halFILE 2.2 is now available!

The much-anticipated halFILE 2.2 has arrived! With almost 100 new features and enhancements, v2.2 is undoubtedly the most significant release to date for hal Systems' advanced document management and imaging system. Virtually every operational module of the application has been enhanced, with the Search module alone receiving 24 additions or improvements.

One of the most important new items in v2.2 is the *halFILE Update Service*, which allows users to login to an FTP site and then download and install new program updates directly via the Internet. No more waiting on CDs and tech support staff to arrive! A few of the other many new highlights include:

• Large table caching for faster access
• Tools for streamlining the report design process
• New Tools-Options menu to configure custom features
• User-assigned baskets and "no-image" baskets
• Scanning module improvements
• New Auto Archive functions

There are far too many new features to list here, so for more information about halFILE 2.2 please visit our Web site, www.halfile.com, or contact your hal Systems Sales Representative.

halFILE User's Group (HUG) Conference

The 3rd annual halFILE User's Group (HUG) Conference will take place November 10–12, 2004 in Austin, TX. The HUG Conference is an ideal opportunity for halFILE users to learn how to get the most out of the application, interact directly with the system designers, and visit with fellow halFILE users from around the country.

As in previous years the HUG meeting will be held at the famous Driskill Hotel in downtown Austin, one of the oldest and most beautiful hotels in the state. In operation since 1886, the Driskill is a member of the National Trust Historic Hotels of America, and a perfect setting for the HUG Conference.

This year's Conference is a three day event, the first two days filled with general sessions about halFILE and related topics, and the third day will be for training. The training day will consist of two tracks, one geared towards the practical application/end user of halFILE, and the other geared towards the behind the scenes/administration of halFILE. Users may attend all three days, or they may choose to come only for the general sessions, or only for the training day. The HUG is quite affordable, so don't miss out—register today and take advantage of special rates!

For more information about HUG 2004 please contact Karen Duncan: kduncan@halfile.com

"Classes were informative and fun! Networking with other customers also opens a lot of doors which would not be possible without HUG."
- HUG attendee

At the Driskill Hotel, HUG 2003

halFILE Training Classes

June, 2004 marked the beginning of halFILE training classes at the hal Systems office in Dallas, TX. Utilizing a new, dedicated training room with a dozen networked PCs, users participate in a two-day course designed to cover every aspect of the system. The training is ideal not only for new users, but also for experienced users that want to brush up on their skills.

By offering group sessions at one central location, hal Systems can provide clients with affordable, comprehensive training at a cost far lower than typical on-site training fees.

See www.halfile.com for upcoming class schedules.

WatchGuard security

hal Systems is proud to now be a full-line reseller for WatchGuard, the leading maker of integrated network security devices. Perfect for small- to mid-size businesses, the Firebox X series provides the *Intelligent Layered Security* architecture for complete protection from malicious attacks. And it's expandable to allow for evolving network security needs—you can turn any Firebox X appliance into any higher model, unlocking even greater potential with a simple license key. Ask you hal Systems representative for additional details on the WatchGuard line. ***Get secure today and avoid future threats to your network!***

CountyRecords.com expands

hal Systems' property records search site, www.CountyRecords.com, recently expanded with the addition of the records of Pine County, MN, and Blaine County, OK. In addition, CountyRecords.com will soon offer the records of two more Texas counties, Montgomery (near Houston) and Victoria (on the Texas gulf coast). Both counties are among the fastest growing in the state.

Launched in 2000, www.CountyRecords.com provides an ideal method for researching property records. Title companies, landmen, real estate agents, attorneys, and others are using CountyRecords.com to quickly find, view, and print, and email copies of property records via the Internet. With the obvious speed advantage offered by online searching, the savings in time and expenses are substantial.

The recent growth of CountyRecords.com has resulted in increased site activity, lower costs for users, and higher royalty payments to our partners (who supply the records).

