



IPRO WHITEPAPER

2023 State of Corporate Legal Industry Report



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Executive Summary

Corporate law departments have experienced turbulent few years, defined by exponential growth in corporate data volumes, as we evolve using more collaboration tools. The volatile macroeconomic environment of 2022 has pointed towards an uncertain economic outlook for 2023, causing many organizations to tighten budgets as well as reconsider their priorities and goals for this year.

As the legal industry continues to evolve, corporate legal professionals are faced with an opportunity to embrace transformational change and leverage the technological developments of 2023 to their advantage.

In this report, we've surveyed 126 corporate legal professionals to explore their perceptions on the key challenges their departments are likely to face in 2023, the expectations and priorities they set for 2023, and how they see technology supporting their team in achieving the set goals.

Key Findings

Almost **50%** of respondents think meeting deadlines with increasingly more complex data becomes more difficult;

74% of respondents said increasing their use of technology would be their #1 priority for 2023.

More than half (**53%**) of surveyed corporate legal professionals named budget the main factor that will impose the biggest challenges on their departments in 2023.

40% of surveyed in-house legal practitioners said their organizations in-source most of their eDiscovery as a way to limit OC expenses.

41% are considering reducing the number of law firms they work with in 2023, while

25% of respondents already planned to do this in 2023.

32% of the survey respondents called 'leveraging technology to facilitate targeted collections' a primary step to limiting and/or controlling the overcollection of ESI.

Internal investigations triggered by an external factor is the most common practice area for applying AI-driven eDiscovery technology (chosen by **35%** of corporate law practitioners).

Approximately **36%** of survey respondents have adopted AI-powered eDiscovery technology within their / their teams' workflows as another avenue to reduce cost and get to the relevant information faster. 'Classification of documents' was the most widely used feature by corporate legal departments (**35%**) to respond to an inquiry or litigation in 2022.

Roughly **one third** of the respondents who adopted eDiscovery tech are neither happy nor unhappy with how their teams use it in their day-to-day tasks.

Budget issues (**33%**) and complexity of technology (**29%**) are among the main reasons why legal teams choose to not adopt AI-powered eDiscovery solutions.

Methodology

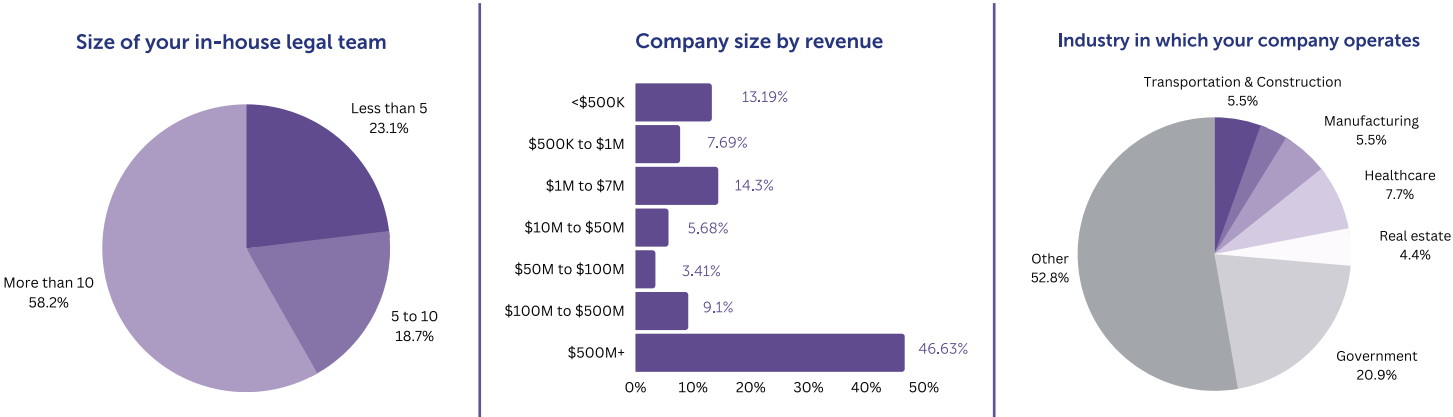
The findings in this report are derived from a survey of corporate legal professionals, conducted by IPRO in partnership with ACEDS in December 2022.

The survey features responses from 126 corporate legal professionals (most of them from the U.S. & EU) and aims to explore their opinions on the following topics:

- Most pressing eDiscovery challenges for their legal teams in 2023;
- Their expectations and business priorities for 2023;
- The current and expected future relationship with the law firms they work with;
- The respondents’ current data collection practices and improvement points for 2023;
- And lastly, the perceptions and use of AI-driven eDiscovery technology among corporate legal professionals.

The graphs below encompass the survey respondents’ demographics, namely: the size of their legal teams; the industry they operate in; the company size by revenue; and the respondents’ roles within their organizations.

Figure 1: Respondents’ demographics



The majority of surveyed specialists are corporate legal professionals working within a company with an annual revenue of more than \$500M+ (46.63%) with an in-house legal team of 10+ people (58%).

eDiscovery in 2023: Challenges; Expectations & Priorities

If the past few years haven't been turbulent enough with the global pandemic and remote work taking over, 2023 is likely to be no less tumultuous given the uncertain economic macro-environment. That said, the eDiscovery industry will surely be influenced by this uncertain environment and by how legal will handle the challenges that will come their way.

While experts' predictions for what 2023 holds for the eDiscovery industry vary, they seem to converge on the idea that the new year will challenge legal teams to offer more to their clients, with the same or even less resources than in 2022.

In the first section of the survey, we asked corporate legal professionals to highlight their expectations; perceived challenges and priorities for their legal teams for 2023.

1. Corporate legal professionals expect meeting deadlines to become more difficult in 2023

Growing data volumes have surely been causing the biggest challenges for legal professionals in the past years and that is not likely to change in the near future.

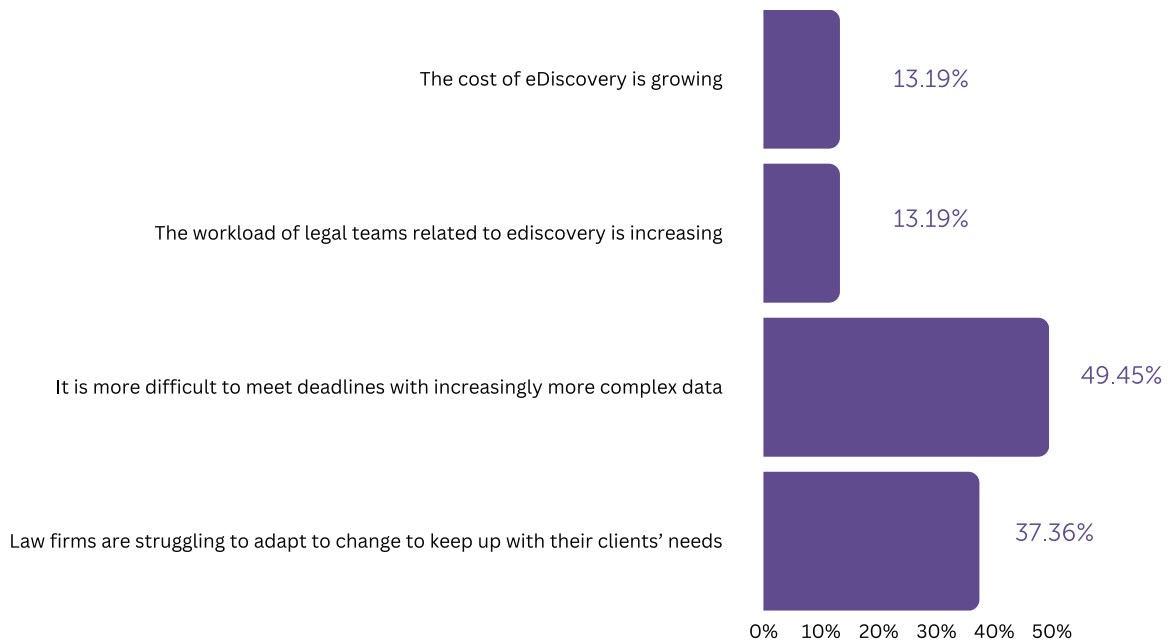
In fact, IDC's Global DataSphere Forecast predicts that the global data creation and replication will experience a compound annual growth rate of 23% from 2021 to 2025; peaking at 181 zettabytes in 2025.

