

DM Tools Cloud... It's All Up From Here!

Slowly but surely, the cloud is coming to the legal industry! Law firms and lawyers, renowned for their caution and skepticism where technology is concerned, are beginning to see the advantages of using cloud-based services. In fact, a [recent survey by LexisNexis](#) in the U.S. shows that almost 40% of lawyers are already using the cloud in some capacity in their practice, with 72% saying they are more likely to use it in 2014!

And DIVORCEmate, always at the forefront, is set to release the first full-featured product of our new *DM Cloud* product line: *DM Tools Cloud*. Closely resembling our Tools 2K desktop version, DM Tools Cloud gives you the added benefit of secure and efficient anytime, anywhere, any device access! Stay tuned for more information as we get closer to release.

Things you want to know and weren't afraid to ask!

Will you be discontinuing the desktop product line?

We have no immediate plans to cancel the DIVORCEmate One desktop product line. We will continue to support, update and maintain it. If, at some point in the future, we decide to discontinue this product line, we will give you plenty of advance warning. Therefore, the option to use DM Tools Cloud is up to you!

Will my data be safe and secure in DM Tools Cloud?

As you can imagine, finding the right cloud provider that meets our needs and offers an extremely high level of security was a very important step in the process. In the end, we chose the Microsoft Azure platform - one of the leaders in cloud technology and possibly the most advanced and reliable cloud provider in the world. Microsoft Azure currently hosts sensitive data for the world's largest corporations, banks, and governments, and goes to extreme measures to ensure that all information on its servers is kept safe and secure.



Where is my data being stored?

We will be using the Microsoft Azure facility in North Eastern United States for hosting our software and data. We understand however that Microsoft is expanding their Azure platform to Canada later this year. Once they are set up and stable here, we will migrate all the data to Canadian soil. We expect this to happen in Q4 2014.

Is there any law that prohibits the use of "cloud" services?

No. While you have some legal obligations under Canadian and provincial privacy legislation, as well as professional obligations

What are my options when DM Tools Cloud is released?

For clients in Ontario & British Columbia:

- DM Tools Cloud can be used by all current subscribers at no additional cost beyond the cost of your Annual Subscription or Pay Per Use obligations.
- You can continue to use the desktop version of DIVORCEmate as you do now, using DM Tools Cloud as an added feature for calculations you need anytime, anywhere, on any device!
- Forms Cloud and Precedents Cloud will be released later next year, at which time you can switch exclusively to DM Cloud.

For clients in all other provinces:

- You will have the option to continue using the desktop version or switch to DM Tools Cloud exclusively.
- DM Tools Cloud will be available in both Pay Per Use and Annual Subscription formats.
- The cost will be the same whether you continue with the desktop version or switch to DM Tools Cloud.

as a lawyer or paralegal, there is no law preventing you from using cloud services generally (although public bodies may have some restrictions in terms of where information can be stored). For a more in depth and detailed discussion about your legal and professional obligations, click [here](#).

You're using the cloud already ...

As mentioned above, cloud computing is now a recognized mainstream tool for businesses and individuals alike. You are likely already using the cloud in your practice or in your personal life whether you appreciate it or not. For example, if you have an email account through Google Mail, Hotmail, Sympatico, or any other internet accessed email provider, you are using the cloud. If you do any legal research through Westlaw or LexisNexis, you are using the cloud. If you use Dropbox, Google Docs or Sky Drive, or do any of your banking online, you are using the cloud. Chances are, even if you are not using the cloud, your clients most likely are.

In most cases, a move to DM Tools Cloud will enhance the level of security, confidentiality and privacy of your client's data compared to your current practice.

Shared Custody & the Child Care Deduction

Separated parties who share custody and support obligations both have a potential claim for child care expenses incurred by each of them in respect of the same children. In other words, both parents can claim the maximum tax deduction provided they make the payment for child care while the children are in their care. Click [here](#) to see CRA's Income Tax Folio S1-F3-C1: Child Care Expense Deduction, specifically Clauses 1.33 – 1.36.

