

Focus on Publishing

Microsoft's Rights Management

by ROBIN PEEK

We're entering a new turn on the wild and thorny digital rights management thrill ride. Now the debate moves to the desktop—at least if Microsoft has its way. The company has just started releasing key components of its Rights Management Services (RMS) offering, which was originally announced in February. This software solution is part of Microsoft's strategy to embed "next-generation secure computing base" technologies across its product line. And if you use Windows, RMS will eventually come to your desktop.

Microsoft's approach to RMS is quite far-reaching. It covers everything from an individual's ability to restrict an e-mail message from being forwarded to large-scale publishing solutions. Like the digital rights management approaches we're already using, Windows RMS can limit the ability to print, forward, and edit doc-

uments. But unlike some solutions, permissions can vary. For example, they can expire a "number of days after publishing or at regular intervals, requiring [the] acquisition of a new license." Moreover, these permissions can also differ from user to user so that one may be allowed to print, while another isn't. And the policies can be centrally enforced and managed by the use of templates that Microsoft says are "easy to create and deploy."

But not surprisingly, there's a catch. In order to successfully employ much of this functionality, the organization must be using Microsoft's Server 2003. According to the company, deploying RMS for Windows Server 2003 allows Office 2003 users to easily take advantage of this technology.

In fact, many analysts have concluded that Microsoft is betting on RMS to help generate interest in Server 2003 and the

newly released Microsoft Office 2003. According to the Netcraft 2003 survey "Market Share for Top Servers Across All Domains," Microsoft was second in market share (24 percent) to Apache (65 percent). Since last year, Microsoft's market share has actually declined slightly in relation to Apache's.



In September, Microsoft released the Rights Management Add-on (RMA) for Internet Explorer. RMA allows the browser to use information and applications that require Windows RMS technologies. Installing the RMA client places software on your computer that allows it to respond to requests for licenses and keys. This is part of

a series of technologies that Microsoft is calling Information Rights Management (IRM) tools.

I went to the Microsoft site and downloaded the client, but I suspect that most

people will not need to do this. Microsoft has a built-in mechanism for updating the browser. This will allow files to be shared with those who don't have Office 2003. The IRM viewer works only if the recipient has permission to read the file. At the time of this writing, I found no

IRM could return us to the days of print, maybe even to the days before photocopying.



demonstration at the Microsoft Web site that illustrated the features of this client when it's actually deployed.

Locking Down Office 2003

Another part of the Information Rights Management equation is the venerable

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Internet Insights

Digital Ready-Reference Sources in Spanish

by PÉTER JACSÓ

I probably should have written this column for the September issue of *Information Today*, at the start of Hispanic Heritage Month. The need for Spanish-language digital reference sources keeps growing, as does the U.S. Hispanic population. Similarly, the proportion of Hispanics who use the Web—and who get secondary and postsecondary degrees—keeps growing. Luckily, there are quite a few good and excellent digital reference sources in Spanish, many of which (especially in the dictionary and encyclopedia categories) are free or affordable even for individuals.

The Library Market

There are four well-known players that serve the library market with digital ready-reference sources in Spanish: Gale, Grolier, World Book, and Microsoft. Gale (the sponsor of my Digital Reference Shelf column on its Web site), in cooperation with Oceano Group, offers the Consulta database, which is by far the most comprehensive digital ready-reference collection. It has more than 100 general and special encyclopedias, dictionaries, handbooks, and almanacs. Consulta is ideal for large colleges with extensive course offerings in Spanish and for pub-



lic libraries with large Spanish-speaking populations.

Historically, Grolier was the first to launch in the U.S. a digital encyclopedia in Spanish: the Nueva Enciclopedia Cumbre en línea, a good, well-illustrated resource for high school students and Spanish-speaking adults. Grolier strongly emphasizes its Latin American focus, but I think the Iberia-independence card is overplayed by omitting some important issues and people related to Spain. For example, it ignores Jorge Semprun, Spain's most-

lauded contemporary novelist. Grolier's search software is very good, except for its inability to handle the Spanish diacritics in the queries. However, the interface for the separate American Heritage LaRousse Spanish Dictionary: Spanish/English English/Spanish (which should be integrated with the encyclopedia) is poor. Grolier also recommends the encyclopedia for grade schools, but I think its language is too difficult for those students. World Book's curriculum-based, basic-Spanish-language Enciclopedia Estudiantil Hallazgos may be better for younger students.