Besides the sheer volume of data that is being created by organizations, the work of legal teams is additionally challenged by the growing complexity and nature of that data. In its report, IDC further elaborates that roughly 80% of global data will be unstructured by 2025, because of how we communicate and consume data.

Considering this, it is rather unsurprising that **49% of the survey respondents view 'meeting deadlines with increasingly more complex data becoming more difficult' as the trend they agree with the most.**

Figure 2: 2023 trends respondents agree with the most

Which of the following trends do you agree with the most?



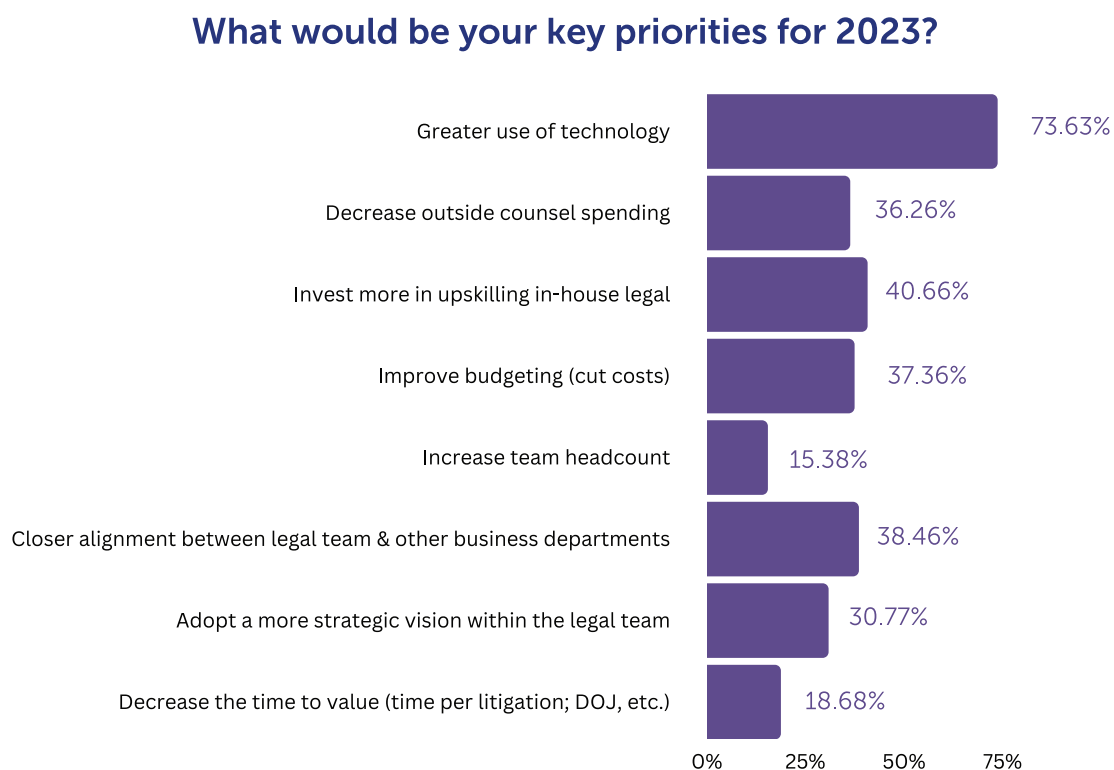
Efficiently managing all of their organizations' ESI will require legal professionals to find ways to sift through these masses of data to identify relevant data sources and pinpoint important facts and patterns. eDiscovery technology can play a great role in helping corporate lawyers achieve better efficiency; decrease breach-related risks while minimizing the costs related to data governance and eDiscovery.

Interestingly, only 13% of the surveyed corporate practitioners highlighted the growing costs of eDiscovery as the main trend they experience. An underlying potential reason for this could be the legal teams' increased adoption of eDiscovery software, which helps reduce the eDiscovery spending. That said, the increase in eDiscovery-related workload of legal teams is another trend that was highlighted by only 13% of the respondents. We see that roughly 15% of the surveyed corporate legal professionals equally insource and outsource their eDiscovery operations (see Chapter 2). Hence, the increase in legal teams' workload might be currently perceived as a less imposing trend by our research pool.

2. Greater use of technology is the main priority for 2023

Notably, when asked about their key priorities for 2023, **74% of respondents said they aim to increase their use of technology in 2023**. This reflects the awareness that exists among corporate legal professionals about the importance of adopting modern eDiscovery technology in order to enable legal teams to ride the massive wave of structured and unstructured data that their organizations are generating.

Figure 3: Respondents' key priorities for 2023



'Investing more in upskilling in-house legal teams' is the second biggest priority for 2023, chosen by 41% of surveyed professionals. Upskilling has been a hot topic

within the business industry for some time now, primarily because of the rapid digital transformation that defined most business areas in the past years. Generally speaking, upskilling personnel entails learning new skills as well as becoming more flexible and accepting towards change. Some examples of such new vital skills for legal teams in particular include: connecting short- and mid-term actions to long-term priorities, ensuring strong alignment to business stakeholder needs, creating and implementing a long-term technology roadmap, etc. Therefore, consistent upskilling would allow teams and organizations to stay competitive in volatile times.

Another factor that might have facilitated an increased prioritization of in-house legal teams' upskilling is the evolved maturity of legal operations. Over the past decades, the maturity of legal operations has considerably advanced, moving from an old, more traditional legal work approach to a new, more strategic one. The old approach was characterized by a more reactive and siloed model where attorneys and paralegals worked independently, with limited use of technology, whereas the new approach reflects a more integrated model, focused on driving business success and leveraging technology to improve efficiency. This in turn led to corporations developing more mature legal workflows by hiring professionals with the skills that would allow legal teams to perform more eDiscovery in-house.

The third most selected key priority for 2023 among the survey respondents (selected by 38%) was fostering a closer alignment between their legal teams and other business departments. There are a number of benefits that closer alignment between legal teams and other departments can bring for the overall organization, namely:

- Improved decision making: when legal teams closely collaborate with other departments (e.g. finance; IT), they can provide legal insights and considerations that can inform business decisions, helping to avoid potential legal risks and issues.
- Better translation of business priorities into legal operations: through improved cross-departmental collaboration, legal teams are able to gain a better understanding of the organization's goals, challenges, and overall operations, which can inform their legal strategies and decision-making.

Overall, closer alignment between legal teams and other business departments can lead to a more effective and efficient legal function that better supports the overall success of the organization.



3. Budget and improving internal efficiency are deemed to impose the biggest challenges in 2023

Speculation about a potential recession has marched throughout 2022. Therefore, many organizations in both Europe and the U.S. have started to prepare for a potential recession already in Q4 of 2022. The Conference Board 'Measure of CEO Confidence' found that as many as 98% of surveyed CEOs in the U.S. said they were preparing for a U.S. recession and 99% said they were preparing for an EU recession.

Our survey findings seem to reflect a similar cautionary approach towards an uncertain macroeconomic environment in 2023. **More than half (53%) of surveyed corporate legal professionals named budget the main factor that will impose the biggest challenges on their departments in 2023.** Hence, legal in-house departments will likely need to respond to their CFOs on budget spending in 2023, something that might have not been scrutinized as much in previous years.

That said, 47% of respondents suggested improving internal efficiency / productivity to be the most challenging task for 2023. Clearly, the focus for most corporate lawyers for this year lies in delivering high value and results while navigating through limited budgets and staffing issues.

