

OKI

PRINTING SOLUTIONS

Summary of Findings

For this report, commissioned by OKI Data Americas, Buyers Lab Inc. (BLI) evaluated OKI Desktop Capture and compared it against other document capture/desktop document management solutions: HP Digital Sending Software 4 (and the IRIS Corp. Readiris Pro OCR package often included with HP MFPs), Nuance eCopy ShareScan Essentials (and the included eCopy PaperWorks desktop application), Ricoh Personal Paperless Document Manager, and Sharp Imaging and Information Company's Sharpdesk 3.3. Areas of evaluation included value, features, ease of setup and use, SharePoint integration, OCR speed and accuracy (where supported), and device compatibility.

Among the tested field, OKI Desktop Capture proved to be the most compelling value overall, delivering the widest range of document imaging features (tied with the Nuance eCopy bundle) at the lowest price. It was also the easiest package to set up and use (tied with Sharpdesk in this regard), while also delivering SharePoint integration either not offered by the competitors or, as was the case with eCopy ShareScan, offered only as an extra-cost option. The only area where OKI Desktop Capture did not top the field was in device compatibility, since the third-party eCopy ShareScan works with MFPs from multiple manufacturers. That said, OKI Desktop Capture is similar to the other device OEMs' solutions in working only with first-party devices.

ADVANTAGE: ✓	OKI Desktop Capture	HP Digital Sending Software	Nuance eCopy ShareScan Essentials / PaperWorks	Ricoh Personal Paperless Document Manager	Sharp Sharpdesk
Value	✓				
Features	✓		✓	✓	
Ease of Setup/Use	✓			✓	✓
SharePoint Integration	✓				
OCR Speed/Accuracy	✓		✓	✓	✓
Device Compatibility			✓		

OKI Desktop Capture

OKI Desktop Capture is a unique solution that builds on the strengths of Nuance PaperPort Professional 12—arguably the best desktop document management package available and a BLI 5-Star and “Pick” award winner—by adding compatibility with any OKI MFP on the front end and direct integration with Microsoft SharePoint and DocuWare repositories on the back end. With a list price of just \$249, it’s also one of the most affordable document capture/management solutions BLI has found that offers SharePoint integration.

OKI Desktop Capture delivers all the features the vast majority of workgroups and departments require of a document management package. Users can easily combine and separate documents, add annotations, fill in forms electronically, perform image clean-up and enhancements, and employ Nuance’s class-leading OCR (optical character recognition) engine to turn hardcopy documents into searchable/editable electronic files. Should businesses need higher-level functionality such as company-wide collaboration and locked-down metadata fields, OKI Desktop Capture can be used as a user-friendly on-ramp to SharePoint and DocuWare.

OKI Desktop Capture also stands out for its ease of use. The PaperPort interface is intuitive to navigate thanks to its large task buttons and clear menu structure. Moreover, OKI has implemented the seamless SharePoint and DocuWare integration brilliantly: Users need only to drag-and-drop a particular file (or files) from the PaperPort work area to the SharePoint or DocuWare icon at the bottom of the screen. This launches a dialog box where users can then enter metadata, select a storage library, rename the file, and even change the file format (to TIFF or PDF) on the fly. Users do not need to learn how to export documents to or import documents from within SharePoint or DocuWare, which makes the return-on-investment for both OKI Desktop Capture and the back-end platform much easier to realize for customers.

However, there are areas for improvement BLI has identified with OKI Desktop Capture. First, the control-panel integration with OKI MFPs is simply using a device’s scan-to-folder feature. Some document-capture platforms leverage an embedded application platform running on the MFP to support customizable, program-mable workflow buttons that appear on the MFP’s control panel. Second, at the present time OKI Desktop Capture offers back-end integration only with SharePoint and DocuWare. Other capture platforms, most notably eCopy ShareScan and NSi AutoStore (not represented in this report) offer integration with a wider array of software systems—although it should be noted that those solutions are much more expensive.

