



# Increasing Throughput by 350% with Rampiva

## UNITAD Case Study

**Classification: Public**

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# Summary

This case study presents an overview of the UNITAD mission's use of technology and challenges for processing vast and complex amounts of data, and the impact that Rampiva had in increasing productivity and substantially increasing the speed-to-review. To create this case study, Rampiva has reviewed public reports presented by UNITAD and cited relevant sections.

## What is UNITAD?

UNITAD (The United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISL) self-describes as: "...an independent, impartial investigative team, mandated by the United Nations Security Council to support efforts to hold ISIL members accountable for their crimes. Based in Baghdad, Iraq, UNITAD was established as a unanimous response from the international community to a request for assistance from the Government of Iraq."<sup>1</sup>



## The Investigation

"The collection and preservation of evidence related to ISIL crimes presents a variety of challenges [...] The criminality of Da'esh, and quantity and variety of the evidence left behind, necessitated new thinking and new investigative approaches [...] innovation and advanced technologies must supplement more established approaches to grappling with mass data sets and vast quantities of documentary, video, photographic, electronic and testimonial evidence."<sup>2</sup>

"[...] the evidence base that UNITAD must contend with is not so structured or uniformed [as the terabytes of data involved in a routine civil litigation]. Evidence from ISIL crimes comes from varied and complex sources, such as paper records, mobile phones, memory cards, external hard drives and laptops. Additionally, ISIL has used social media and the internet to incite and showcase their crimes."<sup>3</sup>

"The Forensic Science Unit is [...] equipped with data analysis tools such as Nuix [...] that enable parsing and visualization of the collected data."<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.linkedin.com/company/united-nations-investigative-team-unitad/>

<sup>2</sup> Harnessing Advanced Technology in International Criminal Investigations, pg. 2,  
[https://www.unitad.un.org/sites/www.unitad.un.org/files/general/2105390-harnessing\\_advanced\\_technology\\_in\\_international\\_criminal\\_investigations\\_web10may\\_0.pdf](https://www.unitad.un.org/sites/www.unitad.un.org/files/general/2105390-harnessing_advanced_technology_in_international_criminal_investigations_web10may_0.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Harnessing Advanced Technology in International Criminal Investigations, pg. 17,  
[https://www.unitad.un.org/sites/www.unitad.un.org/files/general/2105390-harnessing\\_advanced\\_technology\\_in\\_international\\_criminal\\_investigations\\_web10may\\_0.pdf](https://www.unitad.un.org/sites/www.unitad.un.org/files/general/2105390-harnessing_advanced_technology_in_international_criminal_investigations_web10may_0.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Harnessing Advanced Technology in International Criminal Investigations, pg. 17,  
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## The Challenge

“We started with vast amounts of complex data from which it was challenging to produce meaningful analysis. We had to build systems to extract the information and make it work as one seamless application—whether that data was in the form of photographs, documents, video, or voicemail extracted from phones.”<sup>5</sup>

By November 13, 2019, “the evidentiary data lake of the Team [...] [stood] at over 14.5 TB of data, resulting from the significantly expanded evidence collection capacity of its field investigation units and strengthened cooperative modalities with key entities, including Iraqi national authorities, the Kurdistan Regional Government, impacted communities, non-governmental organizations and United Nations system entities.”<sup>6</sup>

By May 1, 2021, “the digital and documentary evidence holdings of the Team [had] grown significantly as a result of excellent cooperation with Iraqi authorities as well as independent evidence-collection activities.”<sup>7</sup>



## The Solution

By adopting Rampiva, the Team was able to design “standardized processing workflows and specification templates for the various data sources it works with. It then automated those workflows. When working copies of collected evidence are put into the processing directory, the new data is recognized and automatically processed. After processing, load files are automatically exported and integrated into Relativity. Data which requires it, determined by pre-set rules, is automatically enriched by Zeteo and pushed into Relativity where it is now ready for human search and review.

Automated workflows ensure ediscovery processing is done exactly to UNITAD specifications and that the work is well documented. It also helps onboard new team members more quickly and ensures that work can continue smoothly regardless of personnel changes. Especially valuable is the result for end users. While there is inevitable training involved, those preparing cases for prosecution benefit from these machine-driven enhancements and improved search capabilities. The systems were built to preserve evidence and records beyond the life of a case, with plans for archiving information well after information is passed to Iraqi authorities and once investigations and prosecutions have concluded.”<sup>8</sup>

5 Harnessing Advanced Technology in International Criminal Investigations, pg. 21, [https://www.unitad.un.org/sites/www.unitad.un.org/files/general/2105390-harnessing\\_advanced\\_technology\\_in\\_international\\_criminal\\_investigations\\_web10may\\_0.pdf](https://www.unitad.un.org/sites/www.unitad.un.org/files/general/2105390-harnessing_advanced_technology_in_international_criminal_investigations_web10may_0.pdf)

6 Third report of the Special Advisor and Head of UNITAD, November 13, 2019, pg. 7. [https://www.unitad.un.org/sites/www.unitad.un.org/files/general/13.11.2019\\_1.pdf](https://www.unitad.un.org/sites/www.unitad.un.org/files/general/13.11.2019_1.pdf)

7 Sixth report of the Special Advisor and Head of UNITAD, May 1, 2021, pg. 11 [https://www.unitad.un.org/sites/www.unitad.un.org/files/general/s.2021.419\\_-\\_sixth\\_unitad\\_report\\_en.pdf](https://www.unitad.un.org/sites/www.unitad.un.org/files/general/s.2021.419_-_sixth_unitad_report_en.pdf)

8 Harnessing Advanced Technology in International Criminal Investigations, pg. 21, [https://www.unitad.un.org/sites/www.unitad.un.org/files/general/2105390-harnessing\\_advanced\\_technology\\_in\\_international\\_criminal\\_investigations\\_web10may\\_0.pdf](https://www.unitad.un.org/sites/www.unitad.un.org/files/general/2105390-harnessing_advanced_technology_in_international_criminal_investigations_web10may_0.pdf)

# Automating Nuix with Rampiva

The Nuix data processing engine is a great platform – it offers performance and stability across thousands of files, images and containers. It is the backbone of many eDiscovery and digital investigations teams, and increasingly used to identify sensitive, unsecured, or out-of-policy data for governance, risk, and compliance teams.

These considerations make Nuix data processing a prime target for automation. Eliminating downtime and optimizing human touchpoints increases productivity, standardizes quality, and accelerates response time. Automating Nuix drives a virtuous cycle:

- Teams spend less time on routine data processing, so they have more time for problem solving, complex analysis, project management and case strategy.
- Data quality improves, enabling more automatic integration with external systems.
- Marginal cost of processing decreases, making more projects cost-effective.
- Demand for data processing goes up.
- By helping teams increase total throughput – while also freeing them up to help oversee these projects – automation helps teams do more in and with Nuix.

## Impact

“Rampiva is an eDiscovery workflow automation suite that has increased the data-processing throughput of the Team by more than 350 percent. Within three months of its implementation, the software allowed the Team to clear the backlog of evidence to be processed and drastically reduced the time required from evidence collection to review, with the result that collected evidence is available to reviewers and analysts in a matter of days rather than weeks.”<sup>9</sup>



<sup>9</sup> Eighth report of the Special Advisor and Head of UNITAD, May 26, 2022, pg. 18. <https://iraq.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/N2236368.pdf>





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