In DIVORCEmate, the printout might look something like this:

Calculation Input		Annual \$		
James	<i>Male, 36, Resident of ON</i>			
<u>Income</u>				
Employment income		95,000		
<u>Special Expenses (s.7)</u>				
Child care expenses		6,000		
<u>Tax Deductions</u>				
Child care expenses (deductible portion)		4,000		
April	<i>Female, 35, Resident of ON</i>			
<u>Income</u>				
Employment income		40,000		
<u>Special Expenses (s.7)</u>				
Child care expenses		5,000		
<u>Tax Deductions</u>				
Child care expenses (deductible portion)		4,000		
Children	<i>Age</i>	<i>Lives with</i>	<i>Table Amt</i>	<i>Claimed by</i>
Junior	11	Shared	Yes	April

In this case, the maximum tax deduction for an 11 year old child is \$4,000. Provided both parties paid for, and are eligible to deduct their day care expenses, they can each claim the \$4,000 maximum deduction (as highlighted in the image above).

For a full commentary on tax consideration in shared custody situations including the Eligible Dependant Credit (formerly, the equivalent-to-spouse credit), CCTB, UCCB and Children's GST/HST Credits, click [here](#).

Coming Soon! The National Family Law Program

The 2014 National Family Law Program is just around the corner! This 4-day conference will be held at the Fairmont Chateau Whistler Hotel in beautiful Whistler, British Columbia, July 14 to 17, 2014. For a complete list of this year's conference topics, please click [here](#).

DIVORCEmate will be an exhibitor at the conference again this year. We are planning another fantastic giveaway, so be sure to drop by our booth to say hello and receive your gift!

For more information about the conference and to register, click [here](#) to visit their website, or contact Heather Walker at nationalfamilylawprogram@sympatico.ca.

REMINDER: B.C. Legal Aid Accepts DIVORCEmate as a Legal Disbursement

We wish to remind our B.C. clients that DIVORCEmate is on the Legal Services Society [Disbursements Tariff](#).

B.C. Pay Per Use Subscribers only: As part of the arrangement with the B.C. Legal Services Society, DIVORCEmate has agreed to reduce the cost of "qualifying" (as per the criteria of the Tariff) Legal Aid files to \$50/file plus taxes. (The regular rate is \$105*/file.) To get the reduced rate, you just have to include the Legal Aid certificate number when creating your qualifying Legal Aid files in DIVORCEmate. Print and send the disbursement to the B.C. Legal Services Society, and you're done.

B.C. Annual Subscribers: Inclusion in the tariff has no effect on your account. As per the Tariff, only DIVORCEmate Pay Per Use Subscribers may claim the disbursement.

The section of the B.C. Legal Services Society [Disbursements Tariff](#) document dealing with DIVORCEmate can be found on page 8, under the "Computer-assisted legal research" section.

If you have any questions or would like further clarification, please contact Steve Krieger at skrieger@divorcemate.com or call 604-222-3582.

Marital Misunderstanding

Wife's Diary:

Tonight, I thought my husband was acting weird. We had made plans to meet at a nice restaurant for dinner and I was a bit late, so I thought he was upset about that, but he made no comment. Conversation wasn't flowing, so I suggested that we go somewhere quiet so we could talk.

I asked him if it was my fault that he was upset; he said he wasn't upset, that it had nothing to do with me, and not to worry about it.

On the way home, I told him that I loved him. He smiled slightly, and kept driving. I can't explain his behavior.

When we got home, I felt as if I had lost him completely. He just sat there quietly, and watched TV. He continued to seem distant and absent.

Finally, I decided to go to bed. About 15 minutes later, he came to bed. He fell asleep; I cried. I don't know what to do. I'm almost sure that his thoughts are with someone else. My life is a disaster.

Husband's Diary:

A two-foot putt ... who in the hell misses a two-foot putt?!

We are excited to announce that DIVORCEmate's incredible new look & website will be revealed soon!

DIVORCEmate Helps: Project Winter Survival

In January, DIVORCEmate supported [Project Winter Survival](#), an [Engage and Change](#) initiative dedicated to helping homeless and less fortunate individuals. A donation was made, and DIVORCEmate staff members volunteered to help assemble over 3,000 Winter Survival Kits. These kits are designed to provide warmth and include essential supplies for the homeless and less fortunate to survive on the streets.

