OnlineNIC, Inc. is one of the largest ICANN- accredited registrars of Internet domain names. In 2008, it was sued by giants Verizon, Microsoft and Yahoo for allegedly registering and using thousands of domains that infringed those plaintiffs' trademarks.   The electronic data to be reviewed in the case was massive – it included over 1 million domain names, millions of transactional records (such as registrant data and financial transitional data) and hundreds of thousands of emails. OnlineNIC needed an ediscovery product that could quickly ingest and cross-correlate the structured and unstructured data.

OnlineNIC's Defense. OnlineNIC's defense was simple and straight-forward – the infringing domains were registered by OnlineNIC's customers – who were individual registrants that were not affiliated with OnlineNIC in any way. Consequently, OnlineNIC maintained that it should not be held liable for any tortious committed by its customers.

The Challenge of Correlating Data. In order to execute its defense, OnlineNIC had to show that the customers who had registered the domains were real persons – not just aliases for OnlineNIC, as alleged by plaintiffs. The only way to do this was to correlate financial data and emails with the data associated with a particular infringing domain. For instance, an account named "lenawoo" - was alleged by plaintiffs to be a mere alias for OnlineNIC. To prove that "lenawoo" i.e. account #232218 was not just an alias for OnlineNIC, it was necessary to show that there were emails, faxes and payment transactions for account #232218 that were traceable to non-OnlineNIC.

how the LexFusion GUI presents all types of data – including Email, Documents, and different types of transactional data. Figure 1, which was produced in litigation, shows over 4,000 payment transactions to a third party - supporting the proposition that 232218 was not an alias for OnlineNIC.

email for account 232218) – for which there were over 80 communications back from that email address and OnlineNIC – again, supporting the conclusion that 232218 was not an alias of OnlineNIC. LexFusion also enables users to TAG records during review with customizable tags.

Resolution. OnlineNIC was noted in default on the original Verizon complaint. However, with the help of LexFusion, the Verizon and Yahoo cases settled amicably, and Microsoft dismissed its case.