New e.halFILE client in Texas

Located in Giddings, TX, Lee County Land and Abstract Company (LCLAC) has been an integral part of the business community in Lee County for over 100 years. Now, LCLAC is the latest title company to utilize advanced software solutions to offer its customers faster, more efficient service. Already a user of hal Systems' halFILE Document Management and Imaging software for creating their title plant, LCLAC has become the most recent installation of hal Systems' e.halFILE e-commerce technology. e.halFILE allows registered users immediate and secure web access to Lee County recorded documents, giving them a multitude of search capabilities on any database field or combination of fields. Image print, download, and OCR functions are provided along with chain of title reports on the data. The e-commerce module within e.halFILE allows LCLAC to set up flexible billing plans on an individual user basis, accept credit card transactions through ECHO Electronic ClearingHouse, Inc, and accumulate transaction history for marketing analysis and billing summaries for their customers.

halFILE Pioneer Awards for 2004

hal Systems created the Pioneer Awards to honor clients that have played a special role in the development of our products. Here are the latest recipients:

National Teachers Associates Life Insurance Company
Dallas, TX
(IBM AS-400 database engine; expansion of the Lookup feature)

Skamania County, WA
("halSCRAPE" development; halFILE in District Court and Assessor's office; halFILE CountyCashier in Assessor's office)

Southern National Bank
Sugar Land, TX
(Banking application; integration with service bureau; paperless lending application with halFILE; credit & collateral management)

Title Midwest, Topeka, KS
(worked w/hal to develop Starter search system; 7-county service bureau)

Trinity County Recorder
Weaverville, CA
(First County Internet site with e.halFILE; multi-department Government installation)

Million Image Awards

We are pleased to announce several new winners of our Million Image Award! In fact, we've now expanded the categories to include 1, 5, 10, and 25+ million images. Here are the latest winners:

1 Million Images:

Augusta Title (Atlanta, GA)
Beach Title (Little Rock, AR)
Lee Co. Land & Abstract (Giddings, TX)
Stewart Title of Alaska (Anchorage, AK)
Stewart Title of Minnesota (Bloomington, MN)
Yosemite Title (Sonora, CA)
First American Title (New York, NY)

5 Million Images:

National Teachers Assoc. Life Insurance Co.
Beach Abstract & Guaranty
Stewart Title of Kansas City

10 Million Images:

CountyRecords.com

25+ Million Images:

Colorado Record Data (43 million images!)

If you use halFILE or OpticalAccess, and you are managing over one million images, please contact our tech support staff at 877-435-3453. *You, too, deserve a Million Image Award!*

Customer quote:

"We just completed a FHLB (Federal Home Loan Bank) audit, and as with all of our audits and exams involving loans, it was done using e.halFile. In our wrap-up, [the auditor] stated that our imaging system was the best, by far, of any imaging system he has ever worked on. He stated how user friendly it was, and how easy it was to locate the various documents."

Sandy McCarver, EVP/Chief of Loan Operations
Southern National Bank of Texas

Colorado Record Data

Colorado Record Data (on the web at www.crdllc.com) provides 24/7 online access to index and images for all of the Denver, CO Metro counties. To say that CRD has a large collection of images and index data is quite an understatement—currently at 43 million images, they are **huge**.

We're proud to say that at the heart of their current records serach system is hal Systems' **e.halFILE**. In fact, CRD is the largest installation in the country using halFILE / e.halFILE for researching and selling county records information via the Internet.

Prior to adopting e.halFILE as the basis for their current system, CRD was using a proprietary, DOS-based database engine that simply was not going to allow for the expansion which they knew would be necessary going forward. Additionally, CRD wanted to implement a simple Web-based interface, another feature not available to them with the old system.

Discussions between CRD and hal Systems (and initial demonstrations) began in July of 2002. That final installation of the new system did not occur until almost exactly two years later (!) is testament to the fact that this was a large and complicated job—and one that had to be done right, the first time. One big issue to be tackled was how to get CRD's existing collection of document images (around 1.4 Terrabytes, or more than 10 million documents) converted so they could be accessed in the new system. That process alone required a cooperative programming effort between CRD engineers and a third-party software vendor—and six months.

Next up was the creation of special software for importing all of the Counties data, without needing to re-key all of the information (a daunting task, to be sure). The hal Systems programming team, in cooperation with the system designers at CRD, came up with a Master Import utility, which allowed the huge importing process to proceed without a single mishap.

CRD cut off access to their old system as of June 15, 2004 and now exclusively uses the new, e.halFILE-based engine. Happily, they report that they are very pleased with the operation of the new system—and so are their customers, who use it daily to access the records of seven different counties (including between 60,000 - 70,000 documents in background databases: B-2 Exceptions, copies of policies, and CCR's).

