How to future-proof your file sharing

Adopt technology to manage complexity,
no matter the size of your IT team

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As a business owner, the pace of change in technology can be thrilling — and full of new challenges. As your company evolves, so do the complexity of the technology issues you face:

- More apps to install and manage

- More endpoints to secure and data regulations to comply with

- More files to store and share in more locations

- More employees wanting to work remotely, and more short-term contractors to manage

To master the complexities of your future growth, you don't have to break the bank on hiring a massive IT department. Instead, you should adopt technology that scales with you as you grow, empowering your employees to work securely from anywhere at any time. File sharing on cloud-hosted platforms is a vital part of this scalable strategy.

Here's how enterprise-grade file sharing can future-proof your business with more efficient collaboration, better security and compliance, and unified access to documents.

More efficient collaboration

Your users want mobility — the freedom to work anywhere on their own devices and on the apps they prefer. This trend toward remote work shows no signs of slowing down, as Forbes estimates 50 percent of the U.S. workforce will soon be working remotely[1].

However, this drive toward mobility creates significant challenges. Your legacy applications and business systems have years' worth of vital data and files, but these repositories were often not built for mobile users. Sharing files becomes challenging, as large files cannot be sent via email or securely accessed across disparate devices and apps. As users rely on their own devices to handle different versions of work files in and out of the office, they create inefficient workarounds that slow down key processes. This also makes it tough for a small IT team to deliver a consistent collaboration experience for mobile employees, remote teams, and clients.

The right sharing platform can streamline collaboration for more efficient workflows across your company. First, a strong file sharing solution creates a unified experience for all users collaborating on a document, regardless of the device they use. This means all feedback, comments, and approvals are viewable in one location for greater transparency and simplified communication for both internal and external collaborators. Second, by taking the collaboration process out of email and into a shared location, a file sharing solution allows you to automate routine approval workflows. This reduces errors and saves time for everyone in your company.

76% of engineers want to work remotely for the indefinite future[2].

Better security and compliance

A major growing pain for small businesses is the threat of data loss and security breaches related to filesharing. In addition to the innate security problems of sending sensitive files over email, many users rely on personal file sharing services to store work-related documents. This invites data leakage and compliance violations. But with only a small IT team, it can be difficult to monitor insecure file sharing and prevent users from making these costly mistakes.

Adopting a strong file sharing solution integrates security into every aspect of how you share data — without hindering your users' ability to access files from any device. Instead of relying on email or personal file sharing services to send sensitive files, a well-designed file sharing solution manages all files on audited, protected datacenters that users can access through a single application. This protects files in transit with

TSL protocols and sophisticated encryption (up to 256-bit). The result is your sensitive data is safe from hackers while your users can easily share and access files from any device in any location.

Another security risk many small businesses neglect is reliance on signed paper documents, which can easily be lost or shared with the wrong people. To mitigate this risk, choose a file sharing platform that integrates e-signature capabilities into your approval workflow. Electronic signing is just as legally-binding as printed signatures, and it also offers the advantages of faster approval processes and automatic storage in a secure location.

70% of small businesses experience cyber attacks, and half of small businesses don't know how to protect their companies[3].

Unified access to files

As your business grows, so will the number of critical files you rely on. But when your documents, images, videos, and other files are stored across multiple locations, it can be difficult for users to locate and access critical information. And as your growing business works with both full-time employees and short-term contractors across all kinds of devices, delivering secure anywhere, anytime access can be tough on your IT team.

With the right file sharing solution, you can provide end users a single pane of glass to access all their documents. This integrates your existing file storage and systems (including on-site servers and cloud storage providers) into a unified platform that every stakeholder can access from any device. In addition to creating consistent, simplified access to all your documents across user devices, this solution syncs and stores updated files in one location to ease version control and boost productivity.

For your IT team, the right file sharing solution can offer a centralized platform to easily control access to key files across your network. This maximizes IT productivity by streamlining management of information for all users without juggling multiple apps and storage solutions. And because this file sharing can build on your legacy storage and systems, you can take your existing IT investment further.

SMBs that move to the cloud almost always doubled their profits and achieved 25% growth in revenue[4].

File sharing powers your future growth

As a small business with a big future, you need to keep pace with the demands of your growing userbase without overwhelming your IT team. There is no better way to handle your future growth than adopting a filesharing solution that streamlines collaboration, ensures security and compliance, and offers unified access to files anywhere and on any device.

To learn more about how better file sharing can empower your small business's future, visit sharefile.com.

Sources:
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