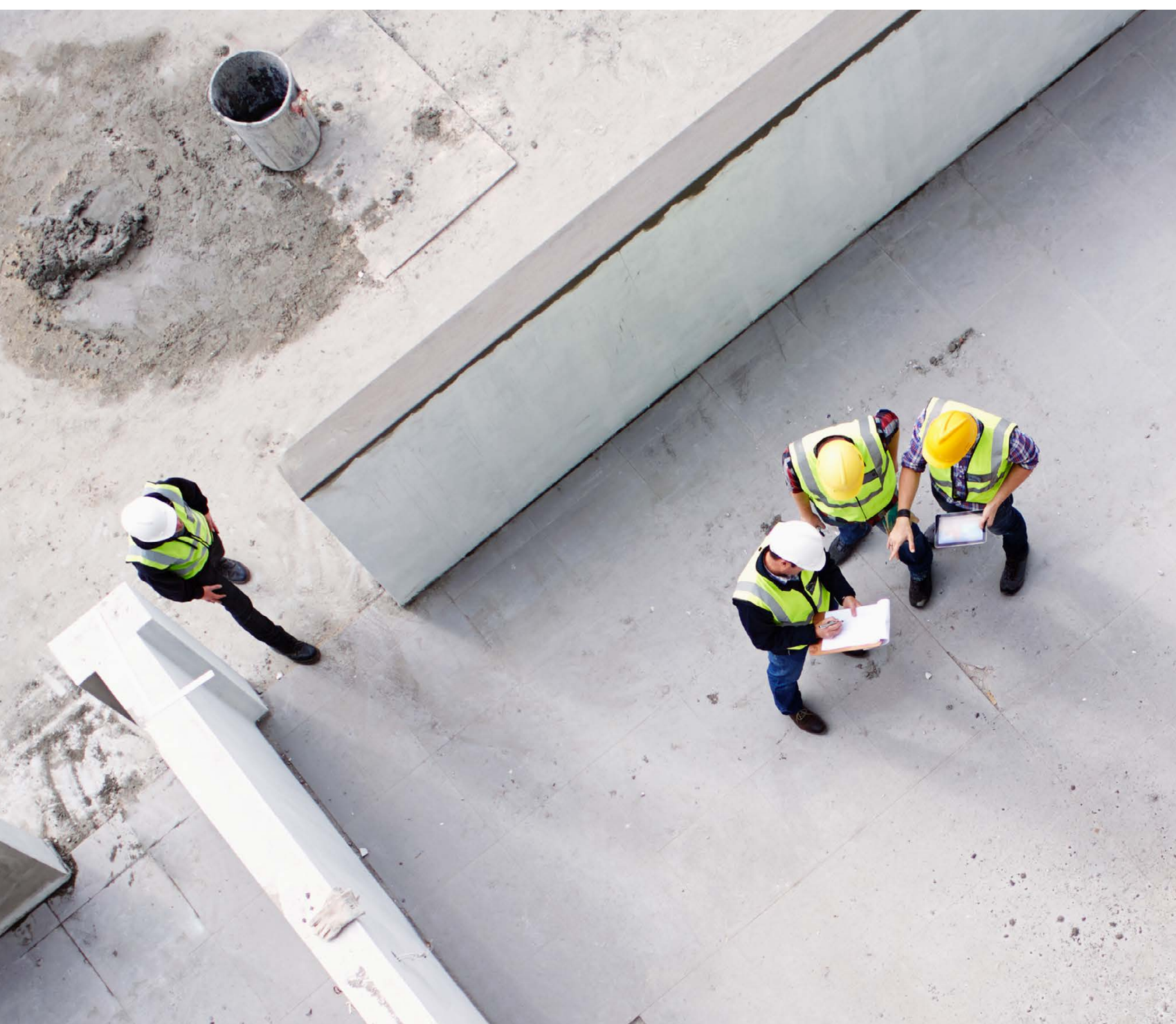**EGNYTE**

A digital foundation for architecture, engineering and construction collaboration

Key questions that will help you build efficiency and security

Get in touch with an expert today:

BOOK A MEETING

Contents

Pack more **profit** into **projects**

The construction industry has always been competitive, but not like it is today. That said, taking advantage of every opportunity to increase every project's efficiency will help you increase its profitability.

The best way to keep teams working quickly and effectively with project managers, architects, structural engineers and other construction partners, on-site in even the most remote locations, and back at HQ is with technology that is built for collaboration.

Yet not all collaboration technologies were created equal. Many were originally conceived for the consumer market and have been adapted with a few security add-ons. The best solution is one that was built specifically for business.

Construction KPIs point to criticality of collaboration

- 60% of general contractors believe problems with coordination and communication between project team members contribute to decreased labor productivity.

- Ensuring people across the organization are connected to the information they need is a crucial component for improving productivity.

