

THE STORY OF LASERFICHE (and Maginimail!)

Title page: https://support.laserfiche.com:8443/images/login_image_bottom.gif

Once upon a time there was a president who loved software. [Tanner Bokor, AMS President, 2014-15] And he brought eScribe to Council and Nationbuilder to help with outreach [logos of eScribe, Nationbuilder], and for the AMS Archives he brought the special gift of Laserfiche and Maginimail [logos].

And the Archivist [photo of me] said, What are Laser Fish [lasers and fish or just https://support.laserfiche.com:8443/images/login_image_bottom.gif]? Not fish, said the President [Tanner photo], feesh: rhymes with Sheesh. And we'll get you a fancy new scanner too so you can digitize every single document in the Archives and put them all online.

"No," said the Archivist. But the President insisted, and got Council [photo of Council? In the old chambers] to approve \$75,000 to purchase the software and the fancy new scanner and a new server, to boot.

It's a nice scanner, said the Archives assistants [photo of ?], but what about all the software?

So the people from Laserfiche and the people from Maginimail [logos?] came and talked and fiddled and installed and corrected and worked some more, and months dragged by as they tried to set up the systems the President [Tanner] had dreamed of.

But oh, the Public Portal [photo of a door? a portal? a wormhole?], the way to open all the AMS documents to all the world [crowd photo or globe or?], or at least 11 of them at any one time, -- the Public Portal just wouldn't work [photo of disappointed people]. And so it was abandoned.

But finally, after months of struggle [people slaving over computers?], the Laserfiche search engine was in place. A very good search engine for tracking down documents, said one of the assistants [photo of Sherlock Holmes type with magnifying glass].

But still there were months more of struggle to get the automatic Maginimail [logo] system in place, the one that would automatically store emails so that the Archives assistants would not have to spend all their hours sorting and filing them [people slaving over computers].

And then at last it was all in place: automatic sorting [photo of some automated machine, maybe the clockwork from Chaplin's Modern Times] and advanced searching [Sherlock Holmes again], and all seemed hunky-dory until the bill collector arrived [bill collector].

Maintenance and support, said the bill collector, maintenance and support. Can't have the system without maintenance and support. Okay, said the Archivist [photo of me] and the VP Finance [photo of Louis Retief], but does it have to cost quite so much? And there was talk and quibbling and negotiation [photo of a negotiation; gesticulating; antagonism?] -- and finally it was done, a three-year deal for about \$5,600 a year, much less than what the charge originally was going to be and even less than the quote two years ago.

And the VP Finance **[Louis]** told Laserfiche and Magnimail **[logos]**, This is good; we are happy; but we must get approval. We are not our own masters: Council is boss **[Council? In Council chambers? Do we have anything from the new chambers?]**.

And so we are bringing a motion to Council – later in this meeting.

The End

Oh, but wait, that is not the end. What this means is that having overcome all the obstacles, we now have an automatic system in place which for the same cost or less will do the work of one of my assistants **[photo of assistant with X through them?]**. Well, no, that's not right; we won't necessarily get rid of an assistant, just find new things for them to do, tackling the backlog of old photos to be put online or doing some of that scanning that **Tanner** wanted.

And in using the systems so far it seems that they will make it easier for us to find things and also cut down on the amount of training we have to do. So, fingers crossed, we will become more effective and efficient, better able to ferret out information for the Executive, staff, Council, and everyone, and we will all be happy and live happily ever after. **[Fairy tale prince and princess?]**