



Product Review – Kodak Scan Station 100

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Trailblazing new technology can be a tire-flattening road for companies. Thankfully, it's not always the path to product purgatory; companies can invent products people come to depend upon, occasionally even creating new categories of these advanced brainchildren.

Kodak has developed something intriguing amongst the burgeoning document management category – an affordable, networked, moderate volume desktop device facilitating paper document scanning/capture, image viewing (more on this later) and electronic document export to pretty much any storage device – the Scan Station 100 (for more information on it and other Kodak scanners, access www.kodak.com/go/documentimaging).

I'll admit to sneaking a peek at its prototype during an industry event about a year ago, and wanted to give it a try with DocuLex's Archive Studio OEM version (doculex-usa.com) to see if a complete, easy for all to use document management system would result from teaming this hardware/software tandem. No dice – would have to wait a while to find out...

When a Scan Station production unit arrived at the DocuLex office, eyes were attracted as the box was opened. Its look was like no other 'capture' unit we'd seen. Would it perform uniquely, too?

Testing with Archive Studio began immediately (the kids' new toy...). Being out-of-the-box network enabled made it easy to add to an MFP environment, so we chained a multi capture point setup and cranked-up Archive Studio's automated, network content indexing, image processing, file organizing and exporting software, Goby Capture. Function was flawless between Goby's Profiler indexing component and the Scan Station, with quick file flow to Goby's Monitor installed on a server for the image processing and custom, user's choice foldering for fast retrieval when the information's needed.

So far, so far... looking good (speaking of which, a unique Scan Station feature is its on-unit document view screen – we saw our scanned images instantly, right beside the scanner's ADF tray – handy and reassuring!).

To complete the multiple capture point project, we scanned with the MFP in the network configuration. All went well as with the Scan Station. The multiple capture point environment proved successful and convenient for people throughout an organization who need to add documentation to their server-stored collection.

Now for the test that's most talked about – electronic document retrieval; access to must-keep information anytime, anywhere. Archive Studio's WebSearch was the contestant, would it prove to be the program to complete the document management system when coupled with the Scan Station? It was – documents were succinctly stored on the server via Goby Capture for WebSearch's quick keyword search. They were quickly found, emailed and printed with little effort or technical prowess necessary (something appreciated by all).

This works. Will others follow? You know that they will, as Kodak's onto a uniquely attractive piece of highly evolved document management, making it simple for DocuLex's Archive Studio and the software's resellers to provide what's universally needed by small business and departmental users – affordable, easy-to-use 'Instant Document Access'.

This solution is currently available from Tech Data (techdata.com).