

## INDUSTRY APPLICATIONS

Whether driven by the need for increased accuracy, process efficiency or adherence to new legislation, companies in a variety of industries can realize significant time, cost and productivity benefits from using Digital Ink solutions.

### Health Care:

When rapid response and accurate information can mean the difference between life and death, health care providers are always looking for innovative ways to improve patient record management. Allstream Digital Ink solutions allow institutions and health care providers to capture and quickly share critical patient data directly from handwritten observations, patient charts and other assessment instruments over networked connections. A range of other scientific and health-related applications are supported including clinical data capture and pattern tracking of individuals for managing the rapid spread of infectious diseases through the use of digitized paper sign-in visitor logs.

### Public Works:

Gathering information in the field is a time consuming but important government service. Once that data is gathered, public employees spend inordinate amounts of time collating, entering, filing, and subsequently searching documents, as opposed to leveraging the information contained on them. With Allstream Digital Ink solutions, public works departments can reduce employee time spent on data entry and verification while facilitating better collaboration across different branches of government.

### Business:

New government legislation impacting corporate reporting has fuelled the need for tighter controls around paper-based records management. Most existing records management solutions for paper workflow involve a series of error-prone processes that are inherently cumbersome and costly to manage. Allstream Digital Ink solutions allow data capture directly from existing paper forms while also streamlining a number of workflow steps by eliminating scanning, redundant data entry and costly time delays by allowing network access to data and digital views of completed paper forms simply by docking the pen.

# Write Once. Capture. Convert. Integrate.



Improving Paper-based Data Capture and Storage

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For more information, please visit  
[www.allstream.com](http://www.allstream.com)



# Improving Paper-based Data Capture and Storage

Despite the predicted eventuality of a paperless work environment, paper continues to dominate certain industries. As a result of fixed process or legal requirements, companies in healthcare, logistics/transportation, government and financial service-related industries still rely on paper to capture business-critical data.

With paper-based processes, there are significant costs related to the capture, approval and input of data into enterprise-accessible, converted computerized information. Studies show that companies spend approximately \$1.00/form on distributing, capturing, entering, approving, filing and retrieving. In addition, accuracy and accountability often suffer. It is estimated that 3% of business forms are filed incorrectly and approximately 7% are lost<sup>1</sup>.

Paper is costly and it's complex. But for many companies, it's here to stay. Allstream Digital Ink solutions help streamline existing business processes to realize productivity gains and cost-effective reductions across dozens of industry applications.

<sup>1</sup> www.capv.com, Nov. 2003

## Allstream Digital Ink – Streamlining Data Capture and Information Access

How can pen and paper provide the solution? Digital technology. Allstream Digital Ink solutions transform traditional pen and paper into an effective tool for accurate, reliable data capture and access. Eliminating the need for expensive scanning equipment and duplicated data entry processing, Digital Ink delivers measurable cost reduction by streamlining data capture processes, shipment tracking and back office systems integration along with the following benefits:

- **Implicit user acceptance.** Pen and paper is a universal interface allowing rapid deployment with minimal user training.
- **High mobility/low cost.** Handwriting recognition software provides companies with a low-cost, non-keyboard solution for meeting the demands of a mobile workforce.
- **Accelerated workflow** by capturing, converting and inserting written information directly into business processes.
- **Auto-backup** facilitates accurate, time-stamped ink records, which are easily accessible over networked systems.

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## Business Forms...

Allstream creates digital replicas of existing paper business forms. Through business analysis, Allstream identifies the destination of specific data and the systems it will integrate with. Embedded validation logic and business rules ensure the accuracy of data capture and conversion.

## The Pen and Paper...

Slightly larger than a standard fountain pen, the digital pen uses normal ink for writing and has a rechargeable battery-driven camera that scans the paper as ink is applied. Digital paper is any standard business form printed with a faint watermark composed of a series of dots arranged in a mathematical pattern such that a digital pen can record its position on the paper as it writes<sup>2</sup>. There are no restrictions on the type of paper used or the accompanying colours or boilerplate text.

<sup>2</sup> Technology licensed from Anoto Corp.

## From the Form to the Enterprise...

Users complete the normal process of data collection by filling out all required fields on the paper form with the digital pen. The pen captures information in its entirety. When the user docks the pen, the ink strokes are passed securely to a registered application handler for:

- ink to data conversion using hand writing recognition software
- data verification
- time stamping and recording of the original paper form's digital image for storage

Once this process is complete, the enterprise can integrate the converted data into business office systems and store the high resolution image of the form in the corporate document management system for easy retrieval and future reference.

Allstream's expertise in infrastructure management and investments in state-of-the-art networking and Tier 1 hosting facilities will take the evolution of Allstream Digital Ink to the next level in offering off-premise, secure enterprise document and records management. The Allstream *Ink Vault* will allow companies to benefit from a managed enterprise solution for accommodating large stores of paper form images and associated digital data elements without impact to their existing IT infrastructure while simultaneously meeting the needs for stricter records management and archiving in support of government regulatory compliance.



Business

Government

Health Care

