Questions & Answers

North Dakota Judicial Branch
Request For Information
180-21-01 Redaction Software

Responses Posted 4/9/2021

Q1. Do you intend on redacting court documents for all Case Types currently managed in Odyssey? Ex: Criminal, Civil, Family, Probate

A1. Yes, we anticipate redacting documents in all case types.

Q2. If the State decides to proceed with an automated redaction solution will a separate RFP be issued?

A2. The RFI is going to be used by the court and committees in decision making on the viability and cost effectiveness of redacting documents for public consumption and review.   The court has not made a decision if a separate RFP would be issued to gather additional information.

Q3. Technical Requirements, Question 7 request the following, "Describe the ability for customized scanning rules.' Could you provide more information on what is meant by "customized scanning rules"?

A3. The courts is reviewing the capability of the software and was looking for information on the ability to create scanning rules for certain situations. Are the courts restricted to only the scanning rules created by the vendor? For example, if the court was to identify a 7 digit number that is provided in certain documents can we create a rule that says "Find the following format (SID 1234567) and always redact." Or the ability to redact "John Doe" in certain case types and certain documents.

Q4. Do you happen to know the estimated funding source, or budget for this project?

A4. It is anticipated the budget for the project would come from the court's biennial budget allocation. The court and committees need an estimated cost and functionality description for discussion and decision on how to proceed with the project.

Q5. Is this a new requirement?

A5. New Requirement.

Q6. Or is there an incumbent vendor providing these services?

A6. The courts do not have redaction software and is investigating implementing of said software on documents for public consumption where it is deemed necessary to protect certain data.

Q7. Is there a timeline for an RFP to be released? If not, what steps are expected to make a decision on releasing an RFP?

A7. The RFI's will be reviewed and potential demonstrations requested. A recommendation may be made to the ND Supreme Court if we find the redaction software can provide enough value to the court system compared to the cost of the product.

Q8. The cover letter states the RFI must be received in the Office of the State Court Administrator no later than 5 PM Central Time on Thursday, April 15th. Is there a specific email address we should submit our responses to?

A8. Yes, an email can be sent to JTassava@ndcourts.gov with the RFI submittal.   A response will be sent to vendor specifying the receipt of the document.

Q9. Current Technical Environment #1 indicates you have a backup environment for Odyssey. Can you describe where that environment is located? Is it an exact replica of the production environment? And would you want the same for redaction? Is there also a test environment where you want redaction installed?

A9. There are 2 data centers where one is the main data center and the other is a disaster recovery data center. There are 4 Odyssey environments listed as Dev, QA, Training, and Production.   We are anticipating the redaction software to integrate with Odyssey in each of the environments, and in a case of disaster be able to run at the DR location.

Q10. Regarding Current Technical Requirement #2. If there are documents that require verification by a human, would that be done by staff at the 53 locations, or would the Court have a centralized team to handle validation?

A10. The current environment has 53 court locations which would be completing the processes.

Q11. Is North Dakota able to provide page count volume estimates for vendors to use in recommending hardware specs and providing pricing?

A11. Estimated page counts are approximately 5.5 million per year. Not all documents would need redaction so the actual number of pages or number of documents needing redaction is hard to calculate at this point.

Q12. Would North Dakota want the vendor to provide hardware, or would you procure based on our recommendations? If North Dakota would procure hardware do you still want vendors to provide estimated pricing?

A12. North Dakota would appreciate the vendor to provide recommendations, specifications, and estimated pricing of any additional hardware or software required to execute the functionality of the redaction software.