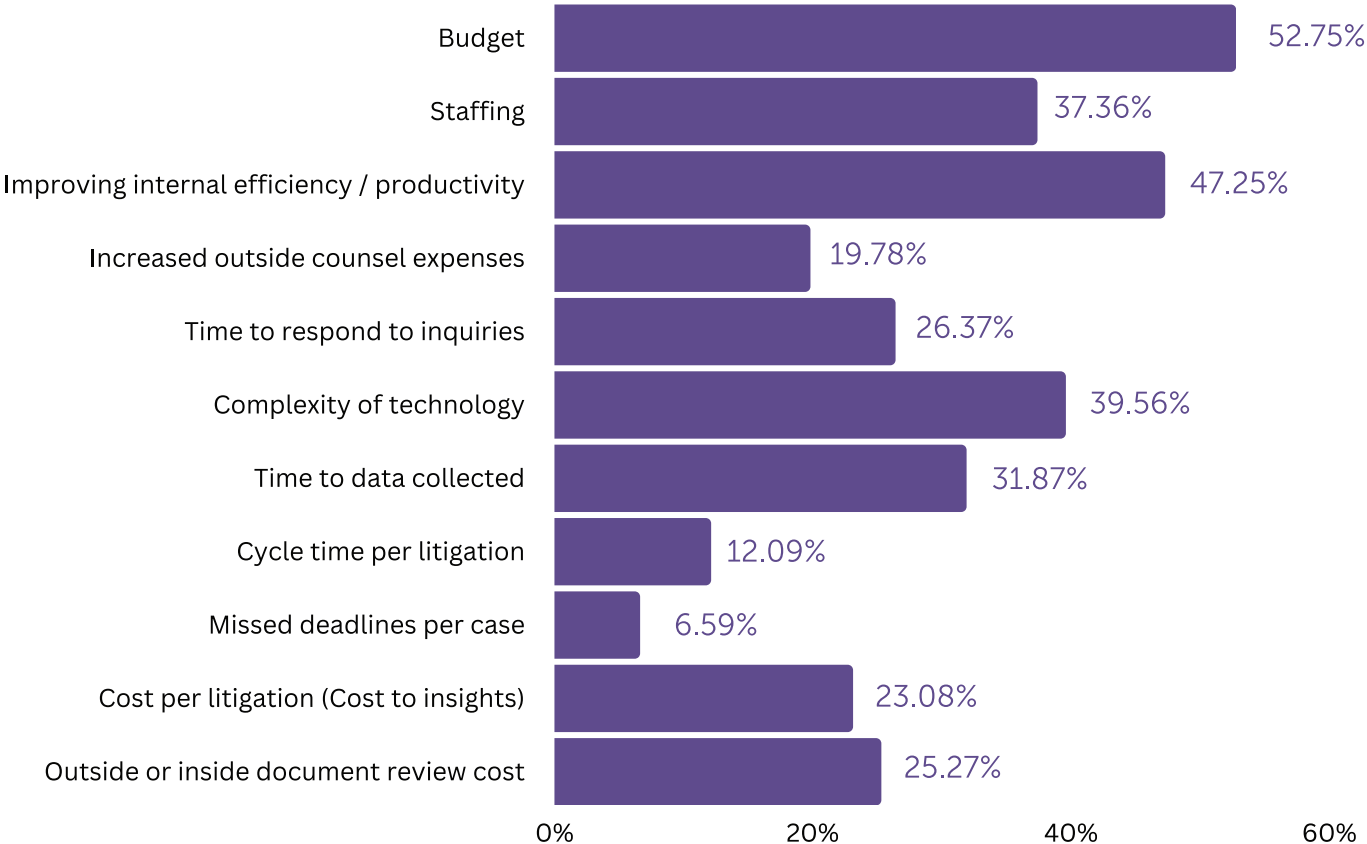
As already mentioned, leveraging eDiscovery technology more actively can help tackle some of the legal discovery related challenges. However, we see that **40% of survey respondents perceive complexity of technology as imposing the biggest challenges on their legal departments in 2023.**

As technology continues to advance and inherently become more complex, investing in training / upskilling your eDiscovery personnel becomes a necessity. Hence, we can correlate the increasing complexity of eDiscovery technology with the shift in prioritizing upskilling of legal teams in 2023 as a way to overcome this challenge.

This further highlights just how important it is for legal teams to adopt user-friendly eDiscovery solutions that would help reduce the training time required for personnel, leading to faster ramp-up times, increased productivity, and better user adoption.

Figure 4: Factors that are expected to impose biggest challenges in 2023

Which of these factors do you expect to impose the biggest challenges on your department in 2023?



Current & future relationships with law firms

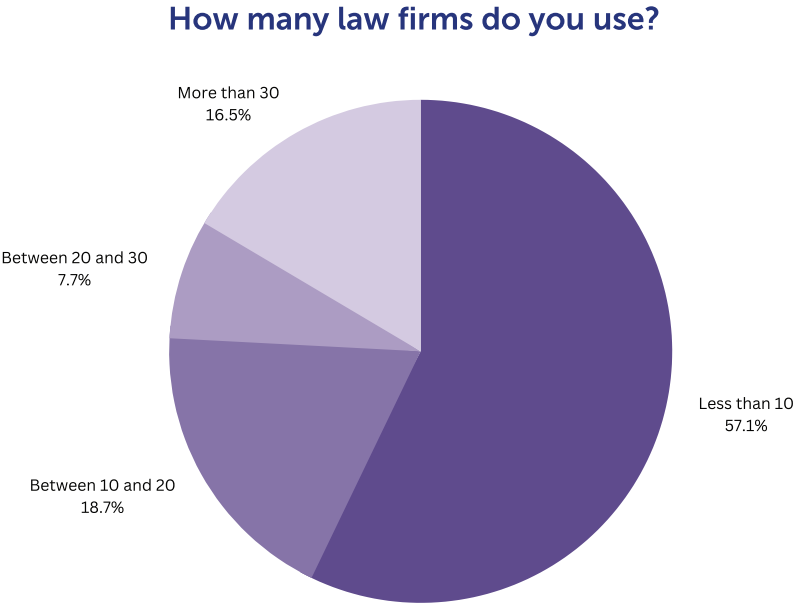
According to the 2022 Law Firm Business Leaders report from Thomson Reuters, 98% of law firm leaders said they definitely or probably will increase their rates next year. That constitutes a substantial increase from 2021 data, where 85% of law firms highlighted that they would probably or definitely increase rates.

With that in mind, with our survey, we wanted to explore how corporate legal professionals perceive their current relationship with their outside counsel and to what extent they are looking to increase / decrease the number of projects they outsource in 2023.

More than half of respondents collaborate with less than 10 law firms on average

Of the corporate legal professionals participating in the survey, 57% indicated that their organization uses less than 10 law firms, followed by 19% claiming that they use between 20 and 30 law firms on average.

Figure 5: The number of law firms currently used by respondents



More than 40% are indifferent about their current outside counsel

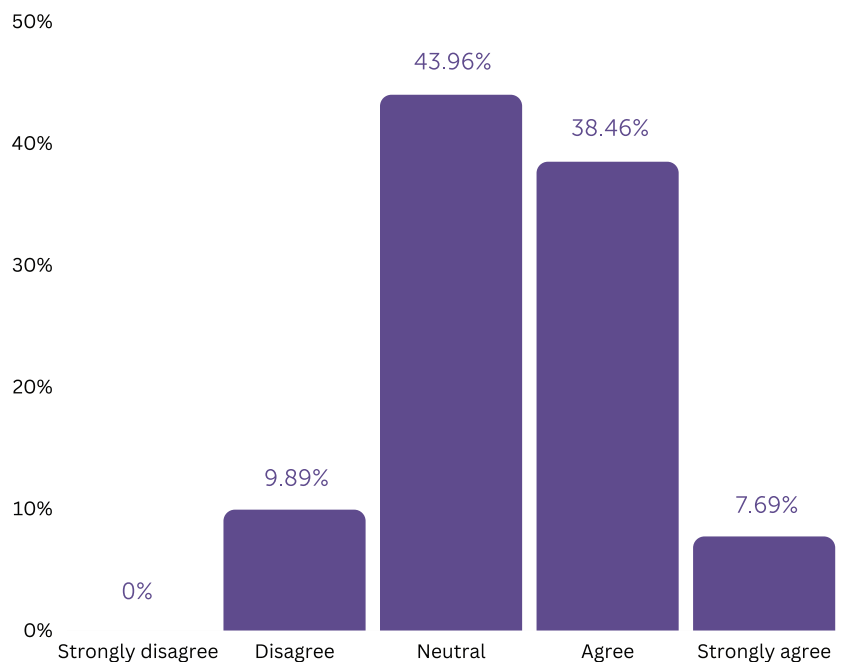
To be precise, **44% of respondents rated the fulfillment with their outside counsel as 'neutral', followed by 38% who agreed that their outside counsel fulfills their needs and expectations.** That said, a neutral satisfaction of legal teams with their outside counsel could make it easier for legal teams to consider alternative options and make a change, if other law firms are able to differentiate themselves with more innovative services than their current outside counsel.