Source: The Key Performance Indicators of Construction, Autodesk with Dodge Data & Analytics, Nov 2018.

Just what capabilities should you look for before you buy?

We've compiled a list of the most important questions every IT leader should ask before they invest.

1

Is it possible to deploy one **collaboration** tool to power **seamless** site-to-HQ working?

Quite simply, yes.

However, the challenge is to find a solution that is built specifically for business. Many collaboration tools were originally conceived for the consumer market and have been adapted with a few features and security add-ons. But every IT leader in the construction industry must deliver more scalability, more security, more capacity and more seamless connectivity, or sharing, than consumer tools can provide.

Give your people a solution that allows them to share files of multiple types – including drawings, project files, videos and blueprints – no matter the data size or remoteness of location. All the better when those files can be synced in the background, so everyone's using the latest information without having to hunt for it or wait for slow mobile connectivity or VPNs. Give your firm the peace of mind that comes from knowing it can keep valuable intellectual

property secure, after all, breaches are never good for reputations or the bottom line. Data privacy is paramount and will make every project quality, regulatory compliance and customer satisfaction even better.

When multiple people need to work together to make complex decisions, such as scheduling data from a project, consider a solution that supports shared, real-time access to relevant knowledge resources. Egnyte makes this possible, for all project collaborators, no matter where they're located.

Devcon builds a common **collaboration** platform for diverse **user needs**

Silicon Valley general contractor, Devcon, known for building the Levi Stadium, always faced the same challenge: how to provide simple and secure access to large plans and CAD drawings on sites with unpredictable connectivity. Its initial solution, a file server with remote access through FTP, delivered a poor user experience.

The firm implemented a hybrid deployment using inexpensive NAS devices. This bi-directionally syncs with the cloud, giving Devcon employees and partners local access to files of all sizes and types. Because workers can access files through Egnyte on any mobile devices, no one needs to travel back and forth from site to office to review or download files.

The Egnyte solution also eliminated the need for costly WAN accelerators and improved file-access performance, saving the company nearly $30,000 in TCO within six months. Finally, by reducing its overall bandwidth consumption by up to 300% across 10 sites, the firm has saved $24,000.

" You wouldn't believe how many documents our project managers and engineers need to access from the field. With Egnyte, our people in the field can now edit a file and sync it, then provide everyone on the team with instant access to the most up-to-date documents and plans. "

Joe Tan
Director of IT, Devcon Construction

2

Can a **collaboration** and file sharing **capability** really **improve** operational efficiency?

A built-for-business collaboration solution can make huge improvements to overall efficiency. How? By allowing multi-skilled teams to share up-to-the-minute images, documents, costs, schedules and even BIM images via electronic project rooms, in real time. Every minute saved setting up sites and every reduction in rework contributes to profitability, project quality and customer satisfaction.

Crucially, a collaboration solution that eradicates paper-based processes, the need to set up on-site servers, or access content via VPNs will make those all-important time and money savings. However, you also need to consider how you'll integrate third-party software tools, such as Botlink, Bluebeam, and Revit. Complicated workarounds can cause security issues, waste time and undermine project managers' ability to control and plan work.

As projects roll on and new trades join in, it's vital that you can organize files logically and secure them so that only relevant workers access the right information.

Choose a collaboration tool that allows project managers to control access to sensitive information across the external supply chain, simplify version control, and continuously back-up data – something that's not so simple with on-site file servers. To keep projects moving, make sure your collaboration solution allows project managers to view and accept new bids from subcontractors via simple upload links without having to manage bids via email or consumer file sharing.