Microsoft has a Spanish-language Encarta both on CD-ROM and on the Web. It isn't merely the Spanish translation of its

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Legal Issues

Copyright and Sovereign Immunity

by GEORGE H. PIKE

As a member of the academic community who pays attention to copyright developments, I often find myself torn between competing interests. Copyright owners can and should generate income from others who want to use their property. However, this is at odds with certain limited, free uses of copyrighted material—generally uses that are perceived to offer a societal benefit. The increasing role and value of copyrighted content in modern society serves to enhance this conflict.

Yet another copyright conflict, primarily involving the academic community, is catching the eye of Congress as work progresses on the Intellectual Property Protection Restoration Act of 2003. This act would require states to waive their inherent sovereign immunity from liability for copyright infringement as a condition of being able to collect damages for infringements of their copyrights.

Protection from Lawsuits

Sovereign immunity is an old concept that protects a state and its officials from being sued for their actions. The intent is to shield government agents from the risk of liability for their legitimate actions in furthering legitimate government responsibilities.

It's not an unlimited immunity, however. Sovereign immunity applies to those acts that are part of the government's responsibility and does not apply to acts that are beyond the scope of the government's duties. For example, a municipal assessor is immune from liability for trespass if he goes on your property to conduct an assessment. However, if he steals your property while conducting the assessment, the theft would be outside his duties and the immunity would not apply. Governments

can also agree to be sued. Most state and federal governments have agreed to be sued for negligence and other damages.

Freedom to Infringe?

In the intellectual property arena, however, results have been mixed. Several court actions through the 1970s and '80s suggested that suits for copyright infringement could be barred by sovereign immunity on the grounds that the state was protected from liability in its official capacity, even when such acts resulted in copyright infringement. In the '90s, Congress attempted to clarify the situation by passing a series of laws declaring that states would not be immune from liability for infringement. In 1999, however, the U.S. Supreme Court held that those laws exceeded Congress' power and overturned them.

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successful English-language encyclopedia, but is enhanced for topics related to Spain, Central America, and Latin America. A concise online version used to be free, but as of this summer it's only for subscribers of the MSN 8 service. This bundling is not necessarily a smart idea, as potential users of this very good encyclopedia may not want to switch to MSN 8. Surprisingly, Microsoft's choice, Langenscheidt's bilingual Spanish/English dictionary, is not a good one.

Many of the dictionaries bundled with encyclopedias and reference suites are also available free of charge on the Web (see below). The one exception is the bilingual Concise Oxford Spanish Dictionary, which is available on the Web only as part of the Oxford Reference Online service. It received the best score on my benchmark test, but a free product, the bilingual Collins Concise Spanish Dictionary, was very close to it.

The End-User Market

Free, high-quality monolingual and bilingual Spanish dictionaries abound on the Web. I'll mention only the best ones. The most respected dictionary is the Diccionario de la Real Academia Española. The Royal Spanish Academy does not yet make the current edition available, but the previous edition more than suffices (most of the time) for authentic definitions. Educaterra's Diccionario Enciclopédico delivers what its title promises: relatively long and fact-filled entries, even about geographic names and people who are typically excluded from general dictionaries.

Grupo Santillana Publishing's Diccionario Salamanca de la Lengua Española is smaller but features good usage notes and illustrative sample sentences. Too bad that it uses less than stellar freeware for searching, and its results display is far from perfect. On the other hand, the SIGNUM Thesaurus has superb content for synonyms and antonyms, with an equally superb Java-based interface that displays perfectly laid-out results. Vox's monolingual dictionary does not have sample sentences but does have excellent definitions. It covers not only the general meanings of words but also the special meanings in sciences and social sciences, and includes definitions for idiomatic phrases as well.

Vox also has a Spanish/English and English/Spanish dictionary along with other bilingual versions for French, German, Italian, and Catalan speakers (which are all bundled with Consulta). There is also a fee-based version of Vox's suite of dictionaries, but the free one is so good that you may not need the enhanced, subscription-based features, unless you do Hispanic studies. The American Heritage bilingual dictionary, which is part of the Nueva Enciclopedia Cumbre en línea, is freely available in a better implementation on Yahoo! Reference. In my benchmark test, the free Collins Concise Spanish Dictionary scored almost as highly as

the best in the league, the fee-based Oxford Concise bilingual dictionary.