Interestingly, the downtick in client satisfaction with law firms has been apparent for some time now, as pointed out within the [2018 Global Trends in Hiring Outside Counsel](#) survey by The Lawyer Research Service.

Furthermore, high rates that law firms (particularly large ones) charge was named the primary frustration by in-house lawyers. Understandably, corporate legal practitioners are increasingly looking for more innovative firms with better client service.

Figure 6: Respondents' perceived fulfillment with their outside counsel

Rate the following statement: "My outside counsel fulfills my needs and expectations"



40% of corporate law departments in-source most of their eDiscovery process

40% of in-house legal practitioners said their organizations in-source most of their eDiscovery and 35% mentioned that this depends on the size of the case or amount of liability. For a while now, legal departments have been adamant about bringing eDiscovery service in-house as a way to cut costs and have more control over their data. **In fact, 67% of surveyed corporate legal professionals see insourcing more work as a way to mitigate risk and budget constraints.**

Nevertheless, in-sourcing **all** eDiscovery projects is not a feasible task for many legal teams, especially when dealing with sizable cases. Hence, collaboration with law firms will remain pivotal for many corporate legal teams in 2023.

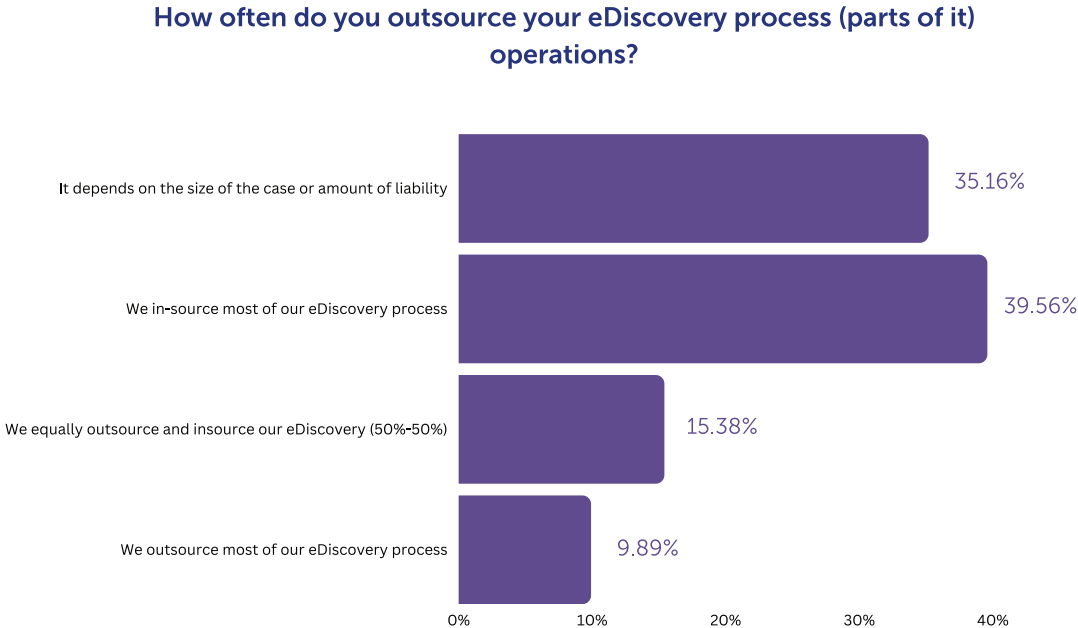
The factors that influence corporate counsel's decision of whether to keep a case in-house or send it to outside counsel have evolved over time in response to changes in the legal industry and the business environment. For example, as many companies have been investing in increasing the capacity and capabilities of their in-house legal teams, more cases are being insourced, as corporate counsel now have greater confidence in their in-house team's ability to handle complex matters. The increasing availability and power of legal technology also empowers in-house counsel to handle a wider range of cases in-house.

That said, the role of outside counsel has evolved too, with many law firms now offering more specialized services and positioning themselves as partners with their clients rather than as simply providing legal services on a case-by-case basis.

Therefore, the corporate counsel's decision of whether to keep a case in-house or delegate it to outside counsel will depend on a variety of factors, including complexity, cost, confidentiality (if the case contains sensitive information that the corporate counsel would prefer to keep in-house, for example), time constraints, skills and experience, and capacity.

As the in-house legal team continues to grow and legal technology continues to advance, it is likely that these factors will continue to evolve, and the balance between in-house and outside counsel will change.

Figure 7: Frequency of outsourcing the eDiscovery process operations as perceived by respondents



“I believe keeping more work in-house can help mitigate risks and budget constraints for my organization in 2023”

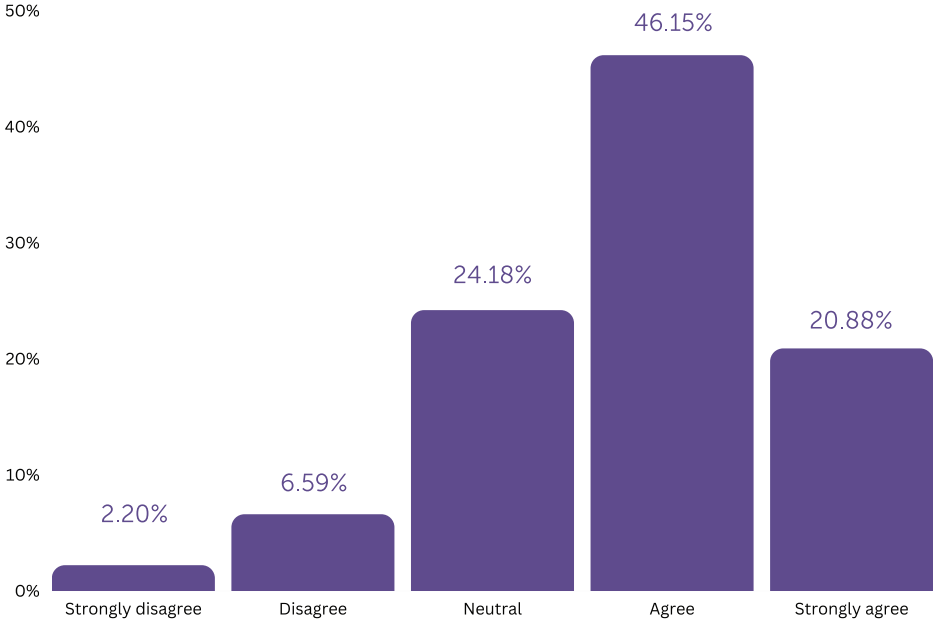


Figure 8: Respondents perception on insourcing more work in 2023

Corporate law departments are looking to outsource less with outside counsel in 2023

With increasing fees charged by external providers as well as tightening budgets corporate legal teams will likely deal with in 2023, we see that most of the surveyed professionals are looking to possibly reduce the number of law firms they will work with in 2023.

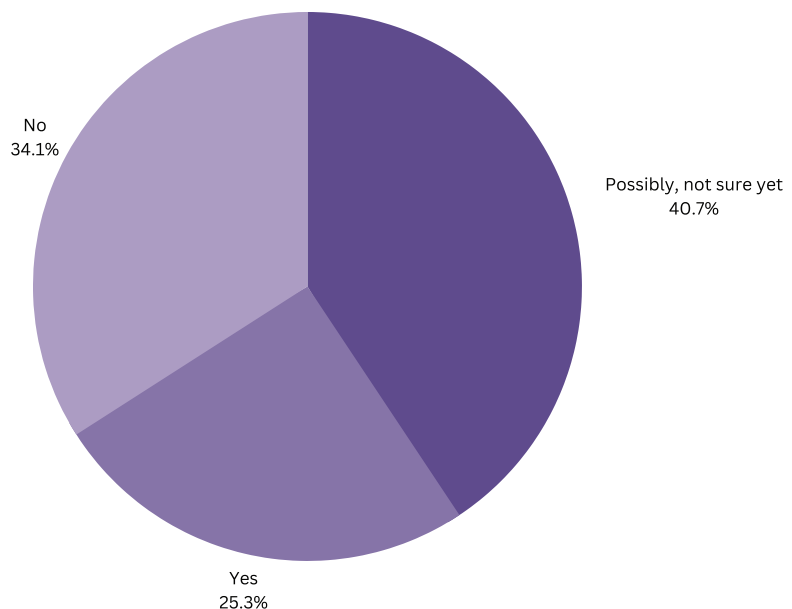
41% of respondents consider reducing the number of law firms they work with in 2023, while 25% of respondents already planned to do this in 2023.