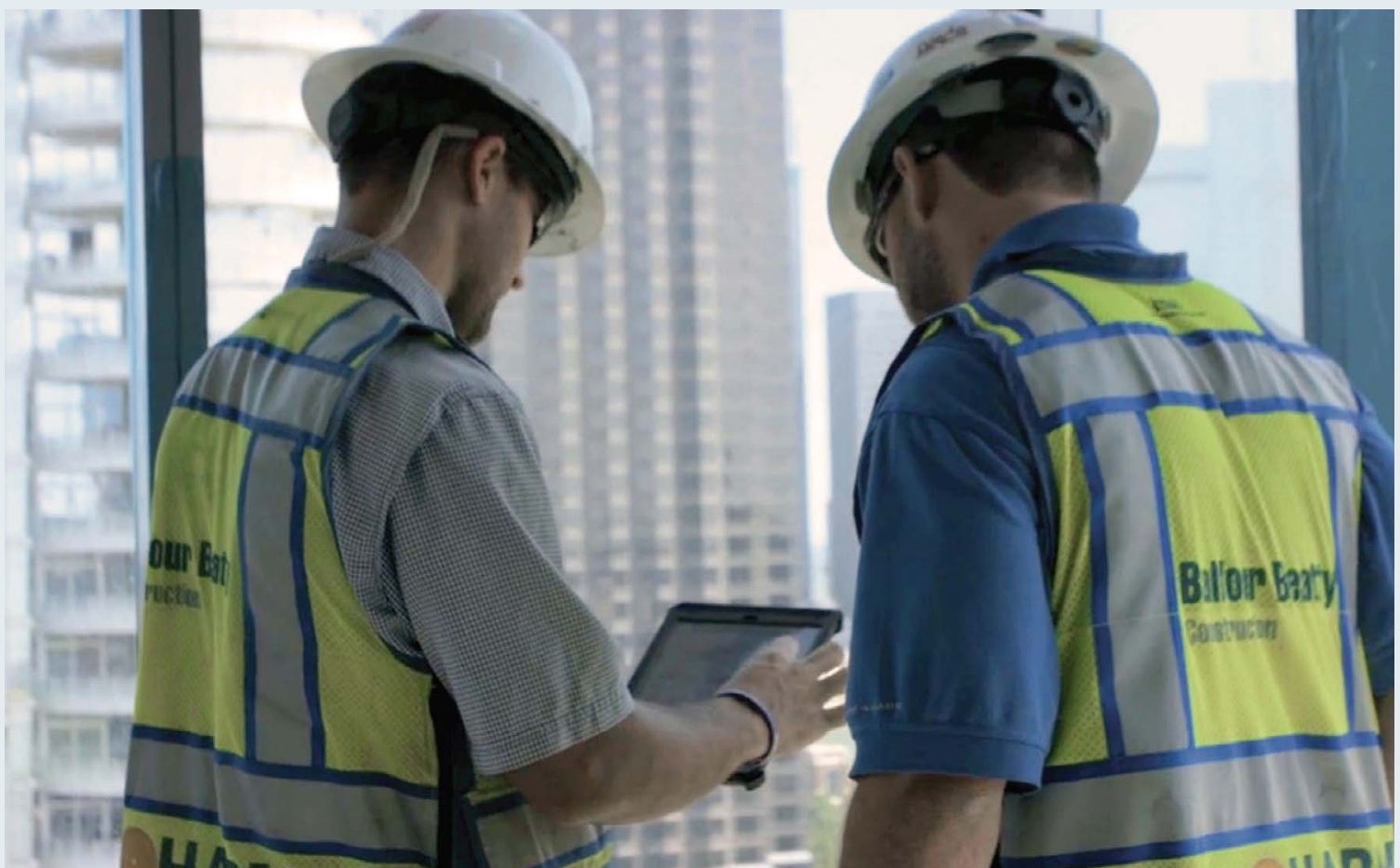# Balfour Beatty **modernizes** work practices with transformative **efficiency** impacts

An $800 million contract to renovate Dallas Fort Worth International Airport (DFW) becomes the catalyst of change at Balfour Beatty US. With so much at stake, the firm decided to move from paper-based processes to digital documentation sharing and collaboration. They had previously relied on traditional file servers, back-ups and email to share files, but they knew they had to modernize by incorporating content protection and business continuity into the mix.

They chose Egnyte because it gave them a hybrid solution based in the cloud, augmented by on-premises storage, with no need for VPNs. Having achieved more than $5 million in cost reductions by using Egnyte Connect for the DFW project, Balfour Beatty rolled out the capability across their US operations. The firm now has one structure for all content with seamless access that enables far smarter collaboration and better workflows.

Personnel across complex projects now have secure, nationwide access to content across the project lifecycle. Finally, our granular permissions and administrative control keep sensitive financial data and IP protected.

// The benefits of Egnyte Connect have touched our entire organization, from tremendous cost and time efficiencies, to creating a smarter workflow for multiple teams involved in a variety of complex projects. //

Thomas Volmer
Director of IT, Balfour Beatty

Balfour Beatty

3

How can I **raise** jobsite **performance**?

With so many trades, engineers, project managers and other professionals working together concurrently, being super organized is the only way to ensure high performance. This requires your people to stay connected to the information they need all the time.

Therefore, one of the biggest threats to performance is connectivity – its reliability and bandwidth. Sites can be vast, with inconsistent mobile access. Workers, however, need fast, always-on access to the very latest plans, 3D models, workflows and many other large data files. Returning to trailers to access information via PCs is not an option.

Many consumer-based file sharing tools are not made for remote locations, frequently freezing, buffering for long periods, or crashing every time documents are amended, saved or synced.

Overcome all these challenges and deliver a powerful boost to jobsite performance with a solution that is designed to be resilient and keep people connected at all times in the most challenging environments. One that allows people to access and mark up drawings and documents via tablet and auto sync them to the cloud in the background. What if the internet is down? You'll need a solution that provides offline access at all times as well. In moments, the delta sync feature in Egynte's technology updates just the content that has been changed, saving bandwidth and never impacting user performance.

