

The eDiscoveryJournal Report:

Early Case Assessment (ECA) Comes Into Focus in 2011

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The term Early Case Assessment (ECA) means different things to different people. As a result, there is confusion and consternation around the term that stems from the fact that anyone can and everyone will claim to offer ECA functionality - archiving vendors, review vendors, search and collection vendors, legal hold vendors, and even ECA specialist vendors. The very name contributes to the confusion and although Early Data Assessment is a more accurate phrase, we will use ECA because that is how it has been branded in the market. The reality is that all providers can offer some level of ECA, which means that buyers need to know exactly what level of ECA they are looking for and what processes ECA will support. In the near-term, the onus is on the buyer to wade through the market and determine exactly which solution matches their requirement. This document will help buyers understand the functionality across the spectrum of ECA, use-cases of ECA, and create frameworks with which to evaluate ECA solutions.