OKI Desktop Capture Strengths:

- Single solution for document capture, management and integration with popular back-end platforms
- Very affordable
- Extremely easy to deploy and use
- Full-featured desktop document management application
- Class-leading OCR abilities
- Seamless SharePoint or DocuWare integration
- Compatible with all scanner-equipped OKI devices

OKI Desktop Capture Weaknesses:

- Small selection of back-end systems are supported compared to more expensive platforms
- Control-panel integration with OKI devices limited to scan-to-folder

Note: +, – and ○ represent positive, negative and neutral attributes, respectively, for the management utility compared to the others BLI evaluated for this report.

Price

- + OKI Desktop Capture carries a list price of \$249, which makes it one of the most affordable document capture/management solutions available that offers SharePoint integration.
- + The integrated nature of OKI Desktop Capture means there are no extra modules or connectors to purchase to enable MFP support and back-end system integration, which simplifies the sales process for resellers and the buying decision for customers.
- + With OKI Desktop Capture, resellers can offer their customers a full-featured end-to-end solution that falls within departmental-budget discretionary spending limits, making the solution much easier to place.

- + Because the solution is based on a desktop application, customers do not need to budget for IT time and resources or a professional-services engagement from the reseller.

Features

- + OKI Desktop Capture is based on Nuance PaperPort Professional 12, a full-featured desktop document management platform.
- + The solution includes most of the features buyers of a desktop document management solution are likely to need, such as searchable PDF creation, OCR, full-text indexing, annotation, hot folders and batch processing.
- + Users can also drag and drop files into an application available on the Send-To bar, including Microsoft Word, Adobe Acrobat or Reader, Excel and e-mail applications.
- + The OKI Desktop Capture bundle includes a unique-to-OKI driver that adds seamless integration between PaperPort and Microsoft SharePoint or DocuWare.
- + The bundle also includes best-in-class OCR capabilities to turn hardcopy documents into searchable and editable electronic files.
- + The software's ImageView feature offers document annotation tools and image enhancements, including de-skew, de-speckle, image rotation and more.
- + The included FormTyper tool allows users to create fillable electronic forms from paper documents.
- + Users can create customized scan buttons in the software for often-used tasks.
- The package does not include version-control features for documents, such as check-in-/check-out editing or a version history.
- OKI Desktop Capture does not offer integration with as many back-end platforms as do some competitors, such as eCopy ShareScan Essentials, although those competitors are much more costly.
- OKI Desktop Capture supports more simple scan-to-folder integration with only OKI MFPs, while more expensive scan capture platforms (eCopy ShareScan and NSi AutoStore, for example) support direct access to back-end repositories from the control panel of MFPs from a range of manufacturers.

Ease of Setup/Ease of Use

- + OKI Desktop Capture is exceedingly easy to set up. The wizard-driven installation routine requires just a few mouse clicks and took BLI technicians a matter of minutes to complete.
- + Adding OKI's proprietary SharePoint or DocuWare integration is also easy. Users simply launch the bundled PGI driver setup program, and an icon for the selected repository is automatically added to the PaperPort interface.
- + Users familiar with Windows programs can begin managing documents immediately, with no training required. Nuance PaperPort features an intuitive interface with large task icons arranged in a "ribbon" along the top.
- + A row of "Send-To" icons along the bottom of the interface allow users to export documents to Office applications, e-mail, SharePoint or DocuWare, and other destinations.
- + Documents can be scanned from an OKI MFP directly to a "hot folder" (a folder the software monitors for new arrivals) on the PC or network.
- + OKI Desktop Capture includes six default pre-set scan profiles, and users can create their own custom scan profiles for common jobs.
- + To open a document, the user simply clicks on the filename in the folder tree and a preview of the document opens in the main interface window.
- + Users can also set up times throughout the day for automatic full-text indexing, which allows documents to be searchable within the software.

OCR Speed/Accuracy

- + In BLI's lab-based tests, the Nuance OCR engine contained in OKI Desktop Capture proved a top performer. A four-page PDF document with mixed font types and sizes was recognized with 100% accuracy.
- + On BLI's tests, the Nuance OCR engine also proved faster than the two leading competing OCR engines contained in some competing products.

HP Digital Sending Software 4

Hewlett-Packard offers its HP Digital Sending Software (DSS), currently in version 4.16, for use with most of its networked LaserJet MFPs. The software aims to streamline document handling by allowing end users to scan from a supported HP device directly to e-mail addresses, fax numbers or network folders selected from the control panel of the MFP.