Though it might seem like bad news for law firms, there are hidden opportunities waiting to be seized in 2023. Law firms that manage to deliver excellent customer service, while maintaining strong and timely communication with their clients are more likely to win over their competition.

But how is that possible given the outlook on the complex macroeconomic environment of 2023 and the mounting pressure from GCs to do faster litigation evaluation? The answer is obvious. Law firms need to evolve and be tech savvy to be able to keep up with their clients' needs. That said, they should consider bringing at least some eDiscovery back in-house by using technology that will help them regain control over their clients' data and reduce overall costs.

Figure 9: Respondents perceptions on reducing the number of law firms they work with in 2023

Are you looking to reduce the number of law firms you work with in 2023?

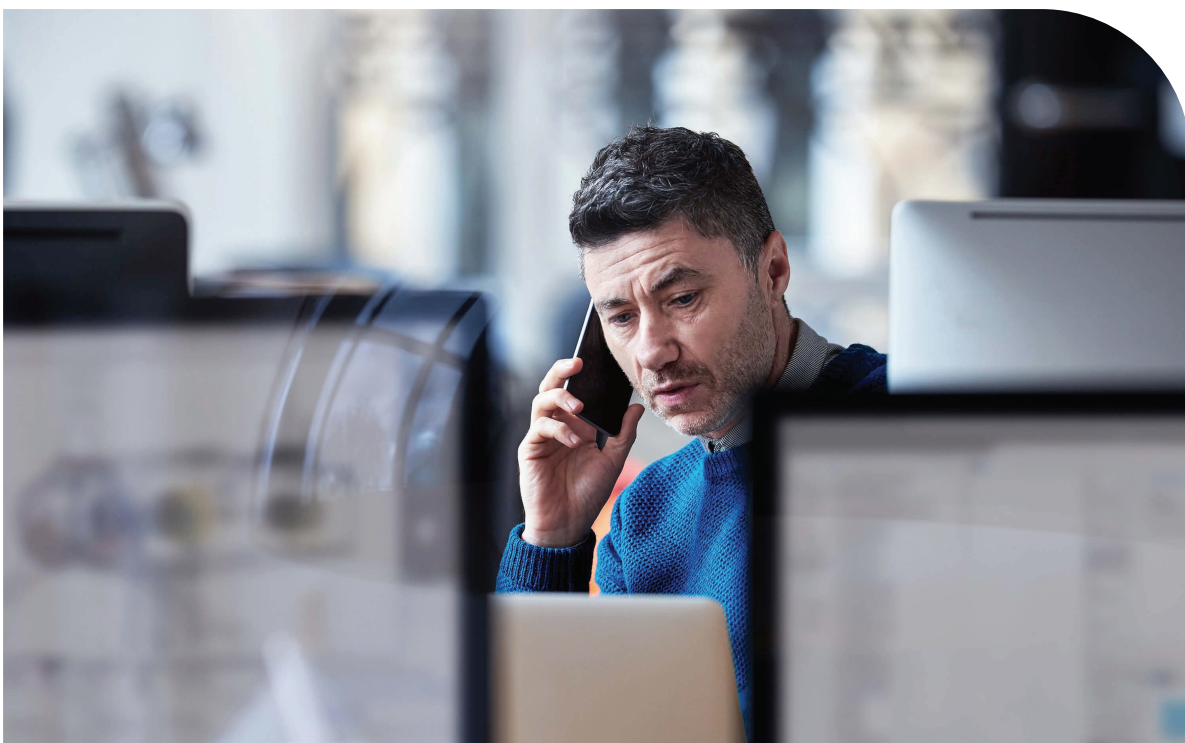


How corporate teams collect data: common practices and pain points

The way we communicate has been drastically changing for the past few years. New communication tools and mediums that legal teams use on a daily basis brought dramatic implications that impact the effectiveness and speed with which legal practitioners are able to collect data.

When prompted to reflect on their established data collection practices, **more than half of surveyed lawyers (51%) pointed out that they tend to collect data from 3-5 sources on average per matter.** Interestingly, 21% said they collect data from more than 10 sources on average (per matter).

Legal departments often rely heavily on their information technology (IT) teams when it comes to accessing and controlling the data they need. When the legal department depends on IT to access and control the data it needs, already-overburdened IT teams must do much of the heavy lifting. Sometimes, this might negatively impact the relationship dynamic between the two parties. Additionally, this might be perceived as one of the reasons why surveyed legal professionals indicated their willingness to prioritize closer collaboration with other business departments in 2023 (see Chapter 2). Legal teams often need access to sensitive data to support their decision-making and ensure compliance with legal regulations, but this access is frequently managed by IT departments. A closer relationship between legal teams and IT creates an opportunity for both departments to improve their work dynamics and ensure that data is handled in a secure and compliant manner.



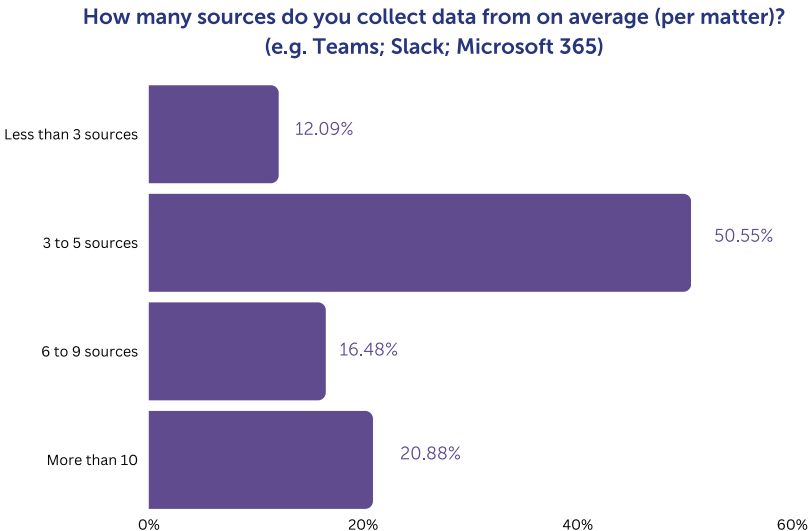
Improving the speed with which legal teams receive requested data from IT is desirable

In our survey, we aimed to better understand how corporate legal professionals feel about their relationship with IT when it comes to accessing requested data.

35% of survey respondents are happy with the speed at which they receive data from IT, while 40% of them said they are neither content nor discontent with it.

While the percentage of those strongly unsatisfied with how promptly they are able to access data from IT is low, the results show that there is clearly room for improvement in relation to how data is governed and collected within organizations.

Figure 10: Number of sources respondents collect data from on average (per matter)



Rate the following statement: "I am content with how fast our legal team receives requested data from IT"

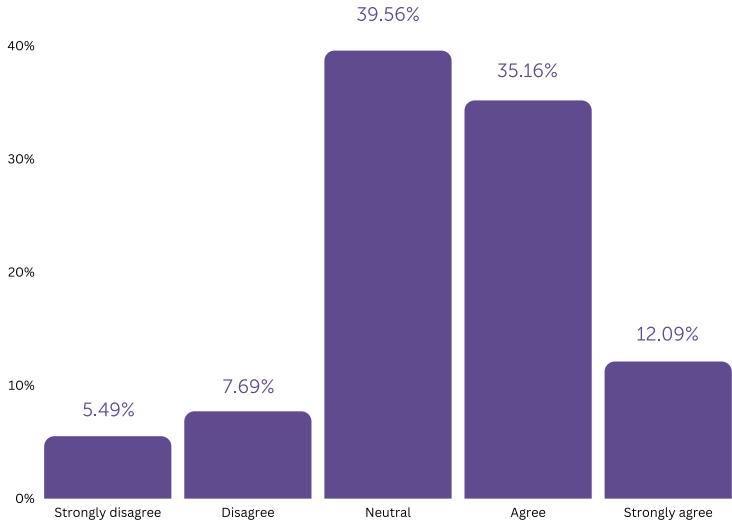


Figure 11: The extent to which respondents are content with how fast their team receives requested data from IT

Overcollection of data is an increasing pain point for corporate legal professionals

With the rising pressure to cut costs and the concurrent explosion of data volumes, corporate law departments might feel like they are caught between a rock and a hard place. For that reason, limiting / avoiding overcollection altogether becomes more important than ever.

