

# eDiscovery

BUYERS GUIDE: 2020 EDITION



# Full eDiscovery Suite Empowering Excellence from Data Collection to Analysis for Endpoint & Remote Data Collection, Forensic Imaging, Document Review, and Much More

“AD eDiscovery is a single, integrated platform for preservation, litigation holds, collection, data processing, and assessment, along with legal review and production.”

**Company Name Brand**  
AccessData Group, Inc.

**Product Name Brand(s)**  
AD eDiscovery  
AD Enterprise  
Forensic Toolkit (FTK)  
Quin-C  
AD QBlaze  
Summation

**Latest Developments and Updates**

- Collect from Microsoft Office 365, Teams, Mimecast email management, and Proofpoint cybersecurity.
- Speed data collection and analysis with automated tasks.
- Remotely collect data from Apple macOS Catalina and Mojave operating systems.
- The new AD QBlaze platform simplifies processing and review in an easy-to-access SaaS model.

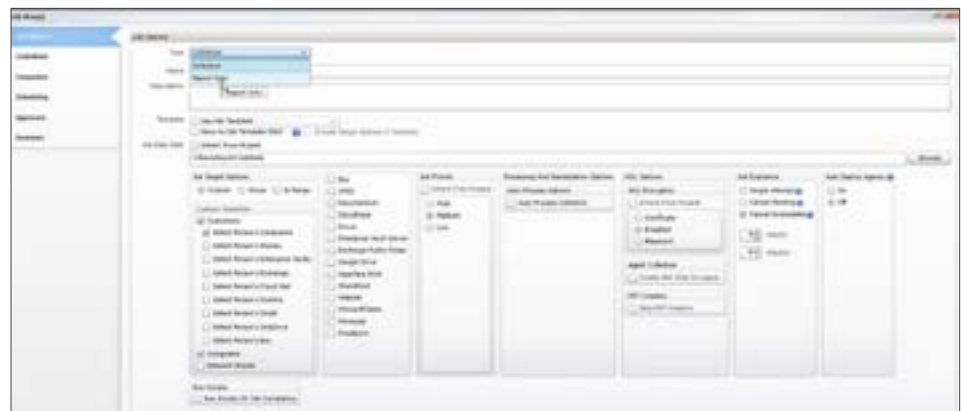
There are many uncertainties one encounters when attempting to be proficient at eDiscovery processes and procedures but there is a company that has aptly and consistently addressed those

challenges for over 30 years. For example, one of the more difficult tasks is collecting data from remote computers which has become even more prevalent in the work-from-home environments we find ourselves these days. Fortunately, AccessData stands out as one of the few companies that offers tools and platforms that allow customers to successfully retrieve and process electronically stored information from anywhere.

**The Comprehensive eDiscovery Family from AccessData**

AccessData is a comprehensive provider of computer forensics and litigation support technologies and boasts a broad spectrum of stand-alone and enterprise-grade software platforms.

One of their flagship products, AD eDiscovery, supports an end-to-end discovery process across the entire Electronic Discovery Reference Model (EDRM). A single SQL database serves all components and supports seamless, connected workflows in a forensically sound environment.



**Figure 1:** A “Reports Only” collection interrogates data sources and reports metadata so you can hone your data collection efforts. Use filters, such as file types and data ranges, to limit collection from sources. Then use the “Collection” phase to copy and preserve the data forensically.

“ AD eDiscovery can process over 700 data types, including PST and NSF files, with full forensic logging.”

