OpenEFM and Electronic Filing

Jim Beard

Overview

- What did we do?
- Why did we do it?
- How does it work?
- What does it mean?

Why we Developed it

- Problems
  - Thousands of courts
  - Heterogenous CMS systems (non-standard)
  - Small operational budgets
  - Different courts have different needs

counterclaim

Why we Developed it

- Solution
  - Open Source
    - Saves courts time and money
    - Adds a level of security to courts that propietary software can not offer
    - Abstraction of key elements likely to differ from court to court

counterclaim

How it works

- General E-Filing over view
  - EFSPs (different vendors offering front ends to e-filing services) offer filing creation
  - EFMs (one for each court) accept filings and allow the court personel to manage them
  - CMSs (one for each court) maintain the courts information
  - LegalXML acts as the common communication language

counterclaim

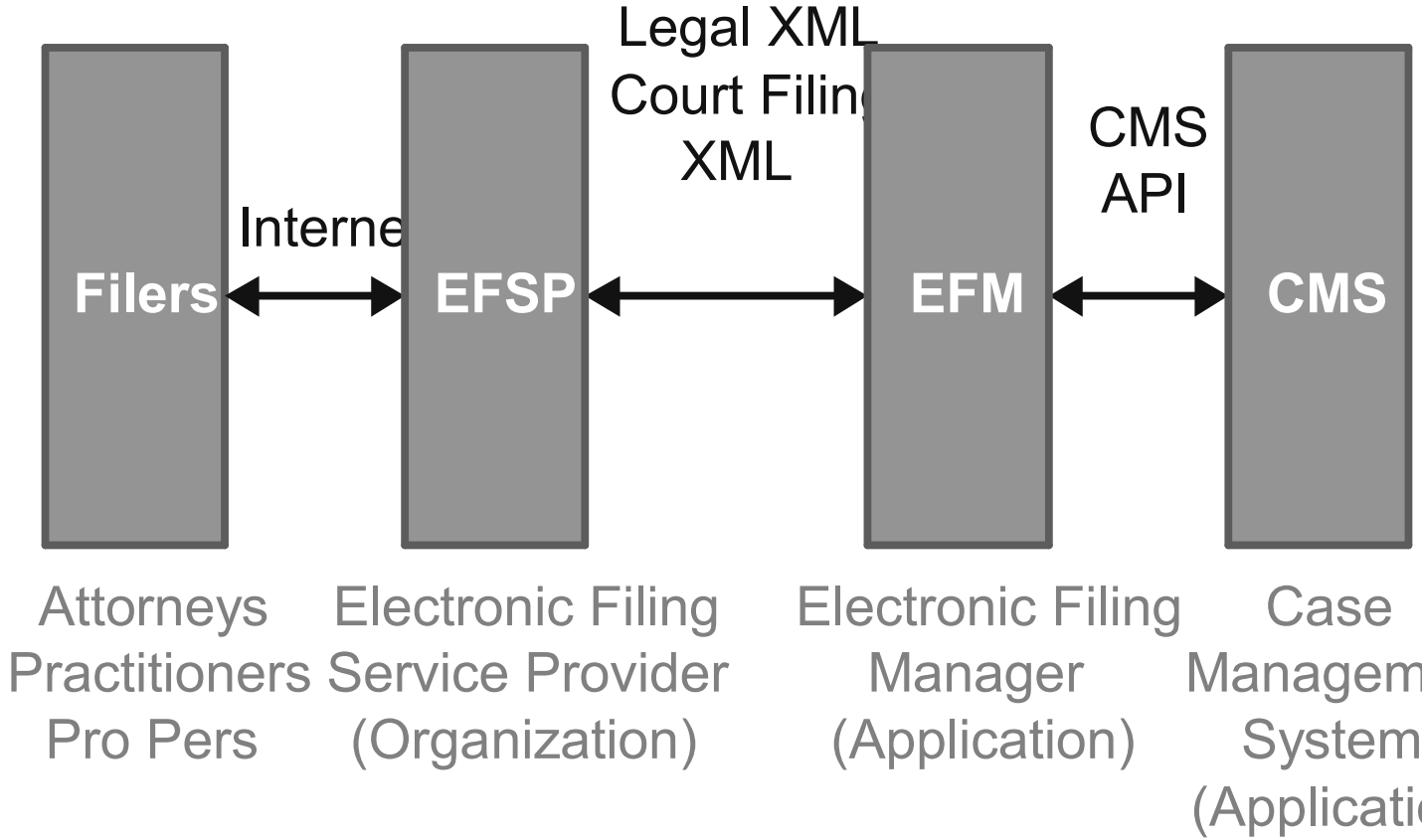


Diagram taken from the California Electronic Filing Technical Standards Project – version 5 Nov.20, 2000

