STRATEGIC GUIDE 2026

eDiscovery Deployment: What Is Right for You?

A decision guide to on-premises, cloud, and hybrid eDiscovery for law firms, corporations, service providers, and government teams.

- **CONTROL** Keep every byte inside your firewall with On-Prem
- **SCALE** Stand up cloud matters fast with Cloud
- **FLEXIBILITY** Burst to the cloud when workloads spike with Hybrid

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WHY THIS DECISION MATTERS

Deployment is a strategy decision, not an IT checkbox

Where your eDiscovery infrastructure lives shapes your security posture, your cost model, your speed to first document, and which matters you can take on at all. Choose well, and deployment is an advantage. Choose poorly, and you inherit replatforming pain, compliance gaps, or runaway consumption bills.

Three models dominate: on-premises, cloud, and hybrid. None is universally best. Four variables decide it:

→ **Data sensitivity.** Trade secrets, regulated personal data, classified material, or privileged communications that cannot leave your network?

→ **Regulatory and geographic scope.** Do residency or sovereignty rules (GDPR, cross-border transfer limits, client mandates) dictate where data is stored and processed?

→ **Matter volume and volatility.** Steady caseload, or spikes from second requests, investigations, and litigation surges?

→ **Infrastructure and cost posture.** IT capacity and predictable CapEx, or zero infrastructure management and elastic OpEx?

What the eDiscovery market actually shows

Cloud is winning the majority of eDiscovery work, and a durable minority is not moving.

ILTA's 2025 Technology Survey found **62% of responding law firms are conducting eDiscovery in the cloud or migrating within 12 months**, up from 56% in 2024 and 53% in 2023. At the same time, ComplexDiscovery's market model puts **controlled-deployment eDiscovery software at roughly 27% of software spend in 2024, easing to 22% by 2029**, while the dollars in that segment still grow, from about $1.64B to $2.10B.

Share falls; spend rises. That is not a category dying. It is a category consolidating around the matters that genuinely require it.

> ⚠ **THE DEPLOYMENT QUESTION IS BEING CLOSED FOR SOME BUYERS.**
>
> In January 2025, Relativity announced that new matters created on or after January 1, 2028 must be hosted in RelativityOne. When a platform removes the choice, the choice becomes a migration project.

This guide walks through each model, gives you a framework to decide, and shows how Venio runs any of the three, or all three, on one platform.

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THE THREE MODELS

1 · On-Premises: maximum control

The full stack (storage, processing, indexing, review) runs inside your own data center, managed by your IT team. When sovereignty is non-negotiable, on-prem isn't legacy thinking; it's risk management.

BUILT FOR:

government and public sector, law enforcement, financial institutions under strict mandates, and regulated industries such as healthcare, energy, and defense.

STRENGTHS:

true data sovereignty, nothing routed externally · predictable fixed costs, no consumption surprises · native Active Directory, LDAP, and SAN/NAS integration · you control patch timing to match change-management policy.

TRADE-OFFS:

capital investment in hardware and IT capacity · surge scaling takes lead time · longer setup than cloud · you own uptime, backups, and physical security.

THE VENIO DIFFERENCE: "ZERO FEATURE DOWNGRADE."

Venio On-Prem runs the same codebase, AI models, and workflows as Venio Cloud.

2 · Cloud: elastic scale

The full platform as managed SaaS: no hardware, no infrastructure management, environments that stand up fast. Shifts eDiscovery from CapEx to OpEx and removes the ceiling on processing and review capacity.

BUILT FOR:

law firms running multi-matter discovery across offices, corporate legal teams handling litigation and regulatory response in-house, service providers scaling client matters and margins, and lean teams facing urgent subpoenas without an IT department.

STRENGTHS:

rapid kickoff for urgent matters · elastic processing and storage, pay for use not peak · zero-footprint browser access for distributed reviewers, no VPN or Citrix · SOC 2 Type II infrastructure with encryption at rest and in transit.

TRADE-OFFS:

less direct infrastructure control · consumption pricing needs governance · some clients or regulators prohibit off-network data · residency handled through region selection.

THE VENIO DIFFERENCE: "ARCHITECTURE OF ISOLATION."

Venio Cloud supports both single-tenant and multi-tenant deployments, giving organizations the flexibility to choose the architecture that fits their security, scale, and operational requirements.

Single-tenant deployments provide a dedicated environment for clients requiring greater isolation, while multi-tenant architecture enables efficient cloud operations and scalability where appropriate.

3 · Hybrid: control and scale together

Sensitive matters stay behind your firewall; high-volume processing, analytics, and review burst to the cloud. For mixed matter profiles, hybrid is the strategic middle ground.