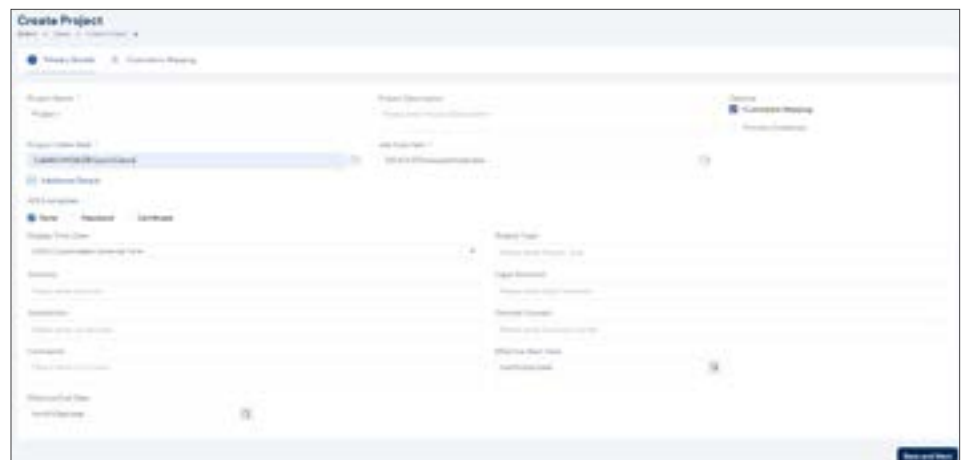
AD eDiscovery is a single, integrated platform for preservation, litigation holds, collection, data processing, and assessment, along with legal review and production. The single platform installs on-premises to mitigate risks and lower costs by reducing data transfers between disparate technologies and finding, collecting, and processing all relevant information in structured and unstructured data sources.

AccessData also offers [AD Enterprise](#), [Summation](#), [AD QBlaze](#), [Quin-C](#), and the hyper-crucial [Forensic Toolkit](#) (FTK). AD Enterprise supports remote agent collection and visibility into live data on endpoints to conduct fast investigations such as post-breach analysis and compliance questions. The platform is used by corporate IT and legal departments to support projects like HR investigations and financial audits. The Forensic Toolkit (FTK) interoperates with AD Enterprise to create forensic images of computers and workstations as well as for indexing and processing data from hard drives, network sources, and mobile devices.

[Summation](#) is a web-based legal document review platform that is powered by FTK processing technology and all of that power is also fully integrated into AD eDiscovery.

[Quin-C](#) is an upgrade from Summation for accelerated data processing, review, and analysis in an easy-to-use, web-based interface. Quin-C is groundbreaking ECA and legal review technology that uncovers critical evidence faster and makes more meaningful connections across data through cutting-edge visualizations, a review dashboard, and an enhanced coding panel—all in a flexible, easy-to-use HTML5 interface. Quin-C uses the same forensically secure backend database as Summation, so the upgrade is seamless.

Last but not least, [QBlaze](#) is a desktop legal review software with prebuilt and custom review workflows delivered in a software-as-a-service (SaaS) model. Service providers can license the desktop review software to provide the platform to their own customers.



**Figure 2:** The New Project Wizard takes you through all the options to kick off and complete collecting data from custodians using AccessData’s evidence-processing engine to prepare collections for review.

“When AD eDiscovery collects data, it automatically generates an MD5 hash file (AD1 container) for the data so you can validate the collection, maintain chain of custody, and prevent spoliation.”

### Extensive and Exhaustive Data Collection with Reporting Tools

You can deploy the AccessData data collection agent to remote endpoints to collect data without interrupting users or making changes to the actual evidence. AD eDiscovery can perform a full or targeted collection based on the custodian, data type, and/or keyword search with Boolean logic. For civil, criminal, and internal investigations, you can forensically image entire systems even over networks.

AD eDiscovery agents are rooted in devices at the kernel level so that you can conduct filtered collections or full-disk acquisitions and even collect files in use and recover deleted files. The system also uses drivers for Microsoft Windows and Apple macOS and supports a public agent for off-network data sources.

Through the use of connectors, you can use workflow-driven templates in AD eDiscovery to perform “agentless” collections from more than 30 data repositories and cloud platforms including Microsoft Office 365 (Exchange Online,

SharePoint Online, Microsoft Teams, and OneDrive), Google Drive & G-Suite, Box, Documentum, DocuShare, IBM Lotus Domino Server (Notes), Druva, Symantec Enterprise Vault, Mimecast, and Proofpoint. AccessData considers its connectors to be a growing market within its customer base and has plans to add Slack Enterprise, Zoom, and other multi-channel chat communication tools.

When AD eDiscovery collects data, it automatically generates an MD5 hash file (AD1 container) for the data so you can validate the collection, maintain chain of custody, and prevent spoliation. This underlying work is courtesy of AccessData's FTK technology that is baked directly into the system.

The Collection Wizard lets you choose from two phases: Report Only and Collection. See Figure 1 on page 28.