Unlike many competing document-capture solutions, HP DSS does not include a desktop component so users can work with documents once they have been scanned to the desired destination. Instead, HP includes IRIS Corp.'s Readiris Pro OCR/document imaging desktop software with some—but not all—of its scanners and MFPs. For models where Readiris is not included, customers are on their own to supply software to perform OCR, image clean-up, document routing and other common tasks. HP DSS also does not offer seamless integration with back-end repositories. Instead, an administrator can enable Workflows, which allow control-panel access to specialized destinations supported by third-party programs such as workflow software.

HP DSS is intended to be installed and configured by an IT administrator or a reseller's technical staff, not by an end user. The Readiris desktop software, on the other hand, can be installed by end users. HP DSS has a starting price of \$399 for one device license, making it more expensive to deploy than OKI Desktop Capture. If the particular HP MFP does not include Readiris, customers must budget for a third-party program (such as the \$129 Readiris Pro) to match OKI Desktop Capture's features, and they still won't be gaining OKI's unique seamless integration to DocuWare and SharePoint.

HP Digital Sending Software Strengths:

- Gives end users scan-to access to e-mail addresses, fax numbers or network folders directly from the control panel of supported HP LaserJet MFPs

HP Digital Sending Software Weaknesses:

- Document capture solution only; capability to work with scanned documents requires separate program
- More expensive than OKI Desktop Capture
- No direct integration with SharePoint, DocuWare or other back-end systems
- Requires IT administrator or reseller to deploy

Note: +, – and ○ represent positive, negative and neutral attributes, respectively, for the management utility compared to the others BLI evaluated for this report.

Price

- HP DSS carries a list price of \$399 per MFP, which makes it more expensive than OKI Desktop Capture.
- Adding desktop document imaging software, which comes standard with OKI Desktop Capture, adds to the overall deployment cost of HP DSS if a customer's particular MFP did not include such a package.

Features

- HP DSS is strictly a scan-capture utility that routes documents to e-mail, a fax number or network folders. It does not include OCR and other document imaging features found in OKI Desktop Capture.
- HP DSS offers limited connectivity to SharePoint, DocuWare and other back-end systems. Users can scan to a Workflow destination, but third-party software is required to process and route documents that arrive in the designated folder.
- The Readiris desktop software included with some—but not all—HP MFPs delivers a robust OCR feature set, including the ability to recognize more than 120 languages, store often-used tasks, accurately recognize tables and hand-printed notes, and output processed documents into a variety of formats.
- Unlike OKI Desktop Capture, Readiris does not include mark-up tools such as sticky notes and highlighting.
- Readiris offers common image enhancement tools, including de-skew, de-speckle, image rotation, as does OKI Desktop Capture.

Ease of Setup/Ease of Use

- HP DSS requires an IT administrator or reseller to deploy, which may be more of a commitment than customers are looking for. OKI Desktop Capture can be very easily installed by end users.

- Configuring integration to third-party workflow programs to route documents to a back-end system also requires reseller or IT involvement. With OKI Desktop Capture, users simply launch the bundled PGI driver setup program, and an icon for either SharePoint or DocuWare is automatically added to the PaperPort interface.
- + End users can scan documents directly to desired e-mail, fax and folders (or third-party workflow software for further processing) directly from the control panel of a supported MFP. With OKI Desktop Capture, end users scan first to a “hot folder,” then must use the desktop software to route documents to SharePoint or DocuWare.
- + The Readiris desktop program sometimes included with HP MFPs offers a wizard-driven installation routine that takes just a few minutes to complete, as does OKI Desktop Capture.
- + Like OKI Desktop Capture, Readiris features an intuitive, approachable interface that features clear task icons and that supports drag-and-drop actions for simple interaction.

OCR Speed/Accuracy

- In BLI’s lab-based tests, the accuracy of the IRIS OCR engine contained in Readiris was good, but not as good as the Nuance engine found in OKI Desktop Capture.
- In BLI’s tests, the Nuance OCR engine also proved faster than the Readiris engine that some HP MFP customers receive.

