

CASE STUDY | FEDERAL GOVERNMENT | SECURE SELF-HOSTED DEPLOYMENT

The FBI Automates Search Warrant Documents with ActiveDocs, Hosted and Controlled Entirely by the Bureau

Not vendor-hosted. No vendor-pushed updates. How the Federal Bureau of Investigation automated one of its most sensitive documents without surrendering control of its data or its software.

ActiveDocs

Thousands of FBI personnel generate search warrant documents with ActiveDocs, hosted and controlled entirely by the Bureau.

ActiveDocs

INDUSTRY

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

DEPLOYMENT

Self-hosted in the FBI's own private cloud environment. Not a vendor-hosted SaaS service.

CHALLENGE

Automate a sensitive, labor-intensive legal document without placing investigative data in a vendor's hands or accepting software changes the Bureau had not approved.

SOLUTION

ActiveDocs Document Wizard, Rules Engine, and Intelligent Templates, with every upgrade scheduled, tested, and approved under the FBI's own change control.

RESULTS

Investigative data stays within the FBI's own secure environment, and no software change reaches the system without Bureau approval.

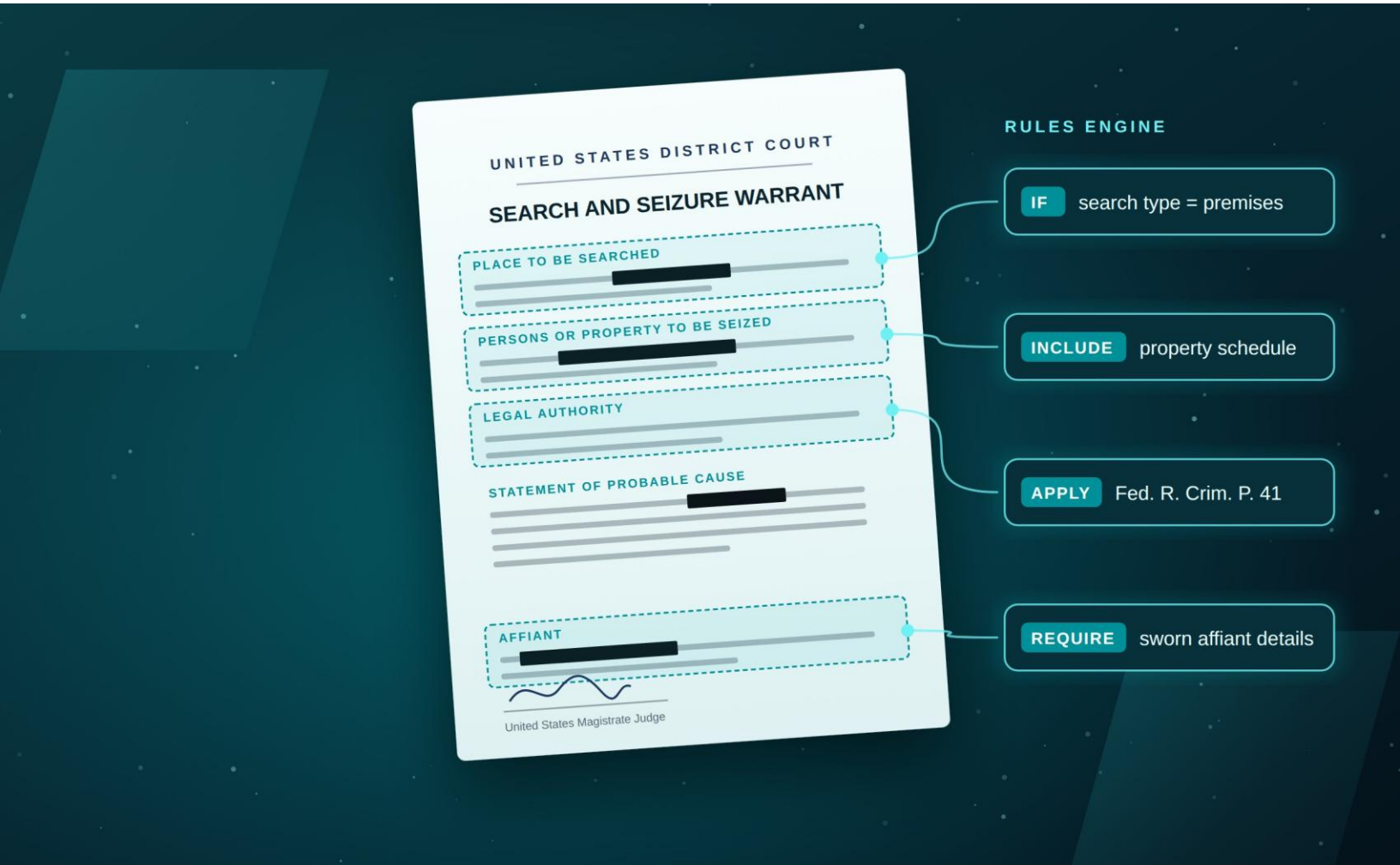
Accurate, complete search warrant documents in a fraction of the time.