### Data Processing With a Wizard

After collection, AD eDiscovery processes the data in preparation for review. The software can process over 700 data types,

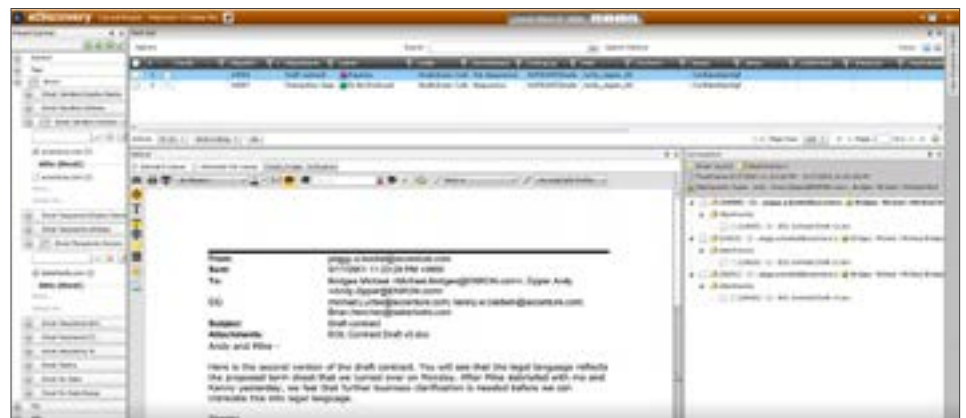


Figure 3: AccessData's review tool with Project Explorer in the panel to review and apply tags and filters. The search window sits on top with search results beneath it and viewers down below. The Document Analysis pane on the right allows you to see email details including attachments and conversation threads.

including PST and NSF files, with full forensic logging. You don't have to worry if your data includes odd file types, container files, or password protected files because with FTK under the hood almost every scenario is covered.

In the New Project Wizard, you can select custodians to collect data and direct AccessData's evidence-processing engine while choosing from several options. The Standard option includes archive file expansion, indexing, hashing, deduplication, and file signature analysis. See Figure 2 on page 29.

### An Effective Interface for Document Review

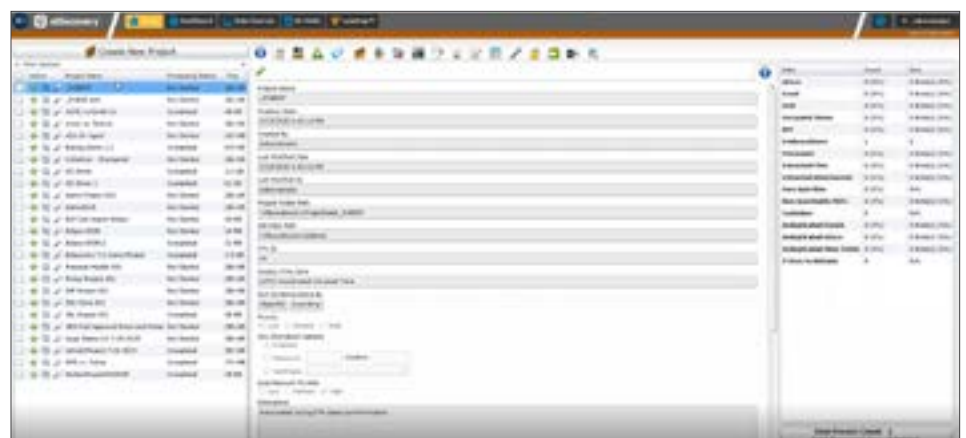
After processing, data is available for review. AD eDiscovery has integrated document review with predictive coding for relevancy with search keywords from the top of the UI. The system uses SQL search and dtSearch for indexing and

querying with Boolean logic and advanced searches with fuzzy, phonic, and stemming options. See Figure 3 on the previous page.

The current AD eDiscovery version 7.1 will soon be replaced by 8.0. Both versions offer a simple, easy-to-use design that orchestrates and automates many manual tasks. See Figure 4.

The toolbar across the center on top changes the main window context to the chosen tool, such as Collections and Legal Holds, for the highlighted project. Click the Review icon next to a project to jump to an early-case assessment of collected evidence, cull it, and assign it to reviewers in batches with labels and tags. AD eDiscovery uses role-based permissions and integrates with Microsoft Active Directory.

