The Attorneys' Guide to Understanding Databases

A database is defined as "a structured set of data held in a computer." "Structured data" behaves differently than "unstructured data" such as emails, texts, PDFs, etc.
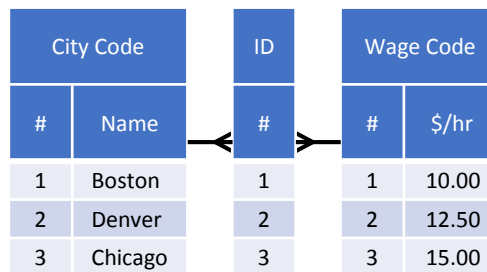
Structured Data is typically modeled in rows and columns in a series of tables, often using codes instead of full entries for efficiency.

ID	First Name	Last Name	City Code	Wage Code
1	Bob	Crachit	1	2
2	Grace	Jedder	3	3
3	Isabella	Ward	1	1
4	Agnes	Wickfeld	2	2
5	Grueby	Gohn	1	2

Databases only *look* like Excel They hold much larger data collections with complex analytics and support many simultaneous users.

Databases have **relationships** between tables to create **logic** for entry codes.

Complex databases may connect *thousands* of tables containing terabytes or petabytes of data.

City Code		ID	Wage Code	
#	Name	#	#	$/hr
1	Boston	1	1	10.00
2	Denver	2	2	12.50
3	Chicago	3	3	15.00

Structured Query Language – "SQL" (pronounced "see-quel") is used to access, modify, and organize data.
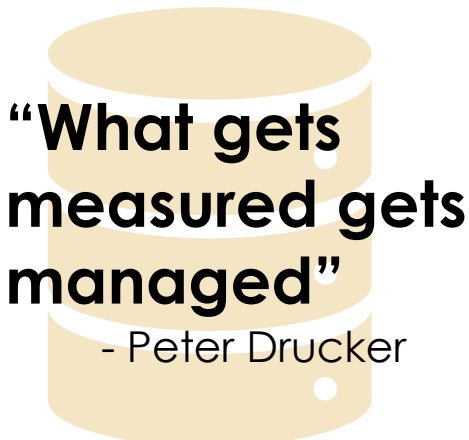
Users can also run reports in different formats according to business need.

Judges understand that databases are complicated

"The databases in question are not simply collections of lists or numbers that can be easily extracted and correlated with other numbers; . . . the databases are integrally connected to a data system that comprises 25 separate but interdependent subsystems that each are comprised of scores of programs, tens of databases and scores of screen and report formats. There are over 3,000 programs containing a total of 1,500,000 lines of program instructions."

Jones v. Goord, 2002 WL 1007614 (S.D.N.Y. May 16, 2002).

How Companies Use Structured Data

Databases measure:

"What gets measured gets managed"
- Peter Drucker

Financials
- Accounting
- Expenses
- Payables/ Receivables
- Asset management

HR
- Hiring and retention
- Time and labor
- Performance management
- Payroll and benefits

Risk management
Project management
Product development/R&D

Sales
- CRM
- Compensation
- Sales operations
- Customer service

Supply chain
- Procurement
- Inventory
- Order fulfillment
- Quality control
- Transportation management
- Warehouse management

Electronic health/medical records

All of this data can be used in cases to prove what happened

What Kinds of Cases Involve Databases?

Case Types

- 🔍 Internal investigations
- ▤ Regulatory matters
- 🏛 Complex commercial litigation
- ⚠ Products liability
- ⚒ Labor & Employment
- 📉 Securities litigation
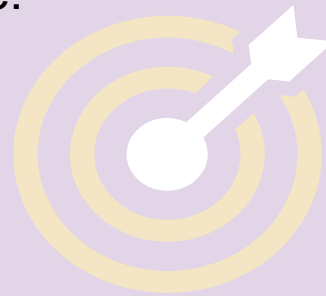- 👥 Class actions

Industries

- 📈 Financial services
- 💊 Pharma
- 🏭 Manufacturing
- 🚚 Construction
- 🛒 Retail
- 🩺 Healthcare
- 🤝 Insurance

Prove What Happened With Structured Data

Your clients' **databases** prove:

Who . . .
did *What* . . .
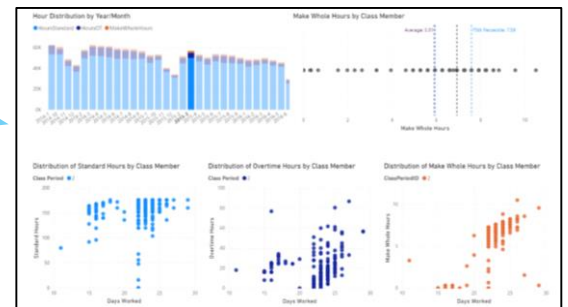exactly *When* . . .
and precisely *How*

You need to use that data

That's Where We Come In…

Our **data visualization** platform lets you explore issues, defenses, and damages using client databases on a secure, indelible copy.

Zoom in on what you need with just 1 click!

Case Example:
Labor & Employment wage and hour class action

Settlement cost reduction = 5x return on our fees!

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