27% of surveyed professionals agreed with the statement that their team overcollects data regularly, while 46% are unsure or neutral towards the statement. That said, almost 10% of the audience strongly agreed with it.

Most common reasons for data overcollection include: fear of missing relevant data (precautionary measure); undefined or poorly defined scope of the matter (i.e. understanding what data is relevant to the case); and an outdated or incomplete collection plan that hinders legal teams to adopt an agile data collection approach.

Clearly, ESI overcollection is a growing challenge within the corporate legal industry, calling for decisive solutions, such as: adopting stronger information governance practices; endorsing more focused EDA; limiting the sources of data; collecting data in phases (early collection focused around the most relevant items, such as contracts, email, or ESI most at risk of being lost); or leveraging technology to facilitate targeted collections.



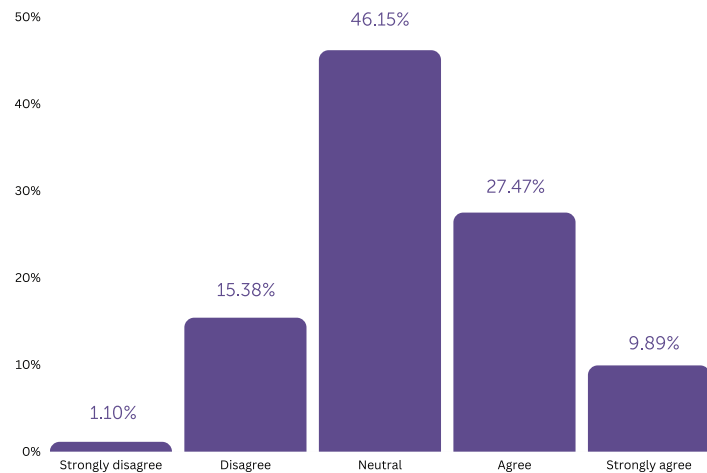
Leveraging technology to facilitate targeted collections as the main measure to control data overcollection

32% of the survey respondents called ‘leveraging technology to facilitate targeted collections’ a primary step to limiting and/or controlling the overcollection of ESI. More focused EDA lands as the second most popular measure to combat overcollection, selected by 23% of people. This way, we yet again see a shift in how legal professionals perceive technology - from being an optional, complementary addition to legal workflows to becoming a true potent weapon that helps legal teams cut eDiscovery costs, reduce inadvertent disclosure / breach risks, and be in control of the data collected.

In the following section, we explore in more detail why corporate legal professionals use eDiscovery technology, in which cases, and what AI features they tend to use most often.

Figure 12: The extent to which respondents over collect data

Rate the following statement: “My team over-collects data regularly”



What steps, if any, are you taking to limit and/or control the over-collection of data?

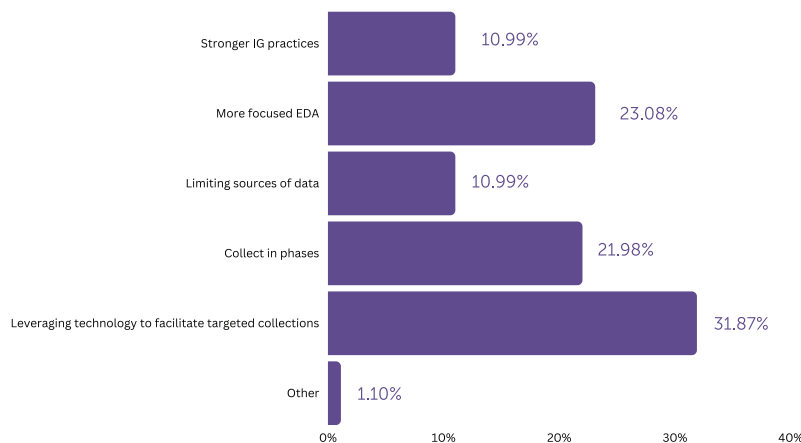


Figure 13: The steps respondents take to limit and / or control the overcollection of data

Adoption of modern eDiscovery technology among corporate legal practitioners

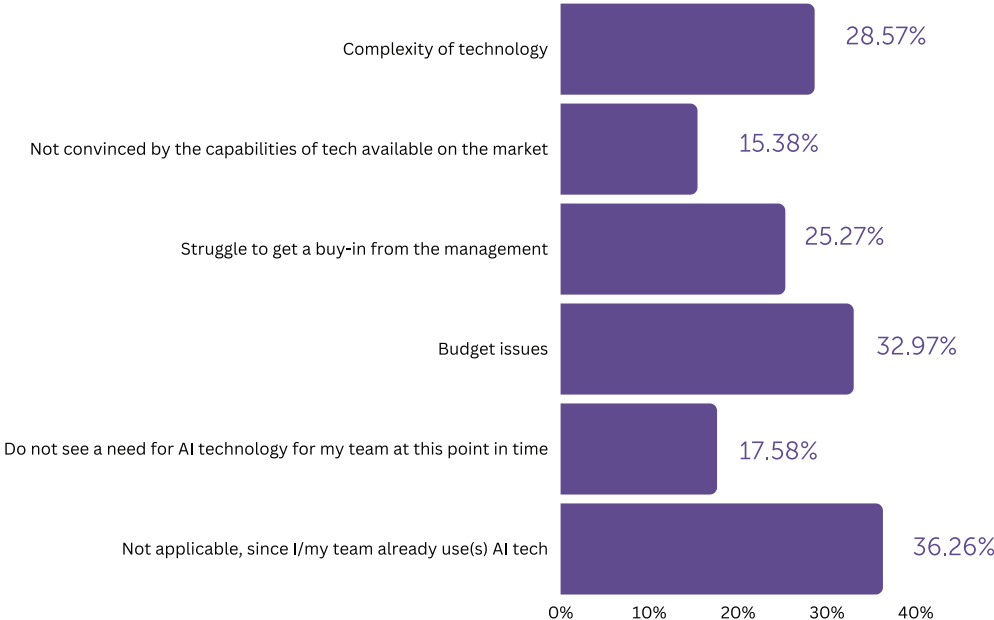
For the purposes of this survey, we asked the respondents to self-report on the estimated usage of technology in their work and highlight the AI features and data analytics within their eDiscovery tools they tend to use the most. Additionally, we asked the key reasons that made the respondents adopt or - on contrary - not adopt eDiscovery technology within their workflows.

Only 36% of survey respondents have adopted AI-powered technology within their or their team’s workflows

Though we saw that the majority of surveyed corporate lawyers see greater use of technology as their top priority for 2023, **only 36% of them indicated that they / their teams already adopted AI technology within their workflows.**

Figure 14: The core reasons why some respondents haven’t adopted any AI technology within their workflows

In case you haven’t adopted any AI-powered technology within your or your team’s workflow, what are the core reasons for that?



Budget issues and complexity of technology among main reasons for not adopting AI-powered eDiscovery solutions

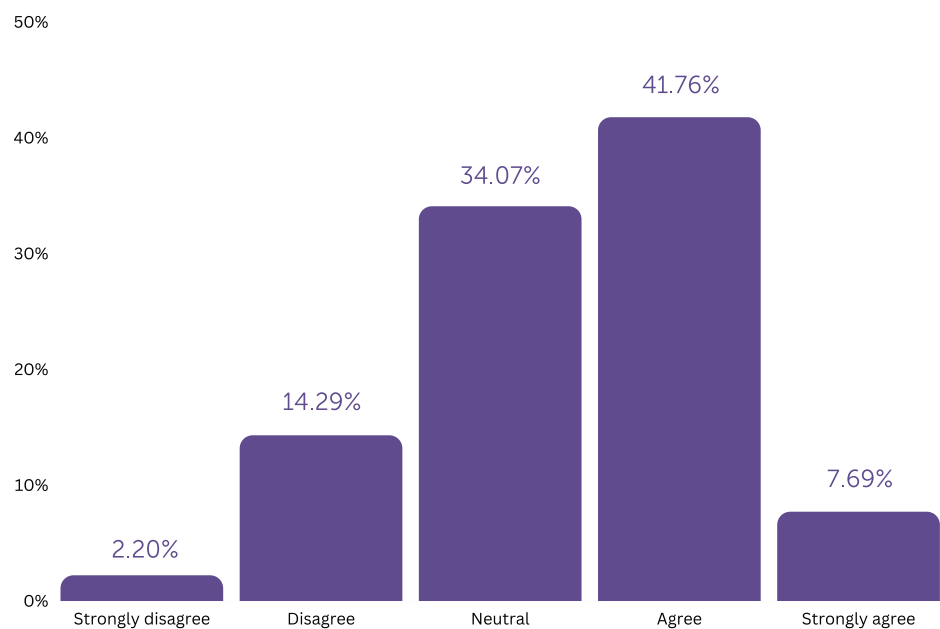
Notably, 33% of the research population indicated 'budget constraints' as the driving factor for not implementing eDiscovery technology within their / their legal teams' workflows, followed by 'complexity of technology' chosen as the main reason by 29% of respondents.