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A compromised update cannot silently reach the FBI's system, because no update reaches it silently.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) generates search warrant documents for thousands of personnel across the United States using ActiveDocs document automation software. What sets this deployment apart is who runs it and who governs it. ActiveDocs is hosted in the FBI's own private cloud environment and operated by the Bureau itself. It is not a vendor-hosted SaaS service, and no case information is ever placed in ActiveDocs' hands. Just as important, no upgrade, patch, or configuration change reaches the system until it has passed through the FBI's own change control.

For an agency whose documents contain unreleased investigative detail, those two conditions were not preferences. As artificial intelligence reshapes both the software industry and the methods of those who would attack it, they became fundamental to the safety and security of the Bureau's work.



INTELLIGENT TEMPLATE

Every word comes from approved content, selected by rules.

PART ONE

Why the FBI Chose ActiveDocs

About the FBI

The FBI is the principal federal law enforcement agency of the United States and its domestic intelligence and security service. It leads the nation's counterterrorism, counterintelligence, and criminal investigative efforts and holds jurisdiction over violations of more than 200 categories of federal law. Approximately 35,000 personnel serve the Bureau at its headquarters in Washington, D.C., in field offices throughout the country, and in posts abroad.

The Challenge

A document that cannot be exposed

The Fourth Amendment permits a warrant to issue only upon probable cause, and requires that it describe with particularity the place to be searched and the persons or things to be seized. Each application, with its supporting affidavit, is examined by a federal judge. To satisfy that standard, the document must set out the substance of an investigation: the identities of subjects and witnesses, the evidence gathered, the techniques used to gather it, and details of cases that have not yet been made public.

The FBI's process for preparing these documents was well documented and dependable, but it was also labor-intensive. Warrants vary with the nature of the search, the offense, and the legal authority invoked, and staff spent considerable time assembling particulars, selecting legal language, and verifying that nothing had been omitted. The Bureau wanted to automate that work. It would not do so at the expense of control over the information inside it.

The AI factor

The rise of artificial intelligence has changed the risk calculation for any organization handling sensitive data, and for a federal law enforcement agency the change is acute.

Much of the software market now ships as vendor-hosted subscriptions, and many vendors are embedding generative AI features into their products at speed. In a hosted service, those features can arrive through an automatic update, and customer content may be sent to AI models the customer does not operate, under terms the customer did not negotiate. At the same time, AI tools are helping attackers probe exposed services faster, craft more convincing intrusion attempts, and exploit weaknesses in the software supply chain. A single compromised vendor update can reach every customer of a hosted platform at once.

For documents that describe active investigations, any path by which content could reach an external model, a vendor-operated service, or an unvetted software change was unacceptable. The Bureau needed document automation it could host, operate, and change entirely on its own terms.

Why ActiveDocs

The FBI selected ActiveDocs, an enterprise document automation platform, because it could meet both conditions



in full. ActiveDocs can be deployed and run within an organization's own environment, and its upgrade path is controlled by the customer rather than the vendor. Many widely used document generation products are now delivered only as vendor-hosted subscriptions and offer neither.

Hosted and operated by the Bureau

ActiveDocs runs in the FBI's own private cloud environment, administered by the Bureau. The application, its templates, and every document it generates sit within that environment. ActiveDocs does not host the system, operate it, or hold any of the data that passes through it, and the deployment is not shared with any other customer.