counterclaim

How it works

- General E-Filing over view
  - EFSPs (different vendors offering front ends to e-filing services) offer filing creation
  - EFMs (one for each court) accept filings and allow the court personel to manage them
  - CMSs (one for each court) maintain the courts information
  - LegalXML acts as the common communication language

counterclaim

EFMs

- Courts have a single EFM
- The EFM accepts filings from authenticated (court approved) vendors
- Court personal use the EFM to review and manage the incoming filings
- Approved filings can then move on to the CMS system

counterclaim

OpenEFM

- Courts can manage
  - EFSPs
  - Accounts for other court personel (clerks)
- Court clerks can manage filings
  - Approve filings
  - Reject filings

counterclaim

OpenEFM

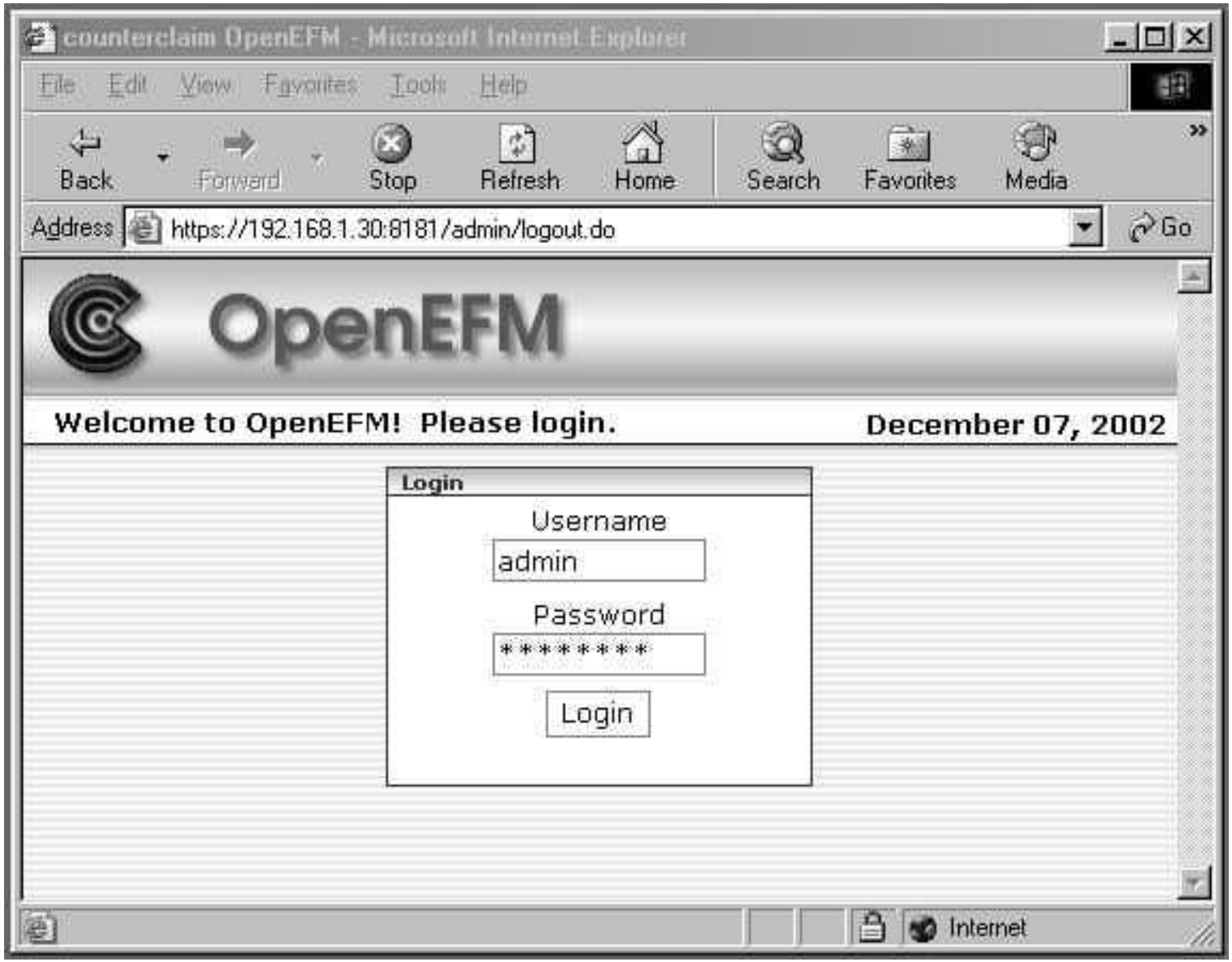
- Designed with adaptability in mind.
  - Due to the different needs and different systems of each court
- The account and filing management functionality is universal

counterclaim

OpenEFM

- Key components are abstracted so that easy changes can be made. For example
  - The adapter between the EFM and the CMS
  - The method of acceptance of filings
    - SOAP
    - HTTP / HTTPS
    - Etc
  - The database layer