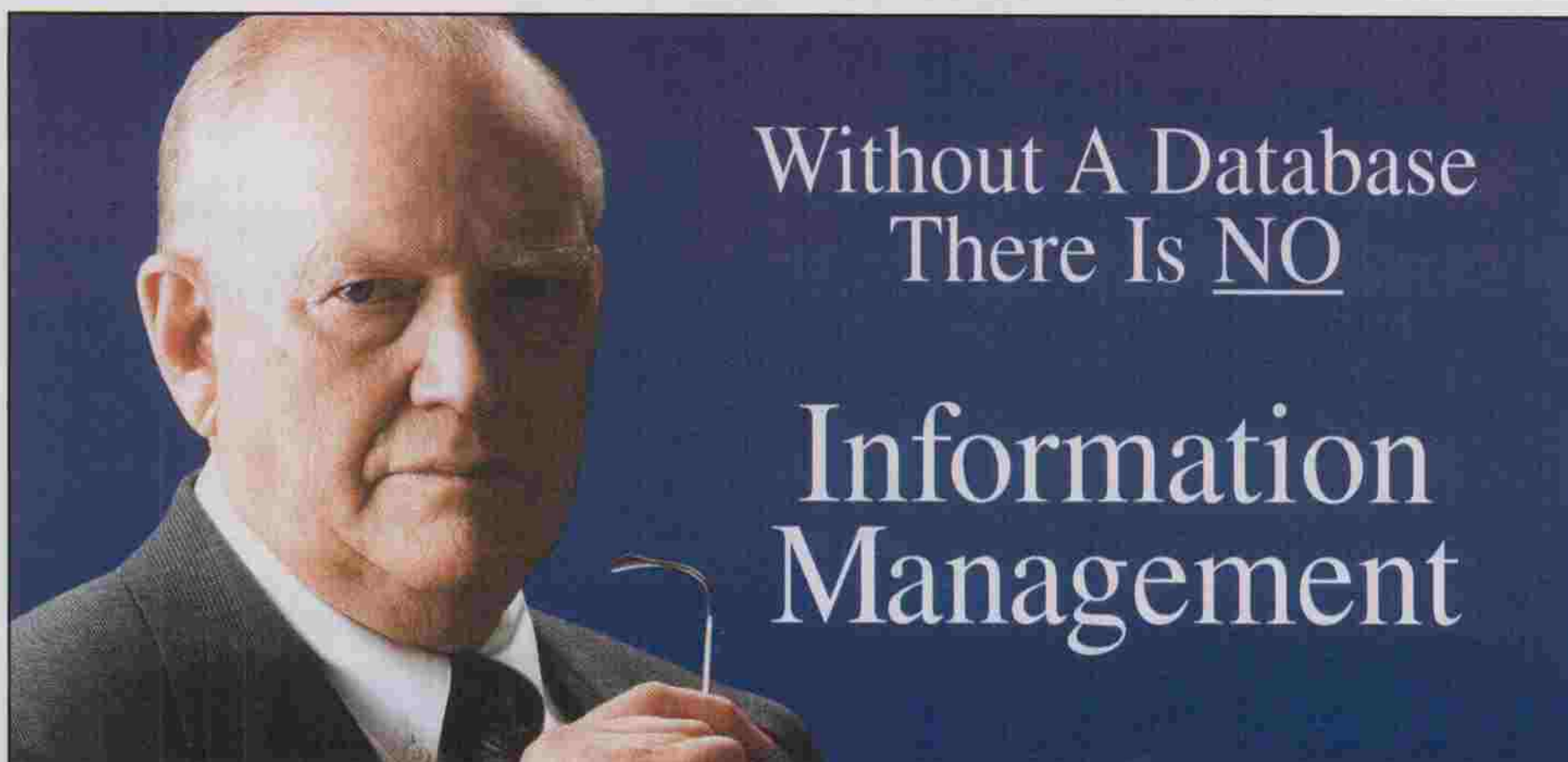
I left the best for last: the Enciclopedia Universal en Español. It's a new encyclopedia that was created a few years ago by 600 invited specialists. I am very skeptical about new encyclopedias, such as Nupedia, the various Wikipedias, and encyclopedias made during someone's lunch break, but this one impressed me. It had hits for all of the topics and people in my test. More importantly, the articles' substantial and impressively up-to-date con-

tent had appropriate details presented in a refreshing style (except for celebrity biographies, when it sometimes gets a bit into the tabloid realm). It's icing on the cake that this encyclopedia perfectly integrates a version of the Royal Spanish Academy dictionary, often enhancing the dictionary entries with additional sample sentences to illustrate usage. I happily pay about \$25 for a yearly subscription.

You can find an in-depth, illustrated review about the Enciclopedia Universal en Español and the Collins Concise Spanish

Dictionary in the Gale archive at <http://www.galegroup.com/servlet/ReferenceReviewSearchPageServlet>. You can search in one fell swoop some of the above-mentioned dictionaries and encyclopedias using my PolySearch Engine (PolyBuscador in Spanish) at <http://www2.hawaii.edu/~jacso/extra>.

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