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Blackberry apps for lawyers

After reading last week's article about iPhone apps for lawyers, a regular reader e-mailed me to request a similar article for Blackberry owners.

As the familiar expression goes: "Ask and ye shall receive."

After some research, I located a number of Blackberry applications that would be useful for attorneys; but, it wasn't easy.

I was happy to discover how easy it was to locate the "Blackberry App World," the official Blackberry app store. My happiness quickly turned to consternation, however, when I realized I could only peruse the app store if I downloaded the app store program — using only Internet Explorer or a Blackberry. Unfortunately, I'm a Mac gal and had access to neither.

Nevertheless, I managed to unearth an assortment of Blackberry applications that would benefit just about any law practice.

First, there a number of apps consisting of databases of federal and state laws, which allow lawyers to carry relevant laws and rules in their pockets in an easily accessible format.

From the developer "The Law Pod," lawyers can purchase the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, Federal Rules of Evidence and the U.S. Constitution.

Also, lawpda.com provides state statutes for California, Texas and Florida.

There is a legal dictionary — Beiks Bouvier's Law Dictionary, for \$19.95.

And there are a number of apps that, while not targeted specifically toward lawyers, could prove very useful.

First, for managing and creating documents, there's the eOffice 4.6 Mobile Office Suite. It costs \$29.95, and allows you to work with Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint files. Files you've created can be shared using the Bluetooth File Sharing app, which costs only \$9.99.

The RDM+:Remote Desktop for Mobiles app costs \$39.99 and allows remote access to your desktop via your Blackberry, another very useful feature.

Also, since lawyers are constantly calculating filing and due

dates, DateMathica, from Shrunken Head Software, a date calculator that costs \$9.99, is worth a look.

Another useful product from that same company is BizTrackIt, at \$39.99, which allows you to track billable/unbillable time by project and e-mail time record reports in CSV file format or synchronize them to your PC using Desktop Manager.

With Viigo RSS Reader, a free app, you can keep up with all the news as it comes in.

Skype, the well-known VOIP software that provides unlimited long distance phone calls, now is available for Blackberrys as well, and it's free.

Winscribe dictation software also is available, and provides online and offline functionality with secure data and voice transmission.

Last, but not least — a number of assorted apps of interest. The Wikipock Basic Edition, at \$9.99, allows you to have access to all of Wikipedia, even if you have no internet connection.

Another popular online service, Evernote, is now available for Blackberrys. The free application allows you to capture photos, notes and voice memos, which then can be synced with your desktop Evernote client.

Finally, a free and very popular online application, Pandora, is available to Blackberry owners. Pandora is your very own personalized radio that streams music directly to your Blackberry. Radio stations can be created and tweaked to suit your preferences by indicating which songs you like best, and least.

So, if you're a diehard Blackberry fan, or simply own a Blackberry because you have no other choice, there are apps out there that can improve your Blackberry experience, increase your efficiency and improve your law practice.

Give them a try!

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