

EXPEDITE INFORMATION ASSURANCW FEATURE LIST

Expedite has a large number of features and capabilities that are designed to maintain the integrity of customer information. The table below describes each feature and outlines its benefit for the information users. The ultimate goal of Expedite is to provide and support information that can be trusted.

Feature	Description	Value
Automatic permission setting	Automatically set and maintain the access control lists (ACLs) for all files. Expedite also adjusts them as the file proceeds through its lifecycle. Setting these can be quite complex and cumbersome so users often don't bother.	This stops the dreaded accidental deletion or movement of critical information. Users know the files will be protected so they can trust the Expedite copy. This feature alone can prevent a large number of restore requests to the IT department.
Active Mirroring	A separate copy of all critical files is maintained automatically. Should the main file become corrupted or deleted, the file is immediately replaced from the mirror. This intelligent mirroring also only mirrors the desired/required information and will only change the mirrored copy at a change of the business context.	This is something that the entire backup industry would like to be able to do but simply can't. Users especially like this feature. They know they don't have to rely on someone first noticing it and then having to use IT's backup system to hopefully restore the file. (Note that traditional mirroring technology simply propagates corruptions, instead of repairing them.)
Information lifecycle Support	Information follows a lifecycle. This lifecycle can be very simple or complex. As the information traverses its lifecycle, Expedite can perform many operations automatically. Expedite can support or prevent certain functions based upon the current state of the information.	Just knowing where a file is within its lifecycle can be very valuable data. Employee productivity and process reliability can be increased with lifecycle support. The support of the lifecycle also has dramatic implications on storage management.
Dashboards	Expedite can, in real time, display the current collection of information, where things are within the lifecycle, etc. Summary dashboards to allow for business context searching and detailed dashboards showing specifics are both supported.	Knowing the "status" of some file can often be a challenge. Managers attempt to keep a spread sheet that tracks the status but that is additional effort, is almost always out of date, and error prone. Expedite can create this in real time with a mouse click. This provides users and managers the tracking information necessary without employee interruption.
Versioning	Expedite will present and protect the most recent copy of information. All previous revisions will be saved but in a different location to avoid any	Simply knowing where the most recent copy of information is located is vital for a business. Many bad things happen when people assume they have the right copy

	possible confusion.	when they actually don't.
Master Copy Management	Expedite controls the master copy of all information under its control and automatically creates, removes, protects, and repairs additional copies as required by the access method, user, and business requirements.	There are several reasons to make duplicate copies of information. Expedite understands these reasons and automatically performs the copies. Since it knows about them, Expedite can prevent manual copies from becoming abandoned. Should any of the master information change or the copy become corrupted, Expedite will automatically repair or replace the data before it is presented to the user.
Business Driven Caching	Expedite can keep copies of files on a user's system for access and performance reasons. How long the files are stored there can depend upon the type of information it is, the business requirements, etc.	Remote users accessing information is often required as par to doing business but keeping confidential files on a laptop that can be lost or compromised is often a large security risk. Expedite can allow users to access files at any time but will remove the cached copies to limit the security exposure. Other information assets may be needed in their entirety, which Expedite can copy all the contents of an information asset collection to the user. This behavior can be setup differently for different information assets.
Information Asset Management	Supports the higher level concept of and information asset, which is a collection of files, metadata, and other information that collectively is meaningful to a business. For more information see the white paper, <i>An Introduction to Information Asset Management</i> .	The Information Asset more closely matches what business users work with and are responsible for. By supporting the information asset, IT can, for the first time, do a much better job at aligning their efforts with the needs of the business.
Enforced, consistent and reliable Metadata	Metadata is the concept that there is additional information about the data being stored that is valuable and useful.	Metadata provides a way for Expedite to capture and maintain the business context of the collection of files. For example, users can tell this is a contract for this customer that was signed on this date.
Business Context Searching	Users can now locate information based upon its type, its business concept or context rather than simply attempting to locate it where it was initially stored.	When users are given the ability to find information based upon business context, the speed and reliability at locating just what they need is astonishing. Users have traditionally wasted large amounts of time and effort simply locating information.
Information Asset search results	When a user searches for something, what they want to return is the entire information asset, not just individual files.	The reason a business user is looking for information is to be able to do something with or answer questions about it. They (or the person asking for it) generally need the

		entire asset in order to honor these requests.
Full Content Searching	If directed, Expedite can perform a full context index on all the information to support high speed searching of words or content patterns of the information.	When users are given the ability to search based upon business context the need for full context searching almost disappears. However, during an audit, having the ability to search across the content can be valuable.
Template based file creation	When a new file is to be created, the source of the file can be very important. Expedite can control this process, can limit creation to specific template files that are themselves protected and controlled.	Starting with the right template can save all sorts of problems. Being able to know how the file started allows for the tracking of all adds, deletes, and changes. Simple cut-and-paste errors can be completely avoided.
Tamper Detection	Expedite stores cryptographic signatures of all the files and content it maintains. It also includes the crypto signature on all emails sent.	Being able to tell if a file has been changed can be very important when interchanging information as part of doing business. Some industries are known for needing this capability.
Managed File Transfer	Expedite has a custom file transfer protocol that is high performance, reliable, works across unreliable connections and validates each block, file, and the entire collection before it indicates success. Expedite is designed to manage the collection of files to be transferred as a single entity making tracking easier.	Moving information to and from internet users is a vital part of many businesses. The unreliable normal methods of transfer have spawned an entire new industry. However, most of these require two complete transfers, once to the internet server and another from the internet server doubling the transfer time. Expedite allows the transfer to take place directly to and from the source of the data without the security risks of a third party as well.
Obsolescence	In order to remove a file, a set of files, an information asset or a complete collection of assets, Expedite requires the user to be identified, authorized to perform the obsolete operation, give a reason for the removal, and saves the complete copy of the information once it is removed.	Deleting information can be a dangerous activity. Making sure that process is controlled, tracked, and recoverable can avoid a lot of questions and concerns at a later time.
Directory pollution protection	Users cannot simply “drop” files into a controlled directory of information assets. There is a controlled process required to create, import, or upload content into a collection of information assets.	Current technology allows anyone to create or store just about any file in any directory they have permissions to corrupt. Dumping files into a directory that are not identified can quickly reduce the validity and integrity of the information that is supposed to be stored.
All files are identified	Expedite keeps track of and knows what each file is, what it is for, and	Most file servers contain content that cannot be identified. This is the copy-and-