Congratulations to CRD for smoothly implementing such a monumental installation. We are proud to be a part of it, and we look forward to a continuing partnership with Colorado Record Data!

We welcome our newest clients!

recent halFILE installations:

Phillips Co. Abstract & Title (Phillipsburg, KS)
Brown Co. Abstract Company (Brownwood, TX)
Glen County Title (Willows, CA)
LeFlore Title Company (Poteau, OK)
Carthage Title Company (Carthage, TX)
Red River Title (Sherman, TX)
Spokane Community College (Spokane, WA)
Town & Country Title (Quemado, NM)
Commonwealth Title (Ft. Worth, TX)
Hugo Reed & Associates (Midland, TX)
Montague Co. Abstract & Title (Montague, TX)
Crawford County, MI
Metroplex Title (Decatur, TX)
Quest Energy (Oklahoma City, OK)
1st National Title of Arkansas (Little Rock, AR)
Title Guaranty & Insurance Co. (Los Alamos, NM)
Texas Central Title (Waco, TX)
Texas Heritage Title (Hondo, TX)

recent e.halFILE installations:

Southern National Bank (Houston, TX)
Colorado Record Data (Denver, CO)
Lee County Land & Abstract (Giddings, TX)
First New Mexico Title (Taos, NM)

Have a question about halFILE?
Ask AnswerMan!

Q: *How do I easily find the temp directory location I need for creating reports ?*

A: Type %temp% and press enter in the browse dialog inside Crystal Reports when you are selecting the halreports.dsn file.

Q: *Will XP Service Pack 2 interfere with halFILE ?*

A: No, however it can interfere with your existing firewall software, email security settings, and internet downloads. Be sure to check with all of your software vendors before installing and test all of your programs on one box before upgrading the others. Be sure to only use one software firewall: either the Microsoft one that gets installed, or a third party like Norton Internet Security or Zone Alarm—but do not enable both.

Q: *I put in the same search on two machines and get back different results. Why?*

A: Double check the type of search you are doing for each field. Click in each field one at a time (grantor, grantee, etc.) and see if it's set to beginning of field, exact match, range, etc. Setting these values differently between the two machines should explain the discrepancy between the two searches.

Send us any tech support or operational question regarding halFILE, e.halFILE, halTRACK, halFILE CountyCashier, or any hal Systems product, and we'll try to include it in the next issue!

Please e-mail questions to: support@halfile.com

hal Systems

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www.halfile.com
www.countyrecords.com

the halFILE image

document imaging & management for your success!

SoftPro Special Pricing Offer!

Start saving time and money now! Participate In hal Systems' *SoftPro™ Getting Started* Imaging Promotion and save up to **$3,395**!

SoftPro's **ProForm** is the leading solution for automation of closing and title insurance forms. It performs all the calculations in real time including taxes, payoffs, commissions, title insurance premiums, and all prorations. Using ProForm and halFILE together is a perfect combination, so hal Systems and SoftPro have put together this special offer!

Begin by investing as little as $3,290 for a single halfile license, link to ProForm, a pre-configured closed file database, and up to 4 hours for remote installation assistance and training. An additional annual fee (discounted for the first year) applies for software maintenance and support.

Here's what one happy customer had to say:

"halFILE has made us much more efficient in several areas. We scan all loan packages, which has saved us time and improved turn around time to our lenders on Post Closing issues. We used to search several places for a file—now we never leave our desk. The integration with ProForm, for indexing, means no re-keying of information other than the order number. The possibilities for reducing paper storage costs are endless - we now use halFILE to store title policy reports and payroll records also. "

— Sandra Terrebonne, Southern Title, Inc., LA

Upcoming tradeshows

November

| 14 - 16 | Texas Mortgage Bankers Assoc. Seminar & Marketplace Houston, TX |
| 17 - 18 | TLTA Regional Seminar Dallas, TX |

December

| 2 - 3 | Louisiana Land Title Association Annual Convention New Orleans, LA |

January 2005

| 14 - 17 | NALTEA Assoc. Convention Dallas, TX |

February

| 9 - 10 | TLTA Regional Seminar Houston, TX |

March

| 8 - 11 | ICBA Techworld San Antonio, TX |