Nuance eCopy ShareScan Essentials

With its acquisition of eCopy Inc. in 2009, Nuance Communications, Inc. added eCopy’s ShareScan line to its document-imaging and speech-recognition software portfolio. While the ShareScan platform has some notable strengths, certain aspects—namely the price and deployment requirements—make it less well-suited to SMB customers than OKI Desktop Capture.

eCopy ShareScan lets a wide range of networked MFPs serve as the entry point for paper documents to merge into an organization’s digital workflow. It enables users to scan paper documents and integrate them

into more than 100 business applications, such as enterprise content management (ECM) software, document management repositories, fax software, collaboration platforms and more. eCopy ShareScan Essentials includes the eCopy ShareScan client (software that enables ShareScan to be accessed from the touch screen control panel of supported MFPs with embedded application platforms), one license for eCopy PaperWorks (the company's desktop document imaging application), plus several core connectors, including connectivity to Microsoft Exchange, Lotus Notes and other e-mail systems. eCopy also offers a bundled product, ShareScan Suite, which adds nine additional PaperWorks licenses and connectors for 11 enterprise applications such as Captaris RightFax, EMC Documentum, and Microsoft SharePoint. Additional connectors are available from eCopy and developer partners.

While eCopy ShareScan is a viable option for enterprises, its price puts it out of reach for many SMBs. ShareScan Essentials carries a list price of \$1,695 per MFP, and extra connectors—such as one for Microsoft SharePoint—cost an additional \$1,100. (ShareScan Suite includes the SharePoint connector, but it lists for \$4,073.) In addition, deploying the eCopy ShareScan platform requires a much larger investment in hardware and IT resources, since a server is required—as is a professional services engagement by the reseller to deploy the solution, which adds to the overall cost. More importantly for OKI Data customers, OKI devices are not supported by the eCopy ShareScan platform.

Nuance eCopy ShareScan Essentials Strengths:

- Bundle includes both MFP scan-capture component (often with control-panel integration) and connectors to common e-mail and other applications
- Nuance eCopy PaperWorks, an easy-to-use document imaging desktop application, is included
- Catalog of more than 100 optional connectors available
- Brings common scanning UI to a mixed fleet of MFPs
- Initial purchase price includes maintenance and support for all software for three years

Nuance eCopy ShareScan Essentials Weaknesses:

- Does not support OKI Data devices
- More than 10 times more expensive than OKI Desktop Capture
- SharePoint integration requires purchase of optional connector (\$1,100)
- Requires server hardware and professional services engagement to deploy

Note: +, – and O represent positive, negative and neutral attributes, respectively, for the management utility compared to the others BLI evaluated for this report.

Price

- eCopy ShareScan Essentials carries a list price of \$1,695 per MFP, which makes it much more expensive than OKI Desktop Capture and puts it out of reach for many small businesses and departments.
- Adding SharePoint or DocuWare integration to eCopy ShareScan Essentials adds another \$1,100 to the cost, bringing the total investment to \$2,795—more than 10 times the \$249 price of OKI Desktop Capture with SharePoint or DocuWare integration.
- eCopy ShareScan is a server-based solution, which adds to the IT burden companies incur to deploy the solution. As a desktop-based solution, OKI Desktop Capture needs no dedicated hardware.
- Deploying the eCopy ShareScan platform requires a professional services engagement from the reseller, which adds to its overall cost. OKI Desktop Capture, on the other hand, can be installed by end users.

Features

- + eCopy ShareScan Essentials and the companion eCopy PaperWorks program deliver most of the functionality companies looking for a document capture and routing platform could need.
- + eCopy ShareScan delivers real-time, dynamic integration with communication, document management, collaboration and other business applications—more than 100—via a company's MFPs and scanners. OKI Desktop Capture, in contrast, currently only integrates with SharePoint and DocuWare.
- + eCopy ShareScan Essentials offers full control-panel integration with dozens of Canon, Konica Minolta, Ricoh and Xerox MFPs; ShareScan Suite supports additional compatibility with devices from HP, Océ, Sharp, Toshiba and others via the addition of an add-on eCopy ScanStation. OKI Desktop Capture supports more limited scan-to-folder integration with only OKI MFPs.
- + As with OKI Desktop Capture, the eCopy PaperWorks desktop application bundled with ShareScan (and also available separately) includes most of the features buyers of a document imaging solution are likely to need, including OCR, hot-folders, document assembly and PDF creation.
- + PaperWorks lets users mark up stored documents with a range of tools, including

sticky notes, highlighter, whiteout, blackout and drawing tools (lines, circles, polygons and so on). The program also includes a wide range of stamps that can be placed on documents. OKI Desktop Capture does not include as many mark-up options.

