SIGNiX Partners with Wacom for 'Legally Defensible' E-Signatures

SIGNiX discussed how e-signatures are changing the way we interact with documents, allowing increased speed and security.

Ian Lopez, Legaltech News

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E-signatures have removed geographical constraints and improved security for signing off on legal documents and contractual agreements. However, some companies still think there's room for improvement.

One such company is cloud-based digital signature and authentication solution provider

SIGNiX/Wacom Partnership, continued

SIGNiX, which has announced that it will integrate with Wacom, a company perhaps best known for its graphics tablets. In doing so, SIGNiX aims to increase both security and user "experience" for both remote and in-person signatures for legal documents and contracts, the company said in a statement.

So what are some of the benefits of e-signatures? According to SIGNiX executive vice president Pem Guerry, aside from obvious savings like time and money, SIGNiX's "e-signatures are legally defensible."

"Our technology keeps an audit trail, a detailed log of events, of every action taken on a document," Guerry told Legaltech News. "Every time a signer signs, initials or in any other way changes a document, those changes are automatically logged. With identity authentication technology, e-signatures also verify that the right person signed the right document. This legal evidence is generally superior to what is possible with pen and paper." He added, "Unlike pen and paper, signers receive the security benefits of [SIGNiX's e-signature]" like "tamper evidence and long-term validity as well as Wacom's biometric proof."

As to why SIGNiX decided to integrate with Wacom, Guerry said that the company hoped to give users "the benefits" of an e-signature "while retaining the familiarity of signing with pen and paper."

"SIGNiX's vision to add electronic handwritten signature to their online digital signing platform is one we fully support," said Shigeki Komiyama, executive vice president for Wacom's business solutions unit, in a statement. "Their collaboration to support our signature capture devices will greatly enhance the in-person signing experience."

Guerry elaborated on the security benefits of e-signatures. Documents signed via e-signatures contain biometric information, he explained, also noting that SIGNiX's digital signatures "use public key infrastructure technology to encrypt documents and to permanently embed the legal evidence of a signature into a signed document and to permanently embed the legal evidence of a signature into a signed document."

SIGNiX's e-signatures can "verify signers' identities before they're ever granted access to

signed documents," Guerry explained. "There are several identity authentication methods that can be used, including requesting Social Security numbers and matching information pulled from 30 years worth of public records. Further, everything that happens during the signing process—such as identity verification, document viewing, document changing, signing, etc.—is recorded in a digital audit trail. And if someone alters a document in any way, an alert is sent to users so they are aware and can act accordingly."

At the foundation of the company's e-signatures is "international, published standards for e-signatures, encryption, digital certificate issuance, digital documents," Guerry said. "Because these standards exist in the public domain, they will always be discoverable in court and can be accepted worldwide."

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