Roughly one third of the respondents who adopted eDiscovery tech are neither happy nor unhappy with how their teams use it in their day-to-day tasks

34% of survey respondents said that they feel neutral about the level of adoption and usage of technology by their teams within their day-to-day tasks. Therefore, we might infer that roughly one third of the research population sees opportunities for improving their use of eDiscovery technology.

Figure 15: The extent to which the respondents are happy with their teams' use of technology

Rate the following statement: "I am happy with the extent to which my team uses technology in their day-to-day tasks"



Prioritizing data review, finding evidence faster, organizing large volumes of data among the key drivers in adopting AI-driven technology

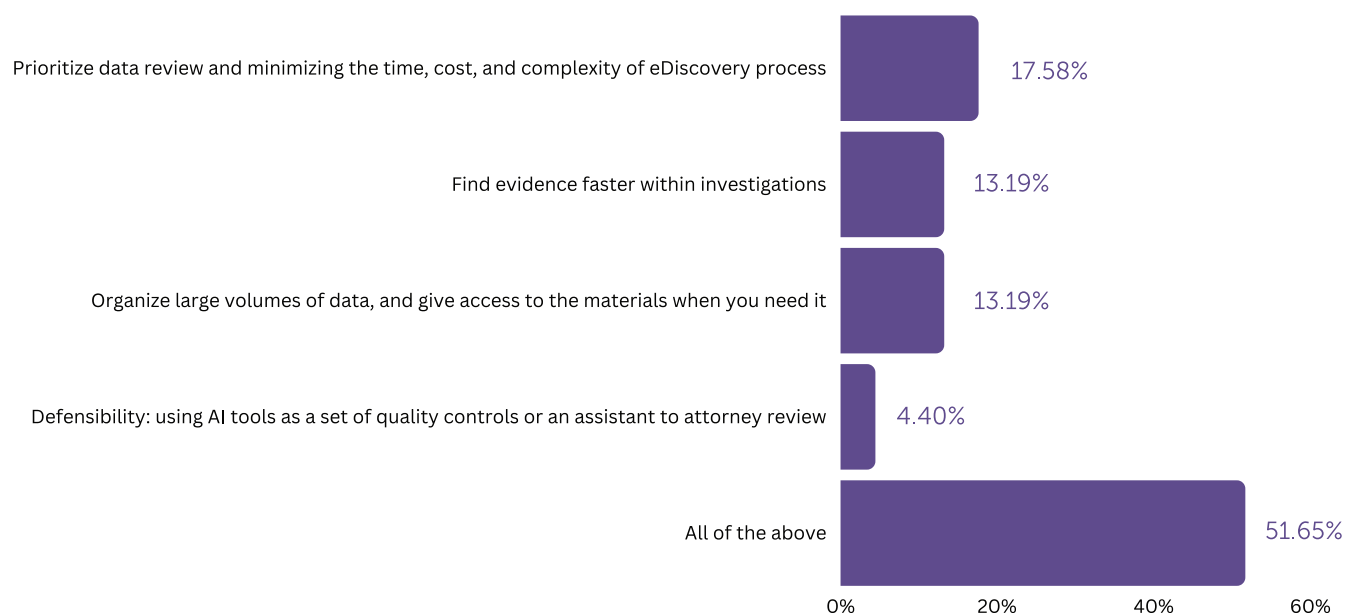
A bit over half of the survey respondents who adopted AI-driven technology (52%) couldn't choose one key driver for adopting AI, saying that all of the following were reasons for their organization to implement an eDiscovery solution:

- a) prioritizing data review and minimizing the time, cost, and complexity of eDiscovery process;
- b) finding evidence faster within investigations;
- c) organizing large volumes of data, and giving access to the materials when you need it
- d) defensibility: using AI tools as a set of quality controls or an assistant to attorney review.

Furthermore, high rates that law firms (particularly large ones) charge was named the primary frustration by in-house lawyers. Understandably, corporate legal practitioners are increasingly looking for more innovative firms with better client service.

Figure 16: The key drivers for the respondents to adopt AI-driven technology

What are the key drivers for you to adopt AI driven technology?



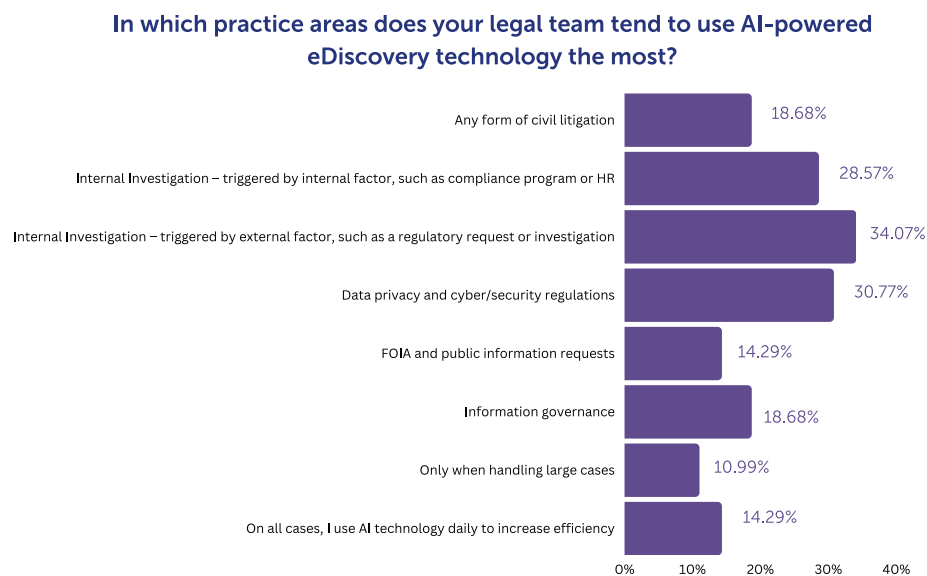
Internal investigations triggered by an external factor represent the main practice area for eDiscovery technology application

The pandemic has upended much of the business world for the last years, and the legal space has not been exempt from those and other changes. As many countries have lifted most of the COVID restrictions by now, organizations increasingly moved towards hybrid work models.

This shift in the workforce brings major consequences for the world of eDiscovery, as remote work has accelerated the adoption of countless collaboration tools and technologies, each of which may generate its own unique format and type of data. This, in turn, results in surging corporate and data privacy incidents.

In fact, global security attacks increased by 28% in the third quarter of 2022 compared to the same period in 2021, which clearly has caused a global rise in data privacy regulations in 2022, which will likely continue throughout 2023. Similarly, the implementation of whistleblowing laws and policies in jurisdictions around the world resulted in employers spending more time investigating corporate fraud, misconduct, and non-compliance instances.

Therefore, it is no surprise that our survey respondents indicated **internal investigations triggered by an external factor as the most common practice area for applying AI-driven eDiscovery technology (chosen by 35% of corporate law practitioners).**



That said, 31% of respondents marked 'data privacy and cyber security regulations' as the main practice area for AI tech application, followed by 29% who selected 'internal investigation - triggered by an internal factor, such as compliance program or HR' as the main use case for their eDiscovery solution.

Figure 17: The practice areas in which the respondents' teams tend to use AI technology the most

‘Classification of documents’ and ‘concept search’ features were most widely used to respond to an inquiry or litigation in 2022

Next, we examined the particular AI capabilities that corporate legal professionals used the most to respond to an inquiry or litigation in 2022.