- PaperWorks also offers common image enhancement tools, including de-skew, de-speckle, image rotation and more, as does OKI Desktop Capture.
- PaperWorks does not offer a tool akin to OKI Desktop Capture's FormTyper tool for creating fillable electronic forms from paper documents.

Ease of Setup/Ease of Use

- eCopy ShareScan Essentials requires a reseller to deploy and set up on the server and supported MFPs, which may be more of a commitment than customers are looking for. OKI Desktop Capture can be installed easily by end users.
- Configuring SharePoint or DocuWare integration for eCopy ShareScan also requires reseller or IT involvement. With OKI Desktop Capture, users simply launch the bundled PGI driver setup program, and an icon for either SharePoint or DocuWare is automatically added to the PaperPort interface.
- + The PaperWorks companion desktop program, like OKI Desktop Capture, offers a wizard-driven installation routine that takes just a few minutes to complete.
- + Thanks to ShareScan's customizable buttons that appear on the touch screen of the MFP or ScanStation, end users can scan documents directly to desired destinations or applications. With OKI Desktop Capture, end users scan first to a "hot folder," then must use the desktop software to route documents to SharePoint or DocuWare.
- + Because of its multi-vendor support, eCopy ShareScan allows companies to deploy a unified scan-capture interface across a mixed fleet of capture devices.
- + Like OKI Desktop Capture, eCopy PaperWorks features an intuitive, approachable interface that features clear task icons and supports drag-and-drop actions for simple interaction.
- + eCopy PaperWorks allows end users to send a document to PaperWorks directly from within another Windows application easily: During the installation routine, the program adds a print driver (called eCopy PaperWorks Printer) to the list of available printers in Windows programs, so choosing Print from another program's menu presents users with the choice of sending the document to PaperWorks. The installation routine also adds a Print to eCopy PaperWorks button to the toolbar of Microsoft Office applications. OKI Desktop Capture does not offer a similar capability.

OCR Speed/Accuracy

- + In BLI's lab-based tests, the Nuance OCR engine contained in the eCopy products proved a top performer. A four-page PDF document with mixed font types and sizes was recognized with 100% accuracy.
- + On BLI's tests, the Nuance OCR engine also proved faster than the two leading competing OCR engines contained in some competing products.

Ricoh Personal Paperless Document Manager

Ricoh Personal Paperless Document Manager (PPDM) combines document management, OCR and PDF conversion capabilities into a desktop suite of applications, and adds control-panel integration with Ricoh-family MFPs. The desktop toolset includes Nuance's PaperPort Professional 11, OmniPage 16 Professional and PDF Converter 5. An MFP-resident component allows users to walk up to any compatible Ricoh device and scan and route documents with the touch of a button. Users can also access customized document management and OCR scan profiles directly from the MFP's control panel.

Features of the desktop software include the ability to redact or highlight words within a file, automate and save frequently used tasks, maintain customized zone and image-enhancement templates, and import and output documents and images in a variety of file formats. Users can also index all PaperPort desktop files at the touch of a button and annotate and modify documents via the ImageView tool. It can also scan directly into Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint, or scanned files can be sent to a local folder or back-end system such as Microsoft SharePoint or Kofax Capture.

Ricoh PPDM is a formidable challenger to OKI Desktop Capture in opportunities where customers are evaluating a combined hardware/software purchase. Since the desktop software in both offerings includes Nuance PaperPort, those capabilities are nearly identical, and Ricoh's bundle has the advantage of including Nuance's OmniPage and PDF Converter 5 components as well. The Ricoh bundle also offers customized control-panel integration with Ricoh devices, rather than the more basic scan-to-folder support offered by the OKI solution.

