

## Computer “Indiana Jones” meets the “Rocket Docket”

**Rocket Docket:** a nickname applied to certain federal courts famous for accelerated trial processing-and for the corresponding demands on parties to litigation.

So, when a particular litigant needed to deliver massive amounts of historical computer data as part of the court’s speedy discovery process, they needed to find, and did find a special resource: Muller Media Conversions. MMC rescues data from incompatible media, hostile environments or obsolete systems. (*Crain's NY Business* dubbed them “archaeologists to the computer world.”)

The suddenly -vital historical data was stored on about 300 reels of backup tape in Wang VS™ proprietary word-processing format. This fact created two major problems, which made it imperative to outsource the work.

First, the hundreds of thousands of electronic documents had to be converted to a more current word-processing format such as Microsoft Word™. The information needed to be placed on a more convenient medium (CDROM) for review by the court and attorneys for both sides. By conventional conversion methods, the process would take MONTHS, and the court would have none of that.

### **Rescuing Many Years Worth of “Ancient” Data**

Things were further complicated by the second problem: many of the tapes had been sitting on a shelf for decades, and had physically and magnetically deteriorated.

The entire scenario was custom-made for MMC's capabilities. First, their proprietary *Fast 'n Easy*™ conversion programs work on a PC, reading directly from “legacy” backup media--in this case, Wang tapes. Therefore, there was no need to go through the arduous process of restoring the data to a Wang VS prior to conversion, as conventional methods would have required. *The Fast n Easy*™ conversion process also runs man times faster than other approaches.

Secondly, handling the “difficult” tapes was made

possible by MMC's experience in designing and enhancing the award-winning Archival Preservation Systems at the National Archives’ Center for Electronic Records. At the Center, *APS* must copy and convert tapes from a wide variety of sources and formats for permanent preservation. Software, hardware and operational methodologies for handling degraded and “sticky” tapes are built into *APS*, for which MMC retains the marketing and commercial-use rights.

### **Fast and Reliable - No Others Need Apply!**

The contents of the first 63 reels needed to be converted, placed on CDROM and delivered within four days: *virtually impossible for any other service bureau!* MMC staff put in some overtime that weekend, but accomplished the task in about half that time! (A little breathing room is always welcome, we are told, when dealing with the “*Rocket Docket*”.)

The remainder of the tapes was converted at a more leisurely pace in about three weeks (also ahead of schedule), still remarkable in view of the scope and obstacles mentioned earlier.

### **No Stranger to Electronic Evidence**

Although MMC’s skills and software are often used for major legacy system’s migration projects, they are also applied to litigation and investigation.

Government agencies and private law firms frequently use MMC to decipher computer data and render it into a meaningful form. For example, MMC’s software and/or services have played a role in the preservation of “Iran/Contra” presidential records, and in recovering/converting deleted files pertaining to Whitewater, Watergate and WorldCom. (In this case "www" does not mean the web. :-)

A leader in its field since 1978, MMC is known for turning formidable data transfer challenges into significant victories. Call (516) 833-3067, or visit their web site at [www.mullermedia.com](http://www.mullermedia.com)