Al Jaber Engineering (JEC) raises **performance** with always-on **collaboration**

Al Jaber Engineering (JEC) is a leading general contractor based in the State of Qatar. Established in 1995 as part of Al Jaber Group, JEC has successfully completed pioneering construction projects for prestigious clients across multiple sectors.

An important facet of the firm's success was the ability to keep projects moving and sites productive. So it needed to find a way to share huge 250MB files of AutoCAD files, photos and contracts from which everybody worked. Problematically, connectivity was often intermittent at sites, so users often saved copies of their files to their desktops, creating information silos, and multiple versions of files.

To address the situation JEC partnered with Egnyte. We provided a hybrid solution to enable collaboration across the group and leverage existing Microsoft investments. Importantly, our architecture now gives cohesive access across construction and office sites, while the IT team has a way to securely manage data and recover files, with storage in Azure and also replicated on-premises.

Users enjoy the intuitive Egnyte interface, and speed of access even in wireless environments because they can feel confident that they are using the latest versions of the files and documents – even if they experience power failures or poor connectivity.

The expected improvements in productivity, efficiency and collaboration, as well as less complex data management for the IT team, means the firm's health and safety team is delighted with an additional benefit. Should an incident now occur onsite, photographic evidence and incident reports can be logged immediately, using Egnyte, so that more accurate information can be recorded. This kind of improved oversight is helping to improve company-wide safety culture.

// *We didn't want to compromise quality of service. Egnyte works brilliantly. It does what it's supposed to do and allows our people to get on with their daily work.* **//**

**Melwyn Serrao
Head of IT, JEC**

ALJABER
ENGINEERING
هـنـدسـة الجـابـر

4

What kind of **collaboration** tool can keep data **safe** and **compliant**?

Every construction project is based on unique IP – from architects' drawings to processes, costings to quality metrics. It's vital that valuable information is protected, yet made available to relevant workers and subcontractors. Ensuring the right people have access to the right files impacts your firm's reputation, which is why you need a made-for-business file sharing and collaboration solution.

Egnyte understands this and provides customized data protection capabilities, which support BASM strategies. We allow project managers to have full visibility of all project content and set very specific privacy controls including granular non-inherited permissions for sub-folders. This unique feature means that project administrators can explicitly grant access to those who need it while restricting everyone else by default.

In addition, we detect potential vulnerabilities proactively by logging access activity. If our system detects unusual patterns coming from internal and third-party users, project owners receive an immediate notification. This not only protects customers' IP and your reputation, it helps you to meet specific contractual or regulatory requirements.

The right solution will allow you to archive folders in one click, and migrate existing servers onto your new platform without affecting your existing permissions or folder structure.

PC Construction gets **agile** while staying **secure** with Egnyte's file sharing and **collaboration** solution

With construction projects spanning the Eastern Seaboard to California, PC Construction's IT department ran a corporate data center from Vermont, hosting server and storage infrastructure with all departmental and project shares, a VPN for remote access, and back-up.

Each project had its own collaboration infrastructure, including an FTP server with individual folder structures. This was a huge hassle for IT, taking hours to set up and requiring every worker to go through IT for permission to certain data.

Since deploying Egnyte, marketing and finance data is now accessible, along with project files, using any device from any location. However, by running Egnyte Storage Sync in the data center, the firm has a copy of files for on premises users, allowing rapid access when and if internet connectivity fails. In fact, Storage Sync has now become part of their fallback plan.

IT can create the same robust level of secure access as they did with FTP infrastructures, altering permissions as jobs go from proposals to live projects. The folders are set up with appropriate permissions so that employees can invite third-parties to collaborate with specific subfolders rather than all data.

" I started out looking for a tool to improve collaboration on projects. Other tools would have allowed me to share files on a few projects but still left me concerned about security. With Egnyte, I now have a single platform that has become our file server.

It used to take hours to provision an FTP site and IT used to be the bottleneck. Now we have a project structure up in minutes and users can initiate collaboration immediately with partners without compromising security. "

Randy Lessor
Director of IT, PC Construction

EGNYTE

Built for contractors, architects and engineers

There are lots of technologies available that can give you some level of collaboration and remote access to project files. Ultimately, you need to ask yourself whether they have been designed with the geographical, regulatory, and agility needs of your industry in mind. The answer is no.

Egnyte is designed from the ground up for businesses that need to simplify access to huge data files of all types, with a brilliantly easy user experience. Most importantly, it's built to utterly transform productivity and cost efficiencies, making for more profitable projects that are still quality driven. And all this comes without foregoing security, control and visibility.

We know you're committed to collaboration. We are too. If you'd like to find a simpler, more efficient way to achieve your goals, let's talk today.

Ready to get started?

Get in touch with the experts

BOOK A MEETING