	why it should be saved.	abandoned problem. Someone saved it at some time for some reason. However, since the data might actually be needed later, users simply leave it there since the consequences of needing it later and not having are simply too risky.
Subdirectory management	Adding subdirectories to a file structure is often even worse than dumping files into a controlled directory. Expedite has formal controls about the creation, maintenance, and permission settings of these subdirectories. Expedite creates new directories as part of the creation, maintenance, and control of collections of information assets.	This prevents users, even with the best intentions, from adding subdirectories that are more confusing than helpful.
Directory Naming Schemes	Expedite can automatically create subdirectories within a collection of information assets based upon things such as metadata, user input, etc.	This is useful for things like having separate subdirectories for each customer, user, contract type, etc. It makes traversing the underlying directory structure for users much more useful to locate information without the help of Expedite.
File Naming Schemes	Expedite can support many different file naming schemes depending upon the business requirements of the information. Specific patterns, names based upon metadata such as customer name, serial numbers, etc. are all supported.	Having consistently enforced file names can avoid a large number of problems including simply locating the file. It is interesting to note that the file name is much less important with Expedite. Users can find the file based upon its business context, rather than simply relying on the directory and file name.
Direct File System Access	Expedite stores files within a file system. Since it sets the permissions of all the files and directories, users can access their information directly from the file system without the fear they will corrupt the information or its structure.	Not everyone needs to use the Expedite user interface all the time. Should a user desire to simply access the file share, that is supported and encouraged. They can do so safely and reliably. Should Expedite somehow fail, be shutdown, or even uninstalled, the files are still available, still organized, and still protected by the operating system's permissions.
Integrated Archiving	When an information asset reaches a certain part of its lifecycle, the requirement for immediate access can be drastically reduced. The integrated archiving capability allows Expedite to move the entire information asset to a different collection (and even to different storage types) while still	Being able to focus on the tasks at hand can be facilitated with the removal of information that is complete, or somehow not requiring attention. Closed contracts, paid purchase orders, or rejected quotes are simple examples.

	maintaining all of its information, components, and integrity.	
Preservation	Preservation is the ability to save information in a form where some unknown, uninformed user can make some sense out of the information at a later date.	Expedite has the ability to “wrap” collections of information assets, all their logs, attachments, metadata, list of people involved, etc. , into a package that can then be stored as an individual entity.
Interchange	Interchange is simply preservation when the time between saving it and restoring it is very short.	The same wrapped content of preservation can be utilized for interchanging the complete set of information assets. This can be very useful for companies that product information assets as their primary product but is useful for every business.
Forensic Support	Knowing what happened to something is almost always a key business requirement for any information asset. Expedite supports full audit logs of everything that happened to an asset, who did it, what they did, when they did it, what machine they were logged in on, etc.	Keeping track of what happened, without Expedite, is a very manual process. Many users simply attempt to rely on their memory, which we all know is often unreliable. Users simply follow the process and Expedite automatically maintains the history without user intervention. Only then can the audit logs be trusted.
Set Behaviors On Information Asset Collections	Different information asset collections can have different requirements. Even the same information assets can have different requirements based upon their business status. Expedite provides the ability to set the features and functions based upon the business needs, not based upon unrelated criteria such as which volume it happens to be stored upon.	Being able to adjust the capabilities, security, access methods, etc., based upon the business needs is a major missing capability in the storage industry. Those responsible for the information assets know full well the requirements. They simply have not had a system that could translate them into technology. This can finally happen with Expedite.
Organizational Chart Access Support	Different users demand different access methods. Key employees need different access methods than a contractor working from a coffee shop. Expedite has a large set of access methods that support many different users within the org chart of the organization.	The users involved with information assets often include users outside the immediate organization. Expedite provides appropriate and controlled access methods based upon the needs, security, performance, etc., for those users. This is especially useful in conjunction with the master copy management in that Expedite can use all these access methods at the same time to maintain the integrity of the information.
Evolutionary Storage Management Advancement	Many storage functions are complex, costly, and inappropriate for many configurations, limited in their capability, and often not used to their full extent (if at all).	Storage is greatly limited by its nearly complete ignorance of what it is actually storing, its importance, etc. The impact Expedite has on storage management cannot be overstated. Functions

		<p>performed at the block or file level can be extremely complex, difficult to implement, and are therefore, expensive. On the other hand, performing the same function at the information asset level can often be implemented very easily. The Active Mirroring feature above is an example. The entire backup industry with their millions of dollars any decades of investment cannot automatically restore a file by themselves. Once the information asset engine was in place, it took one person one week to implement this capability. You will probably not find a more dramatic example of “disruptive technology” than this! And this is just scratching the surface of the storage management capabilities of Expedite.</p>
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