Case information entered into ActiveDocs never reaches the vendor or any vendor-operated service. The Bureau's own security teams set and enforce the access controls, monitoring, and accreditation standards that apply to the system, as they do for its other internal applications.

This arrangement is also the Bureau's most direct protection against AI-related exposure. Because nothing flows to a vendor platform, sensitive content cannot be routed to an outside AI service, retained by a provider, or used to train a model the FBI does not control. Document generation is deterministic: the Rules Engine and approved templates determine every word, and the same inputs always produce the same document.

Upgrades on the FBI's terms

In a vendor-hosted service, the vendor decides when the software changes. New features, altered behavior, and newly integrated AI capabilities can appear overnight, for every customer at once, whether or not a given customer has assessed them.

The FBI's deployment works the other way around. ActiveDocs upgrades are delivered to the Bureau, not pushed into its environment. Each release is scheduled, tested, and approved through the FBI's own change control process before it is installed. Nothing about how search warrant documents are produced can change without the Bureau's knowledge and consent.

That discipline closes a route that AI-enabled attackers increasingly target: the software supply chain. A compromised update cannot silently reach the FBI's system, because no update reaches it silently. The Bureau decides what runs, and when.

The Benefits

Sensitive data that stays with the Bureau

Investigative information remains within the FBI's own secure environment at every stage, from the first answer in the Document Wizard to the approved document. No vendor hosts it, operates it, or has access to it.

Complete authority over change

Because every upgrade passes through FBI change control, the system behaves tomorrow exactly as it did today unless the Bureau decides otherwise. There are no surprise features, no unreviewed AI capabilities, and no vendor-scheduled outages.

Protection against emerging AI risks

With no vendor-operated service in the loop and no uncontrolled updates, the most common avenues for AI-related data exposure are closed by design. Warrant content cannot be passed to an outside model, and a compromised vendor release cannot reach the system unnoticed.

Accelerated, accurate preparation

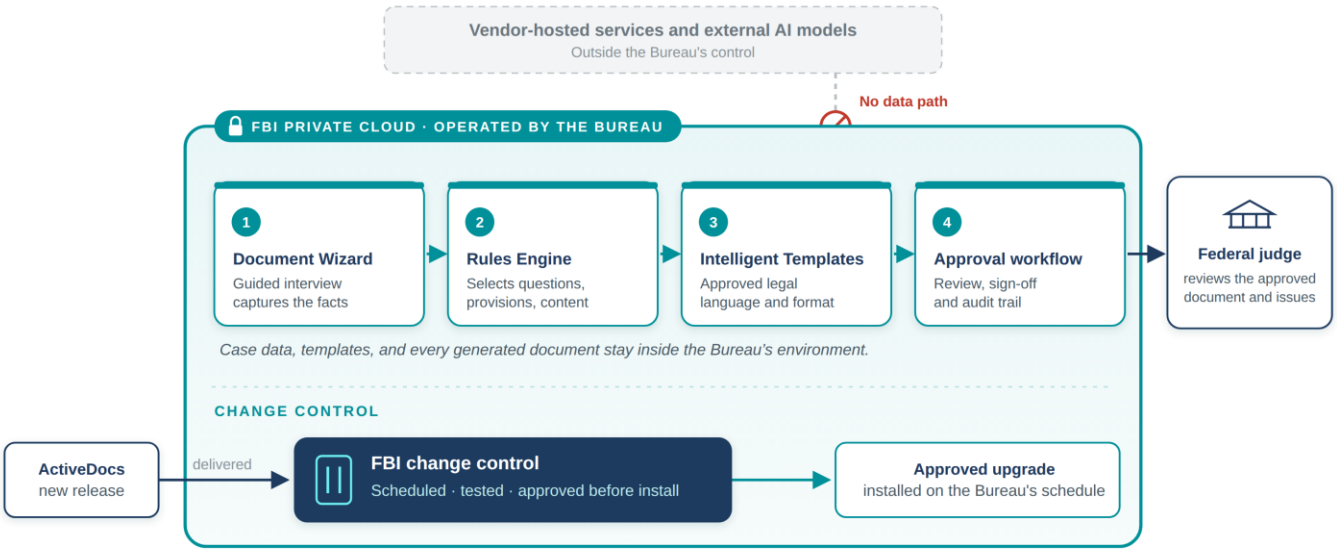
Producing a complete search warrant document now requires a fraction of the time it once did. Every document conforms to the prescribed format and contains what a judge needs to rule. Applications reach the bench sooner, and agents spend more of their time on the work that advances a case.