In its favor, OKI Desktop Capture offers more seamless integration with SharePoint thanks to the proprietary driver that adds a SharePoint icon to PaperPort's Send-To bar at the bottom of the interface. And OKI offers a similar driver for DocuWare, a connector that Ricoh PPDM does not offer. OKI Desktop Capture is also less expensive than the Ricoh bundle. Ricoh PPDM costs \$350 for a single-user license; OKI Desktop Capture costs \$249.

Ricoh PPDM Strengths:

- Single solution for document capture, management and PDF creation
- Control-panel integration with most Ricoh devices
- Extremely easy to deploy and use
- Full-featured desktop document management application
- Class-leading OCR abilities

Ricoh PPDM Weaknesses:

- No DocuWare integration as available with OKI Desktop Capture
- More expensive than OKI Desktop Capture

Note: +, – and ○ represent positive, negative and neutral attributes, respectively, for the management utility compared to the others BLI evaluated for this report.

Price

- Ricoh PPDM carries a list price of \$350 for a single-user license, which makes it more expensive than OKI Desktop Capture.
- + The integrated nature of Ricoh PPDM means there are no extra modules or connectors to purchase to enable MFP support and back-end system integration.
- + Because the solution is based on a desktop application, customers do not need to budget for IT time and resources or a professional-services engagement from the reseller.

Features

- + Ricoh PPDM supports direct access to customized workflows from the control panel of supported Ricoh-family MFPs. OKI Desktop Capture delivers more simple scan-to-folder access from the MFP.

- + Ricoh PPDM is based on PaperPort Professional 11, OmniPage 16 Professional and PDF Converter 5. These tools deliver full-featured desktop document management, OCR and PDF creation capabilities.
- + The solution includes most of the features buyers of a desktop document imaging solution are likely to need, such as searchable PDF creation, OCR, full-text indexing, annotation, hot folders and batch processing.
- + Users can also drag and drop files into an application available on the Send-To bar, including Microsoft Word, Adobe Acrobat or Reader, Excel and e-mail applications.
- Unlike OKI Desktop Capture, Ricoh PPDM does not provide seamless drag-and-drop integration with DocuWare.
- Unlike OKI Desktop Capture, Ricoh does not provide a driver to add seamless drag-and-drop integration with Microsoft SharePoint.
- + The bundle also includes best-in-class OCR capabilities to turn hardcopy documents into searchable and editable electronic files.
- + The software's ImageView feature offers document annotation tools and image enhancements, including de-skew, de-speckle, image rotation and more.
- + The included FormTyper tool allows users to create fillable electronic forms from paper documents.
- + Users can create customized scan buttons in the software for often-used tasks.
- The package does not include version-control features for documents, such as check-in/check-out editing or a version history.

Ease of Setup/Ease of Use

- + Ricoh PPDM is easy to install. The three desktop software solutions included are contained on one disc and can be installed simultaneously using one install wizard.
- + The MFP component software is contained on a separate disc and is installed via a setup wizard, which can be completed in only a few clicks. Once the solution is installed, users can simply select a Ricoh MFP to use for capture; an unlimited number of compatible Ricoh devices on the network can be specified.
- + PPDM can be easily set up without the help of an IT administrator. Users can set up their own folders directly from the PC-based software or just use one of the pre-set standard folder destinations.

- + Users familiar with Windows programs can begin managing documents immediately, with no training required. Ricoh PPDM's PaperPort component features an intuitive interface with large task icons arranged in a "ribbon" along the top.
- + A row of Send-To icons along the bottom of the interface allow users to export documents to Office applications, e-mail, Microsoft SharePoint, Kofax Capture, and other destinations.
- + The software includes six default pre-set scan profiles, and users can create their own custom scan profiles for common jobs.
- + Users can also set up times throughout the day for automatic full-text indexing, which allows documents to be searchable within the software.

OCR Speed/Accuracy

- + In BLI's lab-based tests, the Nuance OCR engine contained in Ricoh PPDM proved a top performer. A four-page PDF document with mixed font types and sizes was recognized with 100% accuracy.
- + On BLI's tests, the Nuance OCR engine also proved faster than the two leading competing OCR engines contained in some competing products.

