

# 10 Reasons Why You Need a Corporate Intranet

In today's hyper-competitive business environment, enabling employees with ready access to accurate, detailed information can often make the difference between leading the way... or falling behind. As with many technology-enabled solutions, installing a broad-based employee portal (or intranet) to aid collaboration and information flow can be complex and involve a lot of variables. But, knowing what you're looking for and what the technology can accomplish will set you up for success.

## 1 REAL-TIME ACCESS TO CRITICAL BUSINESS INFORMATION

An intranet provides centralized, easy access to files across all departments, at any time, from any location. Staff can instantly view key information instead of spending hours searching multiple repositories including shared drives, email servers, or information housed on an individual employee's laptop or local server.

Real-time access provides the data employees need to make better decisions and drive projects to completion at the speed of business.

## 2 ACCURATE COMMUNICATION

It's inevitable — as companies grow, information silos develop. Data that should be accessible to all ends up on individual desktops or department servers, which leads to version control headaches and document do-overs. Employees working from a non-current document is not only a potential waste of time, it can lead to serious issues with data integrity and compliance.

Having a central location for your corporate communications brings down walls, building a cohesive data repository where employees can be confident of finding the latest information on initiatives and strategies, policy updates, HR details, how-to documents and more.

## 3 SECURITY WITHOUT GROWING PAINS

Organizational growth typically signals things are going well. But if it happens too quickly, keeping proprietary information safe from breaches and careless release can become an increasing burden.

With a properly configured and secured intranet in place, you can be confident that your critical business, customer and compliance data is kept free from unauthorized release by hackers and disgruntled employees alike.

## 4 BETTER MANAGEMENT THROUGH AGGREGATION

Offering a centralized location for infrequent but necessary access to company information can improve staff productivity and efficiency. No more "Where did I put that" questions or employees spending time looking for the latest company policy statement on personal leave on a cluttered laptop hard drive.

## 5 COMPLY, COMPLY, COMPLY

From HIPAA and PCI to SOX and FERPA, state and federal laws, as well as industry requirements, are levying fines and penalties against companies who are not adequately protecting sensitive data. That's why it's critical companies of all sizes have a plan to collect, store, use and recover sensitive information in the event of a data breach.

By taking steps to secure data behind a single corporate firewall while maintaining accessibility for authorized users, companies demonstrate compliance in the face of mounting regulatory audits.

## **6 FOSTER COLLABORATION, ELIMINATE SILOS**

Today's fast-paced marketplace requires collaborating to leverage creativity, experience and resources, with right- and left-brain thinkers, that can help you arrive at a solution in less time. This is where a company intranet comes in.

It enables information sharing among team members with the goal of finding a better, more efficient way. When employees can easily access common team goals, project plans and activity progress, duplicated efforts are eliminated, project performance increases and outcomes improve.

## **7 TAME THE DATA FLOW**

Which business has NOT been impacted by the Big Data flood? The ever-increasing torrent of both structured and unstructured data has created a huge management issue for any business that uses information to aid decision-making.

By establishing a centralized location for information collection and storage, companies can figure out how to better sort, use and manage it. Doing so ensures the right employees have the right access to the data necessary to make the right business decisions.

## **8 CREATING A MORE AGILE ORGANIZATION**

In today's business environment, change has become the inevitable constant. And as more and more companies wrestle with change management and agile operations, the need for speed is clear. Using a corporate intranet, businesses have a secure, central location to store policy and operating procedure information and promote stronger collaboration among change management teams.

Using the intranet to track and evaluate the impact of changes can offer a business reassurance or highlight challenges quickly so that corrections get made efficiently. And once new policies go into effect, the intranet can become a powerful tool to ensure new information is communicated throughout the business.



## **9 INCREASED PROCESS AUTOMATION**

With a corporate intranet serving multiple needs and departments, manual, time-consuming business processes can be automated, saving time and increasing efficiency. Departments also benefit from automated processes since they help maintain compliance and eliminate input errors. Business processes like capital expense approvals, accounts payable procedures, expense and paid time off reporting are particularly well suited for this type of automation.

## **10 EMPLOYEE ONBOARDING**

Let's face it — onboarding employees is seldom considered a strategic endeavor. It's often left up to individual managers to execute — using their own style, approach and tools, which often leads to a less-than-optimized outcome.

Providing management with a central place to house process and procedure documentation, company policies and other information employees need to become productive can ensure consistency across the company in the onboarding process, while making managers jobs easier.

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### **About Abel Solutions**

For over two decades, clients have trusted us to help them reduce the cost, risk and implementation time associated with solving their most critical business IT and collaboration challenges. Abel Solutions can help you achieve powerful business improvement from document management and workflow-enabled SharePoint solutions, unique applications, technology planning and support, and a wide range of complementary IT services.

Our growing list of industry-specific solutions offer pre-built collaboration frameworks that shrink implementation time and cost. And as a long-standing Microsoft Gold Partner focused on improving business productivity, Abel Solutions now also offers services that help you achieve better IT cost control.