National scale, federal-grade security

Thousands of users nationwide generate search warrant documents through one system, governed by the same rules and the same approved content. ActiveDocs satisfied the FBI's security requirements, a precondition for any deployment of this breadth.

PART TWO

The Solution



How the FBI deployment is contained and governed.

What the FBI Built

The FBI deployed ActiveDocs to automate the creation of its search warrant documents. At the center of the solution is a sophisticated questionnaire built in the ActiveDocs Document Wizard. It encompasses a broad range of legal grounds for the issuance of a warrant, together with all of the information that must be provided for a judge to reach a decision.

The interview responds to the user as it proceeds. The ActiveDocs Rules Engine evaluates each answer to determine which questions follow, which legal provisions apply, and precisely what the finished document should contain. ActiveDocs Intelligent Templates embody the approved structure and wording for each category of warrant, so legal language is drafted and sanctioned once, governed centrally, and applied consistently every time a document is generated.

Because a search warrant is seldom the product of a single author, multiple people can contribute to the document creation process, each furnishing the information for which they are responsible. Once generated, the document can be subjected to an approval process before it is sent to a federal judge, who issues the warrant if all relevant requirements are met.

How it Works

Every step below takes place within the FBI's own secure environment.

1. **Initiate the warrant.** An authorized user opens the ActiveDocs Document Wizard and begins a new search warrant document.
2. **Complete the guided interview.** The Wizard presents only the questions relevant to the warrant at hand. Validation rules confirm that all mandatory information has been supplied, so deficiencies are resolved during preparation rather than discovered after submission.
3. **Incorporate other contributors.** Colleagues add the particulars within their purview, consolidating the full record in a single document.
4. **Generate the document.** ActiveDocs composes the search warrant document from Intelligent Templates, inserting the governing legal language and applying the prescribed structure and formatting automatically.
5. **Review and approve.** The document is routed through the designated approval process, with each action captured in an audit trail.
6. **Present to the court.** The approved document is submitted to a federal judge, who issues the warrant if every requirement has been satisfied.

Key Features

- **Self-hosted deployment:** installed and run within the customer's own environment, whether on-premises or in a private cloud the customer controls, rather than on a vendor-hosted service.
- **Customer-controlled upgrades***:* new releases are adopted only when the customer has tested and approved them through its own change control.
- **Deterministic document generation:** approved templates and business rules determine every word of the output, with no external AI service involved.
- **Document Wizard***:* a guided, step-by-step interface that leads users through complex legal documents without exposing them to the template logic beneath.
- **Rules Engine***:* business logic that governs which questions are posed, which content is included, and how each document is assembled.
- **Intelligent Templates:** centrally administered templates and approved legal content, ensuring every document reflects current, authoritative language.
- **Workflow, approvals, and *a*udit trails***:*** configurable review stages, with every action recorded, before any document leaves the agency.
- **Role-based access control***:* permissions administered by the agency's own security teams to meet government security and privacy mandates.

Complete Confidence

The FBI has confidence that ActiveDocs produces accurate and complete search warrant documents, that the information behind them stays within its own secure environment, and that the system will change only when the Bureau says so. Its personnel spend less time on administration and more on investigation, which supports prompt, fair outcomes and, ultimately, a safer nation.

As AI accelerates both the adoption of hosted software and the sophistication of those who attack it, more agencies are asking where their data goes and who decides when their systems change. For organizations whose documents draw on complex data and demanding rules, ActiveDocs offers a self-hosted path to enterprise document automation, without the scale and deployment complexity of a full enterprise communications platform. The data stays in their environment, and the decisions stay in their hands.



ActiveDocs
Document Intelligence

Keep your documents, and your data, under your control.

Request a demo to see how ActiveDocs self-hosted document automation software enables federal and state government agencies to produce compliant, high-stakes documents with speed and precision, entirely within their own secure environment.

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