INTRODUCTION TO RECFIND 6.0

Background

The genesis of RecFind was a combined records, library and document management product called DocFind that we produced in 1984. This was marketed by the Burroughs Corporation. Although a very successful product, DocFind made us aware of the need for a more focused records management solution and we began designing a new product (RecFind) in 1985.

The very first release of RecFind was in June 1986. This was a 'character' (pre-Windows) version that ran on the BTOS/CTOS operating system and written largely in COBOL. This was quickly followed by versions that ran under DOS, Novell, UNIX and the IBM AS/400.

With the release of Windows 3.1 we released the first Windows 16bit version of RecFind built using MS Visual Development Studio and Visual Basic. This became the basis for many more versions using Btrieve, Disam, SQL and Oracle as databases. RecFind 3.2 soon followed and included document management, imaging and workflow functionality extending its capabilities from an RMS product to an EDRMS product.

The early 16bit Windows versions were redesigned and rewritten as 32bit versions starting with RecFind 4.0. RecFind 4.0 supported just two databases, SQL and Oracle.

RecFind 4.0 was redesigned and rewritten again (using MS Visual Development Studio 6) to produce RecFind 5.0. RecFind 5.0 has been through several iterations (including updates using Visual Studio .NET 2003) and is now at its 5.0.0G release. We expect one more 'minor' release of 5.0 (5.0.0H) before it is closed off.

RecFind 6.0 will replace RecFind 5.0 and will be an entirely new product build using MS Visual Studio .NET 2005.

Architecture

RecFind 6.0 will be based on the .NET 2005 architecture. The RecFind 6.0 client is being developed as a .NET 'smart client'. The client will be delivered as an MSI and will be able to be deployed in one of two ways by the customer's IT personnel.

1. Communicating to the RecFind 6.0 database via ADO over a LAN/WAN; or

2. Communicating to the RecFind 6.0 database via Web Services over a LAN/WAN/Intranet or Internet.

The major advantage of this approach is that the customer's IT personnel can decide how the RecFind 6.0 client will communicate with the database at the time of deployment; ADO for those user on a high speed LAN/WAN and Web Services for those users unable to utilize a high speed network connection, (i.e., in remote locations). No matter how the client is deployed, all users will enjoy identical functionality.

Look and Feel

The RecFind 6.0 User Interface (UI) is Windows Based (and certified for Vista). Even though it is a 100% new implementation it will maintain a similar look and feel to RecFind 5.0 though with a much simpler UI and far fewer 'screens'. We have done this so our existing RecFind 5.0 customers can move across to RecFind 6.0 with only minimal retraining (an update course). In this way, we protect our customers' investment in their existing RecFind software and minimize disruptions and costs for the upgrade.

Licensing

Like the Knowledgeone (K1) client, the RecFind 6.0 client will be based on the concurrent user model and will also have a configurable timeout to allow the customer to 'tune' it to its usage patterns. Whereas the actual usage pattern will be different at every customer site, our rule of thumb for determining how many RecFind 6.0 licenses you will require is as follows:

Heavy duty users

Assume that one RecFind 6.0 concurrent user license will support up to four 'real' users.

Medium duty users

Assume that one RecFind 6.0 concurrent user license will support up to eight 'real' users.

Inquiry users

Assume that one RecFind 6.0 concurrent user license will support up to thirty 'real' users.

Compatibility

RecFind 6.0 will be 100% upwards compatible with RecFind 5.0. It will be delivered with an upgrade program which will convert the existing RecFind 5.0 database and produce a new (and separate) RecFind 6.0 database.

The RecFind 6.0 database is also an entirely new relational design utilizing the advanced features of SQL Server 2005. Unlike RecFind 5.0, all electronic documents and images will be stored as BLOBS in RecFind 6.0; there will be no separate 'images' directory as there is in RecFind 5.0.

Products

A single RecFind 6.0 client will replace a number of RecFind 5.0 clients including:

- RecFind-Corporate
- RecFind-Corporate/Active
- RecFind-Professional
- RecQuery
- RecQuery-TC

There will be new 6.0 versions of the RecFind-Button, the RecFind API (RecQuery-TC API) and the High Speed Scanning Module (HSSM).

There will also be new versions of GEM and RecCapture for RecFind.

Prerequisites

RecFind Customers: You must be on RecFind-Corporate 5.0G or higher to convert to RecFind 6.0.

Database Software: RecFind 6.0 works only with SQL Server 2005.

Server Operating Systems: MS Windows Server 2000 or higher.

Desktop Operating System: MS Windows XP or higher.

Costs

RecFind 6.0 (and all associated add-on products such as the RecFind-Button) will be shipped free of charge to all RecFind customers under a current Automatic Software Upgrade (ASU) agreement. Note that you will receive one RecFind 6.0 license for every RecFind-Corporate, RecFind-Corporate/Active, RecFind-Professional, RecQuery or RecQuery-TC license you hold.

Final pricing has yet to be determined but the cost per RecFind 6.0 concurrent user license will be less than the current cost of a RecFind 5.0 concurrent user license.

Current Development Status

Functional Specification: 95% complete.

Database Design: 95% complete.

RecFind 5 to RecFind 6 Conversion program: 95% complete and tested.

User Interface: Early prototype due for finalization in February 2007.

Documentation (Help Screens etc): Not begun.

Expected First Customer Shipments

The very earliest we expect to ship RecFind 6.0 is in the first quarter of 2008. However, this is an early estimate only and cannot be relied upon as a definite shipment date.