Our compliments to Jody Steinhauer, Founder & Chief Bargain Officer of Bargains Group, who started [Engage and Change](#) 15 years ago.



Left to right: Michael Perlman, Naomi Cooper & Marnie Zamperoni.

For more information or to get involved in future projects, please visit www.engageandchange.org.

Key Sponsor of the Walsh Family Moot

Once again, DIVORCEmate Software was proud to be a key sponsor of the 2nd annual Walsh Family Moot, the only family law moot that exists in Canada. The one-day, competitive moot is for 2nd and 3rd year law students and was held on Saturday, March 15, 2014 in the courts at Osgoode Hall in Toronto. Six law schools squared off this year including Osgoode Hall, University of Ottawa, Queen's University, University of Western, University of Windsor and University of Toronto.

Congratulations go out to all of the law students and coaches who participated. The students were well prepared, quick on their feet, articulate, and downright impressive! What a pleasure it was to watch these young students-at-law.

Jesse Elders, Brenna Staats, Colleen McKeown, and Paloma van Groll of the University of Toronto team were declared the winners of the 2nd annual Walsh Family Moot. Congratulations! The four winners each received a trophy from Justice George Walsh himself who attended the event.

Karina Pylypczuk of Osgoode Law School won First Place Oralist, and Colleen McKeown of the University of Toronto was awarded Second Place Oralist. Colleen McKeown and Paloma van Groll of University of Toronto won Best Factum.

Special thanks to Patti Cross of the Ontario Court of Justice, and the [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\) Ontario Chapter](#) who make this educational and exciting event possible.

TIPS & TRICKS: Form 0 Merge Info Summary (ON & BC only)

After inputting all of the information for a particular client in the "Merge Information File", create a Form 0 "Merge Information Summary Form". This is not an official court form – it's a useful summary of all of the information for your client, including the court and party information, the children's names and ages, important dates, etc. This is also the only document where the private "notes" you included will show. Print it out and attach it to your client file for quick access to your client's key information. It will also allow you to determine at a glance if any of the key information has changed and needs to be updated in the "Merge Information File" for other forms. Click [here](#) for details.

DIVORCEmate Assists Pro Bono Students Canada

DIVORCEmate has donated six software licenses to Pro Brono Students Canada (PBSC) for their Family Law Project (FLP) in Ontario. The software will be used by law students who will assist self and unrepresented individuals at the courthouse under the supervision of duty counsel lawyers.

PBSC is an award-winning law student program providing legal services without charge to organizations and individuals in need in Canada. The student-volunteers help increase access to justice in Canada by providing high quality, professional legal assistance to vulnerable populations and individuals. Each year about 1600 students across Canada contribute over 140,000 hours of free legal services to those in need!

Pro Bono Students Canada NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The Family Law Project (FLP) is in desperate need of money due to a decrease in funding over the past few years. To avoid severe cuts, there is an immediate need for \$400,000 over the next 3 years! And even more money is needed to expand this valuable program to more Court Houses across the country.

We feel this is an extremely important program that needs to be saved! Not only does it expose law students to the area of family law and introduce them to the importance of pro bono work, but it also alleviates some of the burden on the courts and provides much needed access to justice to those in need. (Last year, 110 students in Ontario assisted almost 2,000 low-income clients).

Many prominent members of the family law bar have donated. DIVORCEmate will be donating as well!

If you would like to make a donation, or would like to learn more, please visit the website, www.probonostudents.ca.



*We would like to welcome the Judges of New Brunswick to the DIVORCEmate family!
We look forward to helping you with your software needs.*

DIVORCEmate's Lunch on Us Contest!

CONGRATULATIONS to Christopher Giggey from Cornwall, Ontario! Christopher was the winner of DIVORCEmate's **Lunch On Us Contest** presented in the [Summer 2013 e-News & e-Views](#). His winning caption "**Train Wreck**" won him a lunch for two at his favourite restaurant courtesy of DIVORCEmate.



