



# Five Ways to Reduce the Cost and Complexity of File Sharing





# COVID Killed the File Server

## *We're Never Going Back and Why That's a Good Thing*

There are two ways a legacy technology solution gets retired. Gradually, and all of sudden.

No one likes outdated file servers. Employees dislike their clunky, unfriendly user experiences compared to more modern, cloud-first tools. For IT, file servers present nightmares for user administration, backup and archiving, and data lifecycle and multi-site management. They also tend to host many security and privacy gaps. And when your workers are driven to unapproved — and insecure — consumer file services, your risk of data breaches and penalties from regulatory non-compliance essentially doubles.

Yet for a long time, many companies have justified getting by with legacy file-sharing solutions cobbled together with other equally-outdated technologies (FTP, VPNs, email attachments, etc.).

Then, COVID-19 hit. Suddenly, fully-distributed and remote workforces became the new normal — and there is no going back to the way things were. According to Gartner, 74 percent of businesses plan on transitioning workers to permanent remote status in 2020.

## File Sharing Is Getting an Upgrade

The legacy file server is dead, but that doesn't mean file sharing has decreased. Far from it. In this era of remote, distributed and mobile work, seamless and secure content sharing is critical, all of the time, for every employee, from everywhere.

For sure, use of consumer-grade file-sharing has grown as a result of COVID-19. However, businesses are also

quickly discovering that their low or even free upfront price tag is deceptive, hiding many missing features and costs.

For any business concerned about long-term productivity, security and costs, consumer-grade file sharing is at best a short-term fix.

# The Benefits of Modernizing Your File Sharing the Right Way

Prompted by COVID, many businesses have already started experimenting with or adopting modern business-class, cloud-based file sharing. The two most-common benefits they're reaping include:

## 01 | Elimination of the VPN

The longtime standard for enabling secure access to files on the corporate network, VPNs have many downsides. They're time-wasting for users. For IT, they create network performance and security issues. And they are costly to manage and maintain.

By adopting a cloud-native file sharing platform, companies are able to eliminate the VPN, as well as all the user hassle and IT management issues that come with it.

## 02 | Retiring Legacy File Servers

Think that holding onto old file servers is your organization's best financial choice? Think again. Enterprise Content Management (ECM) and Enterprise File Share and Sync (EFSS) solutions that are nearing end of life tend to be buggy, insecure and labor-intensive to patch and maintain. Factor in all of the time and cost from managing all your different legacy file servers, and you'll find the expense to actually be quite high.



By upgrading to cloud-based file sharing, companies are ridding themselves of the scourge of expensive-to-maintain infrastructure sprawl from your various hardware and software refreshes over the years. And as their businesses continue to grow, this platform can scale without bogging IT down in extra management time and effort.

**However, these are table stakes for any cloud file-sharing upgrade. There are three additional areas where companies can slash the cost and complexity of file sharing.**

A modern content infrastructure that is highly-available and uses an elastic, cloud-based architecture will slash your total cost of ownership.



### 03 | Control Content Sprawl from Shadow IT

As mentioned above, content sprawl is the predictable result of multiple legacy file-sharing refreshes over the years. Content sprawl is also created by rebellious workers who install unapproved, consumer-grade file-sharing services. These workarounds trade short-term worker productivity for longer-term issues, such as too many versions of files, and difficulty for other employees to find and get access to these files. Data governance becomes exponentially more difficult as a result of this shadow IT.

Choose the right elastic, cloud-based file sharing platform, and you'll control content sprawl, as well as delays from updating and downloading files. Users will be happy, enjoying the freedom and productivity they desire. IT will also be happy, for they will get real-time visibility into — and control over — what data is being shared by whom and how, all from a central console.

### 04 | Automate Security and Compliance Solutions

Legacy ECM and EFSS solutions are not only confusing to users, they're complex for IT to manage and secure, with too many disparate systems requiring regular patching. That makes keeping corporate content safe and private nearly impossible.

Choose a modern content platform that is powered by machine learning/AI so that they can automate and maintain strong security. For instance, a built-in anti-ransomware feature can detect unusual user behavior, such as a surge in file downloads from a single IP address. Such alerts are automatically triggered at lower thresholds for sensitive or regulated data.

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Also, the right file sharing content platform will automate compliance policies out-of-the-box for your data. That's key in this era. Ensuring compliance with regulations such as GDPR, HIPAA, FDA (GxP etc.), and many others can take up all of an IT manager's workday. Without efficient tools, requests for data or proof of compliance can take weeks. That's where built-in archiving, retention and deletion of data that complies with legal or internal policies come in. Such features can make the onerous process of compliance much faster and easier.

## 05 | Lessen IT's Administrative Burden

In business, the truism is that you can have something fast, inexpensive or good — but you can't have them all. That's been largely forgotten, as everyone these days is being asked to accomplish more faster at lower cost.

While that's usually an impossible task, IT can get more done — at lower cost — if they choose a file sharing platform that empowers them. With a central console, IT administrators gain visibility and control over all data in an organization. This enables them to efficiently manage and set permissions and policies for content wherever it resides.

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By slashing the complexity of managing and securing your data, choosing a modern CSP can deliver to IT huge savings in time, effort, and cost (when employee and contractor time is factored in). In this way, IT **CAN** get more done for better quality at lower cost.

At the same time, the productivity gains of your workers will translate into increased revenue, lowered costs and higher profits for the business. The right enterprise-grade, cloud-native file sharing solution can deliver an average of \$3 million in savings over three years to businesses, through improved worker efficiency, decreased risks of lost data or compliance violations, and reduced IT hardware, software and labor costs, according to Egnyte research.





## Takeaway

IT's role today is to innovate and enable productivity for the business. When it comes to file sharing, that means a modern platform supporting secure, anywhere access to files from any device with a user-friendly platform so your workers can collaborate without compromise. The platform must fit into a strong end-to-end security architecture so that the integrity and privacy of the data is maintained throughout its lifecycle. And it must give IT visibility and control over data wherever it is stored or shared. Armed with these platform features, IT can drive the cost and complexity out of file sharing.

The Egnyte platform offers all of this and more. Its cloud-native platform is powered by AI to provide strong security and regulatory compliance without the drudgery. Its central console offers visibility into all of your data wherever it resides or travels. And it allows you to move on from your outdated, cobbled-together solutions such as VPNs and FTPs. Be your company's data hero and request a demo of the Egnyte platform and see what it can do for your business.



In a content critical age, Egnyte fuels business growth by enabling content-rich business processes, while also providing organizations with visibility and control over their content assets. Egnyte's cloud-native platform leverages the industry's leading content intelligence engine to deliver a simple, secure, and vendor-neutral foundation for managing enterprise content across business applications and storage repositories. More than 16,000 companies trust Egnyte to enhance employee productivity, automate data management, and reduce file-sharing cost and complexity. Investors include Google Ventures, Kleiner Perkins, Caufield & Byers, and Goldman Sachs. **For more information, visit [www.egnyte.com](http://www.egnyte.com)**

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