Sharp Sharpdesk 3.3

Sharpdesk 3.3 is a desktop document management application that complements the ImageSEND scanning abilities of networked Sharp MFPs. The PC-based application lets users browse, edit, search, compose, process and forward scanned documents, as well as electronic documents (such as Microsoft Office files) brought into the system. Files can be combined, split and rotated for proper presentation and printing. Users can also edit images and photographs with a range of drawing tools and touch-up filters. Simple and advanced searching is available, and built-in OCR capabilities allow users to convert image files into searchable PDFs.

New with version 3.3, Sharp offers an Open Systems Architecture connector for its OSA-enabled MFPs. The connector provides easy access directly from the MFP control panel to scan directly to the user's Sharpdesk desktop folder. Previously (and as is still the case with non-OSA devices), users had to use the MFP's Imag-

eSEND capabilities to scan to a folder, then open the folder at their desktop and import the desired files into Sharpdesk. Version 3.3 includes the ability to “push” Sharpdesk to user’s desktops, rather than having to install the application individually at each PC. Another enhancement is the “page-by-page” paper selection: When printing a document from Sharpdesk, the user can specify different paper drawers for different pages in a single document when printing.

Sharpdesk is also affordably priced. A single desktop license is included free with every Sharp color MFP, and every monochrome Sharp MFP features one user license when the network scanning kit is added. Additional single licenses are available for \$233 each, with volume discounts and site-license pricing available.

Sharpdesk Strengths:

- Scan directly to desired destination folder from control panel of OSA-enabled Sharp MFPs
- Full-featured desktop capture/management solution
- Intuitive interface features support for drag-and-drop actions
- Built-in OCR engine for creating searchable, editable documents
- Easy desktop installation, and supports “push” install to remote PCs
- Inexpensive to deploy

Sharpdesk Weaknesses:

- No integration with back-end document repositories

Note: +, – and O represent positive, negative and neutral attributes, respectively, for the management utility compared to the others BLI evaluated for this report.

Price

- + One license of Sharpdesk comes free with all color MFPs and monochrome models equipped with a network scanning kit, and additional licenses are available for \$233 each—an affordable price similar to OKI Desktop Capture.

- Unlike OKI Desktop Capture, the price for Sharpdesk does not include a connector to a back-end repository such as DocuWare or SharePoint.

Features

- + Sharpdesk is a full-featured desktop document capture/management application offering most of the features buyers looking at this class of product would need, including OCR, hot-folders, document assembly and preview, and PDF creation.
- As with other programs in this class, Sharpdesk lets users annotate documents with a range of tools, including highlight, stamps, notes and labels. Sharpdesk also offers common image enhancement tools, including de-skew, de-speckle, image rotation and more, as does OKI Desktop Capture.
- Unlike OKI Desktop Capture, Sharpdesk does not offer direct integration with back-end repositories such as DocuWare and Microsoft SharePoint.
- Sharpdesk does not offer a tool akin to OKI Desktop Capture's FormTyper tool for creating fillable electronic forms from paper documents.

Ease of Setup/Ease of Use

- Sharpdesk, like OKI Desktop Capture, offers a wizard-driven installation routine that takes just a few minutes to complete.
- Sharpdesk allows end users to create customizable one-touch buttons to perform common tasks, as does OKI Desktop Capture.
- + Thanks to the OSA integration, destination folders can appear on the touch screen of supported MFPs. With OKI Desktop Capture, end users must scan to a preset "hot folder."
- Like OKI Desktop Capture, Sharpdesk features an intuitive, approachable interface that features clear task icons. The interface also supports drag-and-drop actions for constructing documents and for routing documents to desired output destinations, such as a printer or fax or e-mail program.
- Since Sharpdesk does not support integration directly with DocuWare or SharePoint as does OKI Desktop Capture, users must first work in Sharpdesk and then open the target application and import the new document, which is a more complicated process.

OCR Speed/Accuracy

- + In BLI's lab-based tests, the OCR engine contained in Sharpdesk 3.3 proved a top performer. A four-page PDF document with mixed font types and sizes was recognized with 100% accuracy.
- + On BLI's tests, the OCR engine used in Sharpdesk also proved faster than the two leading competing OCR engines contained in some competing products.