Out of people who said their team has already implemented AI-powered eDiscovery technology, roughly 40% of them seem to have used features that allow classification of documents the most when responding to a litigation or inquiry in 2022.

Document classification implies identifying and classifying documents by type, responsiveness, privilege, or protected information content—among other traits—without opening each individual document. Document classification uses NLP classification and supervised machine learning to sort agreements, invoices, correspondence, or other document types into virtual piles.

Concept search is the second most popular feature used by corporate legal teams to respond to inquiries or litigations in 2022, **chosen by 37% of survey respondents.**

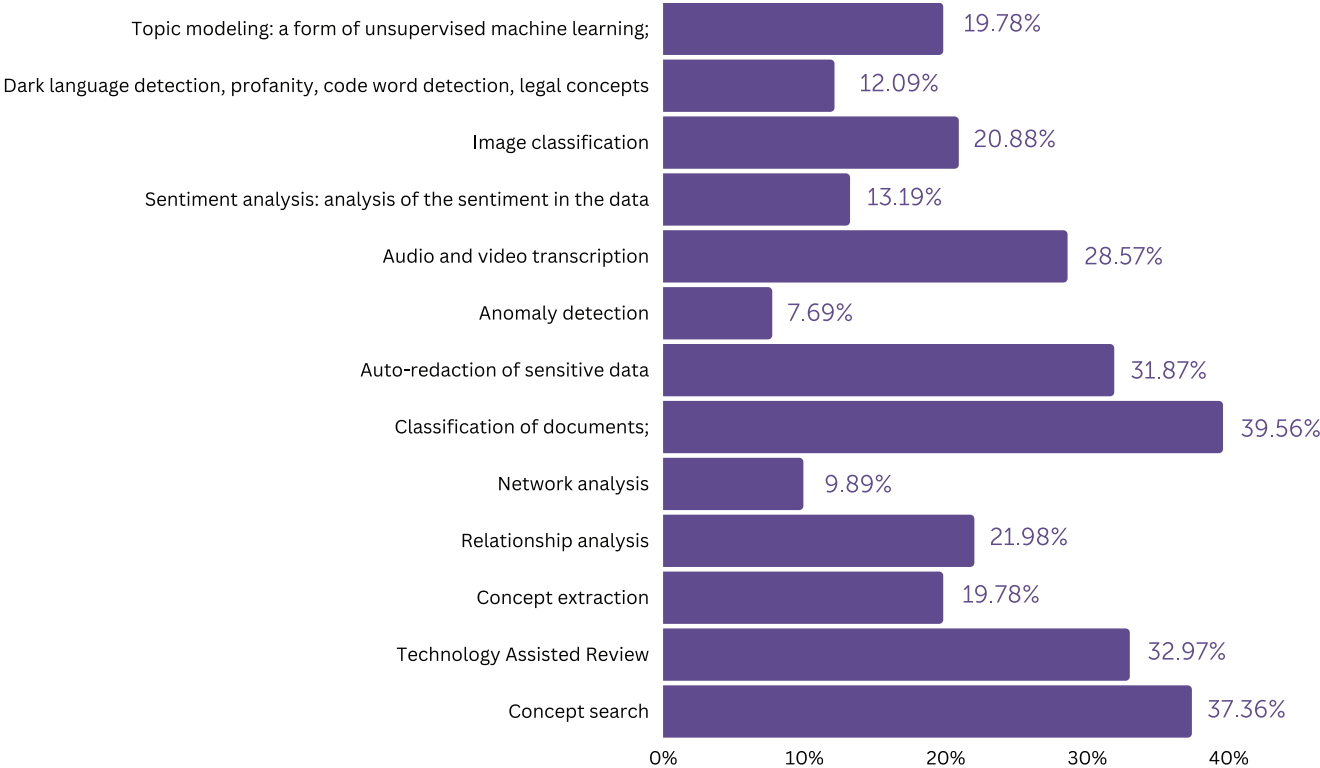
Concept search is an automated information retrieval method used to search electronically stored unstructured information. Concept search features within eDiscovery tools allow legal professionals to search for concepts in data, instead of performing the standard keyword search. For example, instead of having to create an exhaustive list of all possible people names in a dataset, concept search allows you to search for a ‘person-concept’, which will return all person names found within a data set.



One third of the respondents (33%) reported regularly using Technology Assisted Review to manage inquiries and litigations in the past year. Legal professionals use Technology Assisted Review to accelerate the document review process by teaching an algorithm which documents are likely to be tagged as relevant, privileged, or otherwise important. Overall, TAR empowers legal teams to make decisions rapidly by prioritizing the most critical documents.

Figure 18: The type of eDiscovery AI features the respondents' legal teams used to respond to an inquiry or litigation in 2022

What type of eDiscovery AI features has your legal team used to respond to an inquiry or litigation in 2022?



The role technology will play in supporting corporate legal professionals in 2023

From predictive analytics and automating administrative tasks to streamlining eDiscovery phases, technology has been transforming the legal industry for decades.

Undoubtedly, technology will continue to play a significant role in supporting corporate legal practitioners' goals in 2023. Advancements in artificial intelligence, document classification, machine learning, and natural language processing will keep enabling legal practitioners to automate repetitive tasks and improve efficiency.

Moving into 2023, to be able to reap the benefits that technology provides, more and more organizations will adopt "e2eDiscovery" (end-to-end eDiscovery) solutions. For corporations, e2eDiscovery will particularly make sense because it offers simplicity and predictability by bundling what otherwise would be multiple vendors, billing agreements, and points of contact into a one-stop shop.

By adopting end-to-end e-discovery tools, legal teams will be able to more easily review and analyze large amounts of data in support of litigation and investigations, meet tight deadlines, as well as comply with legal regulations. Moreover, many end-to-end eDiscovery solutions include features such as cloud-based review platforms, which can enable distributed teams to work together more efficiently.

That said, I^{PRO} Legal Ops end-to-end solution suite helps resolve complex internal investigations, tackle regulatory requests, meet data privacy obligations, and perform smart eDiscovery for litigation readiness.

As organizations will increasingly struggle to manage and control all of their data, adopting a systematic and consistent approach to information governance will become more important than ever in 2023. In-place search solutions in particular will be able to assist legal teams in creating a better overview of their data and its sources in an instance.

In fact, in-place search solutions have the potential to revolutionize eDiscovery in several ways, namely by:

- Reducing the costs associated with collecting and processing data;
- Speeding up the eDiscovery process by empowering legal teams to respond to complaints and make decisions faster, reducing the need for litigations;
- Reducing the risk of data spoliation, as legal professionals are able to avoid the need to move or copy data, which helps to preserve its integrity;
- Protecting sensitive data, since it can be integrated with existing security and access controls;
- Using persistent tagging on the same data for similar cases, which helps to avoid repeatedly reviewing documents or to completely eliminate privilege reviews by outside counsel;

That said, in-place search solutions introduce a new way of working for corporate legal teams, enabling them to do self-serviced, targeted collections from live data, thus avoiding overcollection. These solutions can target and analyze relevant data where it lives, without actually collecting it. This helps legal teams save significant time by expediting the document review process as well as reduce the costs of collecting and storing data. How can in-place solutions achieve this?

For example, IPRO's in-search place solution - [Live EDA](#) - creates a content index that serves as a data map with information on where data is, why it's there, how long it's been there, and who has access to read and modify it. Such detailed insight helps legal teams discern the truth of matters quickly and efficiently, providing a jump-start for both internal investigations and eDiscovery.

As budget spending will likely become more intensely scrutinized by CFOs in 2023, corporate law departments will have to be prepared to provide a clear answer on what they are doing about the hidden EBITDA in their eDiscovery process. Limiting overcollection and overspending with outside counsel can be considered the core steps to take in that regard.

In summary, those organizations that didn't embrace eDiscovery technology to the full extent yet will have to do so in 2023 to be able to remain competitive and capable of overcoming the pressing challenges of tomorrow in today's fast-paced business environment. Failing to do so might lead to increased risks in non-compliance, reduced efficiency and accuracy of eDiscovery, as well as cause difficulties in managing and reviewing large amounts of information.

Interested in learning more about how you can step up your use of technology in 2023?

Contact our experts or schedule a meeting with them directly to get practical advice on how you can optimize your current eDiscovery processes.

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