The navigation bar above the toolbar brings you back home where you can select dashboards, litigation holds, and



**Figure 4:** AD eDiscovery 7.1 uses a single browser window to support tasks in the EDRM process. In a few clicks, you can move through a job guided by dialog boxes, such as the Create New Project wizard, or you can select a standard template to start work.

data sources. In the Data Sources window, select sources of potential evidence such as computers, home drives, email accounts, and external repositories.

### Integrations and Compatibility

AccessData's software products, including AD eDiscovery and AD Enterprise, work together through a unified backend database and a common desktop agent on Windows and Mac computers and mobile devices. You can use the company's Application Programming Interface (API) to make custom connectors.

AD eDiscovery ingests and produces load files in other vendor formats. It can export load files for Concordance, iCONNECT, Relativity, Ringtail, and Summation. You can transfer data from AD eDiscovery to Relativity with a direct web API export feature and pull unstructured data from the system for further analysis and discovery with Brainspace—no load files required. You can also use Python scripts

to integrate AD eDiscovery with ticketing and matter management systems.

The new version 8.0 of AD eDiscovery will interoperate with 7.1. You can install the latest version on top of the old version and use them together. Like 7.1, version 8.0 uses a web-based console for litigation hold and collection to production. See Figure 5.

AD eDiscovery is priced based on the number of users who access the system and the number of deployed endpoints. The system is sold with a perpetual license and annual maintenance. If you discontinue updates and patches, the product remains usable without them.

### Who is AccessData?

For more than 30 years, AccessData has conducted forensic investigations in eDiscovery and corporate and criminal matters. Founded in 1987, the company has worked with more than 130,000 clients in law firms, corporations, law

enforcement, and government agencies worldwide from its three global offices in Frankfurt, London, and Orem, Utah. The company has more than 60,000 instances of its Forensic Toolkit (FTK) deployed and 50 million installed endpoints.

### Why Buy AD eDiscovery?

- Collect data from remote endpoints without interrupting business operations.
- Distributed processing scales to large caseloads.
- Automate time-intensive manual processes and create custom connectors with REST API.
- A user interface with a single pane supports the entire range of EDRM with wizards and standard templates.

### Try Out AccessData For Yourself!

Visit [www.accessdata.com](http://www.accessdata.com) to learn more about AD eDiscovery and all of the other technology offered by AccessData!

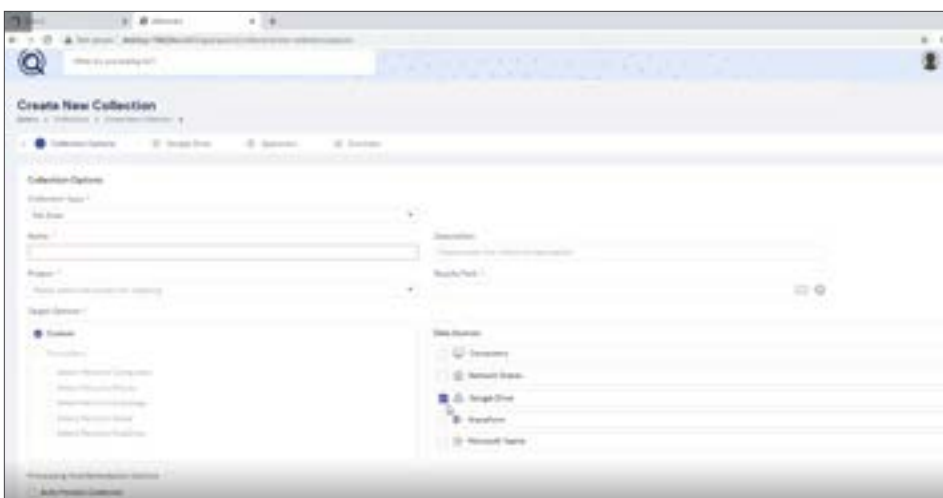


Figure 5: AD eDiscovery version 8.0 is designed for the non-technical user. You begin in a Google-like dashboard that shows the last five cases you worked on and displays bookmark navigation based on the EDRM from left to right. Click on Collections and a wizard starts you off to select a template or create a custom collection with connectors.



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