documents from paper bundles.

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"In complex litigation with vast numbers of documents, the Opus 2 Magnum platform eases communication between lawyers and their clients, especially when they delve into specific documents. The tagging and search functions are useful for identifying issues and preparing for cross-examination. It also eliminates the fear of losing one's Post-Its, which is a litigator's worst nightmare in court! I wish we had started using the platform earlier."

~ Yingyu Wang, Director, Via Law Corporation

> See the *Straits Times* article entitled "Lawyers Go Green to Save Paper, Time and Costs."

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- Trial hours were reduced as a result of the speed at which documents and previous or same days' transcripts could be electronically retrieved by the EPE operator and displayed on each party's Magnum screen. Compared to manual trials, we estimate 1/2 hour to an hour of time saved each day.
- Affidavits were a lot less hefty as physical exhibits were dispensed with and were referred to by its volume, tab and document number in the trial bundle. In the soft copy of the affidavit, the exhibits were easily accessed through hyperlinks.
- All of the above result in massive cost savings for the end-client footing the litigation bill. This has become critical with the hyper-cost conscious approach that Courts are taking to party-to-party costs assessment, and ever increasing volumes of evidence.

Opus 2 Magnum Benefits Lawyers

The advantages that Opus 2 Magnum provides are such that those who have used the system for their trials and arbitrations never want to go back to the traditional paper-based methods. This includes both senior and junior lawyers, judges, and arbitrators.

Perhaps most crucial to its successful adoption around the world to date is very simply, its ease of use; it is so intuitive, even senior lawyers, judges and arbitrators, who did not grow up using computers, have no trouble using it.

From the stages of trial preparation, to the hearing, to the closing submissions, it is clear, even for those who have never used Magnum, what a difference it can make.

Opus 2 Magnum enables users to:

1. Have transcripts that are automatically hyperlinked to documents that are being referred to or called out in Court.
2. Run instantaneous full text searches through the documents and notes.
3. Click on a paragraph in the transcript to playback the synchronised audio of what has been said.
4. Easily hyperlink paragraphs in a documents to another document in the bundle or transcript.
5. Easily tag, comment and share your comments with colleagues, clients or other third parties.
6. Trace all references made to a document.
7. Easily extract snippets of documents (and notes), and collate them into a cross examination bundle.
8. Take on large cases without being bogged down by bundles and the logistics of managing voluminous bundles.
9. Work from anywhere, access the documents and follow the transcripts in realtime, using any device, including an iPad. tablet. ■

"But for Opus 2's Magnum system, we would have had to cart 386 arch files to Court - not only did we save some trees, but more importantly, we optimised the Court's time at trial. The cloud based system can also drastically improve a litigator's cross-examination preparation and the drafting of closing submissions. This is the future of litigation. This is the way lawyers should litigate."

~ Mark Teng, Associate, INFINITUS LAW CORPORATION

OPUS 2 IN SINGAPORE

Opus 2 Magnum has become the near industry standard on major litigation and arbitration in the UK. Following the success of the GYP case, Opus 2 now has a full time presence in Singapore and is delivering realtime transcription and electronic bundle services through its state-of-the-art Magnum technology. **Please call +65 6248 4546 or email bd@opus2.sg to learn more or to arrange a demonstration.**

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