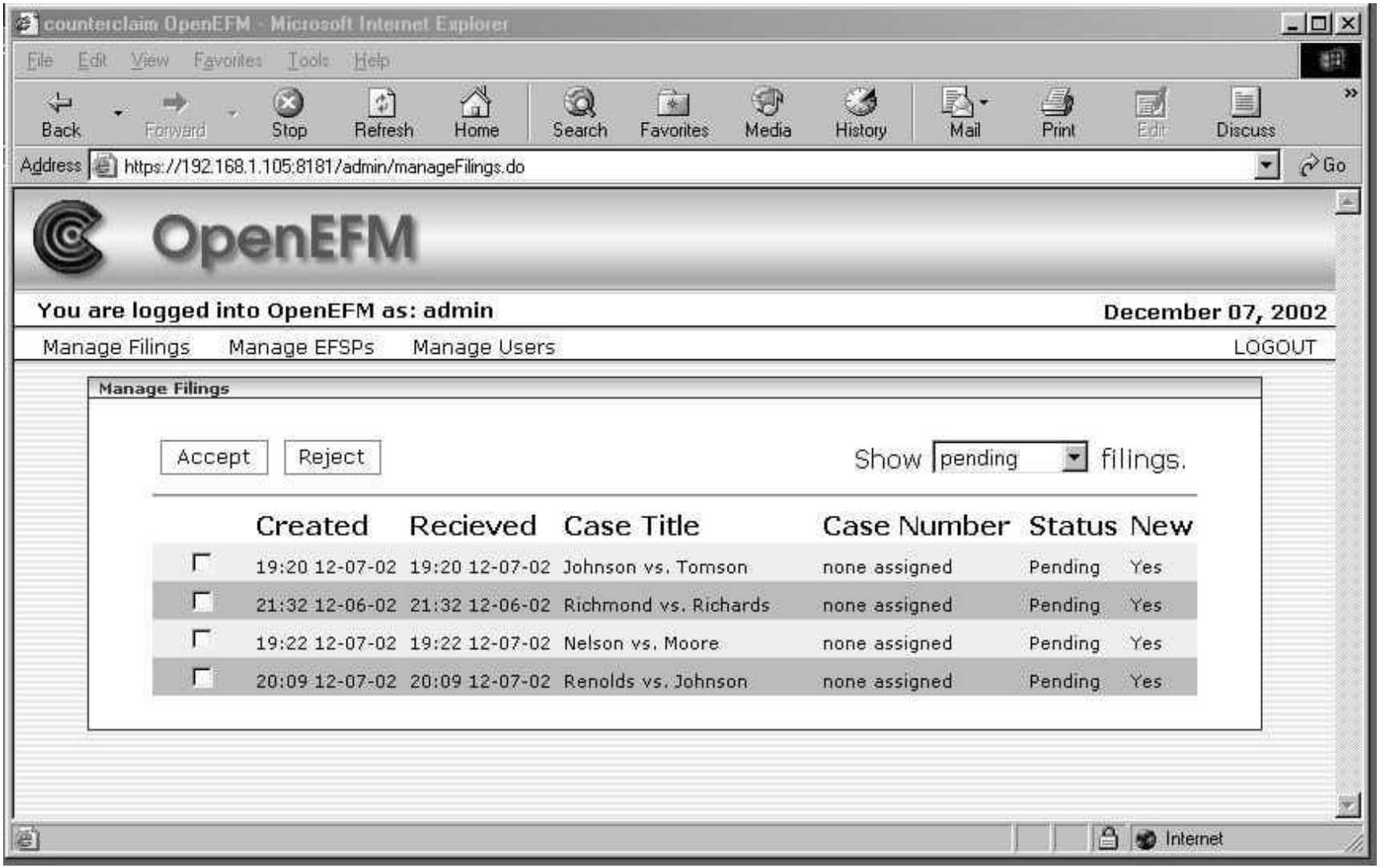
counterclaim



counterclaim

counterclaim

counterclaim



counterclaim

counterclaim

```
      <RoleName>Defendant</RoleName>
      <RoleWith ActorID="Defendant0001" />
    </Role>
  </Actor>
- <Actor ID="Plaintiff0001">
    <Title />
  - <Name>
    - <Person>
        <FullName>Thomas Renolds</FullName>
        <FirstName>Thomas</FirstName>
        <MiddleName />
        <LastName>Renolds</LastName>
      </Person>
    </Name>
  - <Role>
      <RoleName>AttorneyForPlaintiff</RoleName>
      <RoleWith ActorID="Plaintiff0100" />
    </Role>
  </Actor>
- <Actor ID="Defendant0001">
    <Title />
  - <Name>
    - <Person>
        <FullName>Robert Johnson</FullName>
        <FirstName>Robert</FirstName>
        <MiddleName />
        <LastName>Johnson</LastName>
      </Person>
```

Thank You!

www.counterclaim.com