BUILT FOR:

global enterprises balancing sensitive investigations against high-volume litigation, firms with mixed matters, service providers supporting varied client security requirements, and organizations needing stable capacity plus surge headroom.

STRENGTHS:

right environment per matter, no single-model lock-in · workload bursting on spikes · residency by jurisdiction: store locally, process non-restricted data in the cloud · uses existing on-prem investment, cloud cost only when needed · one interface across both.

TRADE-OFFS:

governance required for data movement between environments · two environments to secure and monitor · more up-front planning than a single model.

THE VENIO DIFFERENCE: "ONE PLATFORM, TWO ENVIRONMENTS."

Venio Hybrid moves data between on-prem and cloud using Venio's portable archive format, so ECA, review, production, and legal hold stay in one ecosystem.

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COMPARE AND DECIDE

At a glance

	ON-PREMISES	CLOUD	HYBRID
Data control	Maximum; all data inside your infrastructure	Vendor-managed; single-tenant isolation available	Sensitive on-prem, rest in cloud
Scalability	Limited by owned hardware	Elastic, on demand	Steady base plus cloud burst
Deployment speed	Guided implementation	Fastest to first matter	Phased from either side
Cost model	CapEx: predictable, fixed	OpEx: subscription/usage	Balanced: owned plus surge
IT burden	You own uptime, patches, backups	None; fully managed	Shared, unified management
Compliance fit	Air-gap; classified mandates	SOC 2 Type II; regional residency	Jurisdiction-specific storage
Remote access	Within your network policies	Browser-based anywhere	Cloud for distributed teams
Ideal buyer	Government, law enforcement, financial services, defense	Law firms, corporate legal, LSPs	Global enterprises, mixed-matter firms, LSPs

ONE PLATFORM ACROSS ALL THREE.

Because Venio runs the same codebase everywhere, this table describes infrastructure trade-offs only, not feature tiers. Start in one model and expand later without replatforming.

Six questions to find your fit

Work through these with legal, IT, and security at the table.

If you answer yes...	Point to
Regulators, classification levels, or client contracts require data to stay inside your network, or air-gapped	On-Premises, or Hybrid with those matters held on-prem
You face residency rules across jurisdictions (GDPR, cross-border transfer limits)	Hybrid, or Cloud with regional hosting
Matters spin up urgently with reviewers spread across offices or contract teams	Cloud: fast environments, zero-footprint browser review
Your caseload swings between quiet months and second-request surges	Cloud or Hybrid: buy surge capacity only when used
You have data-center investment and a capable IT team to leverage	On-Premises or Hybrid: steady workloads on owned hardware
You handle both sensitive investigations and high-volume litigation	Hybrid: the environment fits the matter

By segment:

- → Law firms start in cloud for multi-matter discovery, then land on hybrid when clients mandate confidentiality.
- → Corporations bringing discovery in-house start in cloud for speed and OpEx predictability; regulated data or frequent internal investigations argue for hybrid from day one.
- → Service providers treat deployment flexibility as a sales asset: cloud for margin, on-prem or hybrid to win security-constrained clients.
- → Government keeps classified and citizen-sensitive workloads on-premises, often air-gapped; lower-sensitivity FOIA and records work can move to cloud.

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WHY VENIO

Whatever you choose, choose once

Most platforms turn the deployment question into a product question: the cloud edition has the AI, the on-prem edition trails two versions, and hybrid means stitching tools together. Some now remove the choice entirely.

- **Same platform everywhere.** On-prem, cloud, and hybrid run the same codebase, AI models, and workflows.
- **End-to-end in one place.** ECA, AI-powered review, production, and legal hold in one platform, with no handoffs and no per-plugin fees.
- **Enterprise security posture.** SOC 2 Type II, GDPR-aligned, encryption at rest and in transit, single-tenant cloud isolation.
- **Freedom to evolve.** Start anywhere, expand into hybrid, and move data under control, with no replatforming.
- **Regional residency.** Host in the regions your data-transfer obligations require.

See what better eDiscovery looks like

Talk to a deployment specialist about which model fits your matters, mandates, and budget, or see the platform live in an interactive demo.

Book a demo →

Call us

 Compliance certifications and deployment timelines as published by Venio Systems. Cloud adoption among law firms per ILTA 2025 Technology Survey (580 responding firms). eDiscovery deployment spend per ComplexDiscovery OÜ 2024–2029 eDiscovery Market Size Mashup. This guide is for informational purposes and does not constitute legal advice.