

## TechnoLawyer Archive Newsletter/Post

Seth Rowland  
subscribed through  
September 28, 2005

[Back to Results](#) : [New Search](#) : [Edit Search](#) : [Send to a Friend](#)

◀ Result 18 of 67 ▶

### Observations on Pathagoras

DATE: 12/20/2002  
AUTHOR: Seth Rowland  
TYPE: Post  
TOPIC(S): Automation/Document Assembly/Macros

In his TechnoFeature, *A Refreshing Alternative to Document Assembly*, Stephen Bird wrote:

>"Once you see how Pathagoras works with folders, standard  
>clauses, and so on, its elegance becomes apparent. If  
>you're considering a document assembly program, I strongly  
>recommend you read the two short pages "For Busy People" at  
><<http://www.pathagoras.com/busypeople.html>>, download the  
>free demo, install, and then start using Pathagoras based  
>on the Busy People suggestions."

Pathagoras is, as Stephen Bird writes, a good introduction to the world of "clause-based" document assembly. It is an easy and functional tool that works the way many lawyers think in blocks and clauses. If you are the type of lawyer who is used to pulling up old forms and agreements and "data-mining" for the perfect clause, Pathagoras is a good tool to shorten that process and build a knowledge base.

To some degree, the HotDocs Clause Library was designed to serve a similar function. It allows you to create groupings of clause in folders and subfolders and subsubfolders that can be called on both during a document assembly and following a document assembly. Lexis/Nexis is working on a more powerful clause utility that will dramatically increase the power of the clause libraries. Till then Pathagoras may just be easier.

The GhostFill clause library tool also has much of the same functionality of the Pathagoras tool, including access to clauses post-assembly. It is integrated into the GhostFill application development environment which allows you to move easily from clauses, to dialogs, to variables and databased.

However, clause-based document assembly is inherently limited in the marginal returns on investment. You still need to review each clause and determine the appropriateness. There is limited ability to apply complex logic to either the selection of the clauses or the input of data into the text of the clauses. The reliance on Word merge fields is inherently limiting.

If you are truly serious about efficiency gains and an ROI in the multiples, you should look at a more expensive and robust document assembly tool such as HotDocs or GhostFill. The learning curve will be steeper, but the gains will be in the multiples, not the percentages.

Cheers,

Seth Rowland  
Basha Systems LLC  
<<http://www.bashasys.com>>  
HotDocs Alliance Partner

GhostFill Certified Consultant  
Technolawyer Legal Technology Consultant of the Year  
E: <mailto:sgr@bashasys.com>

---

*Community Manager's Notes*

To learn more about HotDocs, visit <<http://www.hotdocs.com>>. To learn more about GhostFill, visit <<http://www.ghostfill.com>>. -- Neil J. Squillante, [njs@peerviews.com](mailto:njs@peerviews.com)

[Back to Results](#) ⋮ [New Search](#) ⋮ [Edit Search](#) ⋮ [Send to a Friend](#)

◀ Result 18 of 67 ▶



[About Us](#) | [Advertise With Us](#) | [Contact Us](#)[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Service](#)  
TechnoLawyer • PeerViews Inc., 80 Broad Street, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10004  
Copyright © 1997-2005 PeerViews Inc. All rights reserved