



LLB Group White Paper:

8 Ways to Boost Employee Productivity and Morale with Business-grade File Sync

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Introduction

The rapid adoption of consumer-grade file sync services in the workplace is one of the greatest security risks for businesses today. Your employees want their critical business files with them wherever they go, including on their personal smartphones, tablets, or even home office computers. Industry analysts have dubbed the trend of personal device use in the workplace as “bring your own device,” or BYOD. Unfortunately, the growth in mobility, BYOD, and the desire to work anywhere creates a host of new challenges for protecting corporate data. Consumer-grade sync services, such as Dropbox or Microsoft OneDrive, empower users to sync their work data and files with their mobile phones and home PCs, but they can be a recipe for disaster from a data privacy, security, and compliance perspective.

There is an alternative approach for security conscious organizations. Savvy and growth-oriented organizations know that you have enable employees to be productive wherever they go, but without compromising the security and control of sensitive corporate data. This whitepaper explores how business owners and executives can arm employees with productivity enhancing file sync technology, while at the same time safeguarding corporate data. Business-grade file sync solutions eliminate “file anarchy” in the workplace and allow businesses to implement sensible security policies that prohibit the use of consumer-grade sync services in the workplace.

Business-grade file sync services deliver users all the key benefits they expect, including the ability to sync files between work PCs, the web, and a range of personal devices, such as iPhones, tablets, and home office computers. What’s more, companies with legacy file servers can also sync the server to the cloud and better connect distributed employees with their corporate data. At the same time, with a business-grade solution, companies can implement strict security policies on a group or per user basis; prohibit syncing to non-authorized devices; and remotely wipe sensitive data from lost or stolen devices or from machines owned by terminated employees. With a business-grade file sync solution, the company stays in control of its corporate data, while giving users all the productivity enhancements they desire. The result is increased user satisfaction along with peace of mind for business executives, who are assured that their data is protected.

Here are the eight ways that business-grade cloud file sync technology will boost morale and make your people more productive:

1. Files on the Go

Nearly everyone has a smartphone or tablet. Business-grade file sync enables users to sync their work and corporate files from their main work PC to remote computers, mobile devices, and tablets. Users can now confidently go in the field, on meetings, or a short business trip and leave the laptop at the office, since all of their critical files are at their fingertips. With all files in sync, users can open, view, email, and share files from their mobile devices. With the right apps, users can even edit conventional productivity files, like MS Word or Excel, right from their mobile device.

2. Work from Anywhere

Everyone struggles with life/work balance today. Extending one's day by an hour or two in the evening or on the weekend is a necessary part of managing both office and home in a 24/7 economy. By syncing files between main office computers and home office machines, knowledge workers are easily able to stay on top of their workload and crank out a few minutes or hours of productivity from the home office. With business-grade file sync, every computer and mobile device stays in sync and key files help people work from anywhere. Moreover, even when you are away from your main computers, such as on a hotel lobby computer, all of your content is available online from the web portal as well. Business-grade sync solutions sync your files to the cloud, allowing people work from virtually anywhere.

3. No More VPN

The main purpose of most remote access VPNs was to enable login to the HQ network to sync up and access the file server. However, VPNs have been plagued however with incompatibilities, Wi-Fi and firewall connection issues, and cumbersome user interfaces. In short, users have loathed their corporate VPNs. With business-grade file sync, along with file server enablement, VPNs can become a thing of the past. Instead of needing to log in to HQ, users access files that are transparently synced in the background, streamlining productivity.

4. Leverage the Cloud-connected File Server

Business-grade sync solutions enable companies to connect their legacy file server and connect it to the cloud and sync the data to mobile users and teams. For a long time, file servers provided centralized file access and control and kept everything organized in a company. For users on the same local area network, accessing files from the file server has always been fast and easy. For remote users, the situation was generally the exact opposite. As companies have become more distributed, remote users have suffered from high levels of frustration since accessing and syncing with the company file server has required a remote access VPN, which is often slow and cumbersome. Due to these technical challenges, more and more corporate data sprawls across an organization, with many users working in isolation. By cloud enabling a file-server, organizations and their users no longer need to worry about VPNs. They simply stay in sync, among the server, their computers, and mobile devices.

5. Sending Large Files

Traditionally, it has been very difficult for business users to share large files with colleagues, clients, and vendors. Email is the wrong method to share large files, since email servers often have file size limitations. To complicate things further, with the state of spam defense in most organizations, most users never see an email bounce from a server rejecting an email due to a file size limit. Business-grade sync solutions enable users to instead share files with web links pointing to files and folders stored in the cloud. This approach vastly simplifies life for users and makes sending large files fast and easy.

6. Sending Sensitive Files

Business users of all stripes need to send confidential and sensitive business data to colleagues, clients, and business partners. In some industry verticals, virtually all external communications may involve highly sensitive documents. Secure sharing capabilities are vital for professionals, such as lawyers or accountants, who must interact with numerous client contacts and collaborate with people outside their organizations. Business-grade sync services enable users to perform secure shares, where the sender of the file can require the recipient to register as a guest user before retrieving the file from the web. Moreover, the sender can specify download limits, file expiration time limits, and further control how the recipient can interact with the file or folder.

7. Securely Collaborate with Anyone

Business-grade sync solutions facilitate frequent collaboration with guest users. A licensed user can set up a special collaboration folder in the cloud and then invite guest users to upload, share, download, and manage the content in the shared folder. Since the users are collaborating on a web folder, file size limitations and security issues are eliminated. Licensed users can simultaneous have numerous different shared, collaboration folders in use at any one time.

8. Distributed, but Still in Sync

Organizations today are increasingly distributed. Most businesses are locating employees geographically closer to clients and business partners in order to facilitate better service and business relationships. Therefore, collaboration and effective communication, despite distances, are essential to successful organizations. Business- grade file sync is one critical tool that thriving organizations need to keep employees connected, productive, and happy.

About the LLB Group, LLC

In business since 1984, the LLB Group supports account software and IT networks for businesses in the Greater Philadelphia area. The LLB Group specializes in Sage 100 ERP, Managed IT Services, Cloud Services and Telecommunications.

For more info on LLB Group CloudSync go to www.llbgrouptechsolutions.com/cloudsync or contact LLB Group at 267-464-1946.