MICROSOFT, ADOBE & XFORMS TO SHAKE UP ELECTRONIC FORMS MARKET

Our title this month reads like a news headline on purpose. There are a number of new, and upcoming, developments in electronic forms (eForms) technology that should be grabbing your attention. Some of these are of major importance on their own, but taken together, they signal the start of a major improvement in businesses’ ability to easily collect, integrate, and process information.

“Electronic forms” have been around for years, but the term refers to a wide variety of technologies – from scanned image applications to HTML forms – that are not all at similar and far from equal in their ability to accelerate and smooth business processes. What eForm technology has shared is: a level of difficulty that kept it out of the reach of office professionals who were comfortable enough with documents and spreadsheets, but scared-off by forms, and proprietary data formats that made information integration costly and complex. This month Bill explains why all this is changing. The effects of new eForm technology will be far-reaching, and we will be looking closely at eForm developments in these pages as well as in our conferences. This is a critical technology for improving content management and information integration capabilities and ROI. Stay tuned.

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