



The Oyez Gateway Facilitates Online Submission to Government Authorities

According to government statistics, there are currently more than 650 transactional services provided by UK government departments that process more than 2.4bn transactions every year. The Government's much heralded *Digital by Default* strategy was announced in 2010 with the objective of replacing cumbersome and expensive paper transactions with an easier and more cost efficient digital model.

However ideal a digital solution may be in relation to the general public, the non-collaborative approach taken by government agencies is inadvertently adding complexity to law firm processes. Separate sign-ins and different workflows for each authority are just two examples of why government portals are not an ideal environment for the legal practitioner. Additional efficiency barriers include limited functionality and reporting, time-out issues and, critically for law firms, a threat that risk management and compliance could be compromised.

In response to these shortcomings, Oyez Professional Services have developed **The Oyez Gateway**. This digital submission portal provides a single platform from which submissions can be made to all relevant Government authorities and it will expand as each additional interface become available. The Gateway will enable legal practitioners to collaborate and incorporate digital submissions into their current workflow using one common process across multiple government agencies.

The Oyez Gateway has been designed upon the principles of increased efficiency, compliance risk management, workflow collaboration and lower submission costs. As more agencies are added the efficiency benefits will increase and the risk of submission rejections will be reduced exponentially.

Our Companies House Charges Module; MR1-5, LLMR1-5 (from an agency whose intent is to be 100% digital by 2019) was released last year. It is already being used by a number of customers and this includes one magic circle firm whose input has been vital in guiding the development.

The Oyez development team is currently completing SDLT and AP1 submission modules, which are due for release in January 2018. This will also include a wide range of Land Registry forms.

One of the huge benefits of The Gateway is the removal of the risks associated with unsupervised submissions. Wherever required, a pre-elected authoriser can check and approve all submissions before they are sent to the receiving authority.

Users also have access to a dashboard view of submissions, listed by their current status including any rejections, and can share links with relevant co-workers to bring them into the process. The general collaboration engine is enhanced for each specific submission area. For instance, our Companies House module verifies company details against the receiving authorities register as the user enters the data, thus removing the risk of submitting incorrect details that could lead to rejection. Users can also view the attached legal instrument to ensure the correct one is attached. Human error is minimised through the Gateway 'Duplicate' feature by automatically transferring original data directly into the newly created copy of the initial document.

By centralising the point of release for all submissions, The Oyez Gateway also neutralises any access issues caused by technical problems with the receiving government service. The Gateway can detect and notify all users of any changes in availability and submissions are held securely until they can be released.

The Oyez Gateway also offers the elasticity of a UK cloud hosted service. It allows system users to be added, removed or updated instantly, enhancing security and reducing demand on internal infrastructure and IT resources.

In September 2017 Oyez Professional Services were accredited with the ISO 27001:2013 certification for Information Security Management. Achieving this internationally recognised certification allows us to demonstrate the depth of our commitment to the secure protection of both own, and our client's, data.

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