Previous Lunch On Us Contest image.

You too can WIN* a FREE lunch for two people by participating in this issue's **Lunch On Us Contest!** Review the picture below and email your caption phrase to info@divorcemate.com by June 1, 2014. Your caption will be judged based on creativity and relativity. The selected winner will be notified by June 6, 2014. Good luck to those who participate!



ATTENTION all Microsoft WINDOWS XP Users

Microsoft will no longer support the Windows XP operating system after April 8, 2014. What does this mean to you? The good news is that your computer will continue to work. The bad news is that your computer might be more susceptible to viruses, spyware and other potential malicious attacks because the updates that protect your computer will not be available. Another issue that may arise is that new apps and devices may not be compatible with your computer.

What are your options? You can continue running Windows XP as you do now and expose yourself to the dangers listed above. You can upgrade the operating system on your existing computer (check out Microsoft's "Upgrade Assist" to check if your computer can support a more current version of windows like Windows 8.1.) The final option is to get a new computer.

The Importance of Social Media & Online Directories

Take advantage of the changing, social media-focused business environment that surrounds us and build the "trust" of your existing and potential clients through online channels. Consider embracing social media portals, such as Facebook and Twitter (they're free!), to promote yourself and/or your practice, and offer valuable and helpful content to potential clients. Through engagement and the sharing of helpful information, you can gain the Public's "trust", enticing them to go to you in the future, and ultimately, buy your value-added services. Plus, they will tell the world about your knowledge, generosity and helpfulness, further promoting you and your practice!

Online directories such as [MySupportCalculator.ca](#) (MSC), can be utilized to market and advertise your practice and services. MSC, for instance, gives you the opportunity to create a customized profile with your personal branding or image, direct contact information for easy connectivity, a biography to highlight your qualifications and services, and additional engagement information such as Facebook and Twitter pages. Owning a page online dedicated to you and your practice is a great marketing resource to have, especially considering that there are 2.4 billion Internet users worldwide¹, 274 million of which are in North America².

[MySupportCalculator.ca](#) receives an average of 618 unique visits per day³. That's over 225,000 unique visits per year, approximately 63% of which are new visitors⁴. The opportunity to be seen by thousands of potential clients is huge, and really, so simple!

The next time you sit down to think about your marketing strategy, consider social media and online directories to promote your practice and services, engage and teach your audience, share information, and build the trust of your existing and potential clients. These are efficient and effective marketing tools that, if used properly, can offer a great return for your practice.

For more information about [MySupportCalculator.ca](#) and/or to have your firm listed in the professional directory, contact Lindsay Doyle at ldoyle@divorcemate.com. Free BASIC or PREMIUM profiles available.

¹ *Internet 2012 in numbers*, published by Pingdom.

² *Internet 2012 in numbers*, published by Pingdom.

³ *MSC Google Analytics Audience Overview Report Jan1, 2013 – Dec 31, 2013*. MSC had 225,481 unique visitors, averaging an unbelievable 618 visitors per day.

⁴ *MSC Google Analytics New vs. Returning Report Jan 1, 2014 – Mar 5, 2014*. As of March 5, 2014, MSC received 64,326 unique visits, 40,744 of which were new visitors vs. 23,582 returning.

Our Spring training kicks off May 2nd and we're now offering HANDS-ON training! [Click here to view our training schedule and register online.](#)

*For residents of Canada only, excluding Quebec. Those who are on DIVORCEmate Software's mailing list are eligible for entry into the Spring 2014 Lunch On Us Contest. To enter, the participant must submit a phrase of at least one word to the email address: info@divorcemate.com. A participant can enter more than once. All submitted phrases will be judged based on creativity and relativity, by a panel of judges, all of whom are employed with DIVORCEmate Software Inc. The Winner will be notified via email on/about Friday, June 6, 2014. The Prize consists of a lunch for two people paid for by DIVORCEmate Software Inc. with a capped value of \$150.00. The Prize will be coordinated by DIVORCEmate Software and the Winner. The odds of winning are dependent on the number of participants. Contest closes Sunday, June 1 at 11:59pm EST.