



# Discovery Automation System (DAS)

## IMPORTANT STATISTICS

as of June 30, 2012

69,169 total number of DAS case folders

290,559 total number of DAS documents

33,773,227 estimated number of DAS pages

## USERS

1,135 DAS users

## PARTNERS

Discovery Automation Advisory Committee  
N.C. Conference of District Attorneys

## WHAT USERS ARE SAYING

### Administrative Assistant

**Heather Nicol**

LOVE THE NEW SYSTEMS!!!!!!!!!!

They completely ROCK!

### ABOUT DEFENSE ATTORNEY

#### ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY ACCESS

### Legal Assistant, Etheridge & Hamlett, LLP

**Becky Price**

I believe this is a very efficient way to receive discovery – for all attorneys. I thought the CD worked very good, but this is great. I think it is an awesome program and it makes getting discovery a breeze.



DAS provides an automated system to help district attorneys comply with G.S. 15A-903, which requires prosecutors to make available to the defense attorney all discoverable documents related to the investigation or prosecution of the crimes committed by the defendant. DAS provides electronic access to open discovery of all evidence in felony cases and tracks its disclosure to the defense.

DAS provides a comprehensive set of document intake features, including both the ability to accept electronic documents and the ability to scan paper documents into the system. Multiple documents can be accepted at the same time, each document can be categorized by document type, and detailed case information can be associated with each document. The system provides features such as redaction and unique page numbering (Bates Numbering) to prepare documents for release. The system makes discovery available via a feature to burn CDs and also via an online electronic download.

DAS provides an online Criminal Discovery component that allows district attorneys to post discovery to a secure website so that defense attorneys assigned to a case may safely, securely, and conveniently download discovery.

DAS includes a Criminal Discovery Upload component that allows law enforcement agencies to securely upload electronic documents to DAS.

The DAS advisory group, in conjunction with the North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys, establishes priorities for enhancements to the system. Future enhancements will further streamline discovery activities, continuing to minimize the physical handling and maintenance of paper documents.

## IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

**2008**  
December: Pilot in Wake County

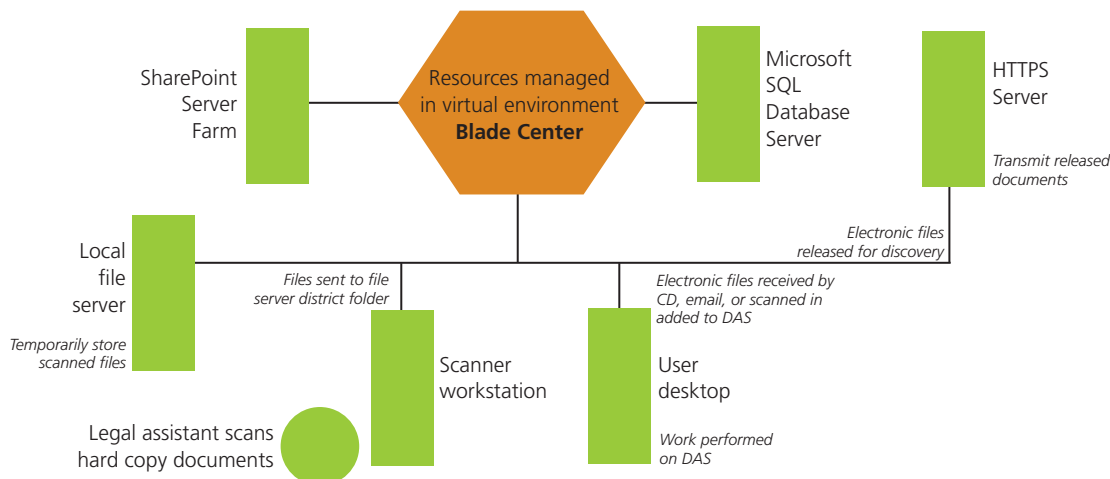
**2009**  
August: Pilot in Buncombe County  
October: Pilot in Durham County

**2010**  
February: pilot Defense Attorney Download  
March: Begin statewide rollout of DAS  
November: Complete statewide rollout of DAS  
Defense Attorney Download available statewide

**2011**  
March: Pilot Law Enforcement Upload  
December: Defense Attorney Download available statewide  
Law Enforcement Upload available statewide

**2012**  
Infrastructure Expansion for increased volume

## DAS: The technology behind the application



Based on Microsoft technology and .NET architecture. Uses blade servers hosted in virtual environment; Windows 2008 servers. Microsoft SharePoint and SQL Server used to store and retrieve discovery information. Will directly integrate with other internal NCAOC systems and IBM DB2 enterprise database to access criminal information. Will use secured web application to interface with external agency systems and attorney firms in the future.

### BENEFITS

- Prove what and when discovery was delivered
- Assure that discovery is seen only by those allowed to see it
- Store all discovery electronically eliminating rooms full of paper
- Replace burdensome paperbound tasks with fast, easy to use electronic processes
- Quit searching for paper files; instead, instantly view files online
- Save dollars on staff time, copier ink, paper, file storage
- Produce reports and logs of discovery whenever called for

### FEATURE HIGHLIGHTS

#### General

- Easy to use system requiring minimal user training
- Highly flexible and customizable user views
- Powerful search quickly provides information on demand
- Email alert generation for changes on the DAS site
- Case folders creation in DAS from CCIS-DA
- Advanced reporting capabilities and audit logs
- Secured access from within NCAOC intranet
- Access restriction at the case folder or document level

#### Intake

- Scan and create text-searchable PDFs
- Receive documents via CD, email, or electronic upload
- Upload and check-in multiple documents simultaneously
- Assign document categories
- Attach case details

#### Prepare

- Perform redaction electronically
- Automatically assign unique numbers to documents

#### Deliver

- Burn CD of documents ready for discovery
- Electronic download of discovery over a secured site
- View of download history

#### View

- Organize and search cases by county in multi-county districts
- Multiple views of cases by:
  - Document category
  - DA case number
  - OCA number
  - Local ID number
  - Lead case
  - PID/LID number
- Search by keyword at any level in the user's district

#### COMING SOON

- Handle audio and video files
- Increased integration with the Criminal Court Information System – District Attorney (CCIS-DA)