



# Secure Construction Collaboration in the Cloud: Laying a solid foundation

Key questions that will help you build  
efficiency and security



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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.



# 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 profitability.

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

Yet not all collaboration technologies were created equal. Many were originally conceived for the consumer market, without integrations with industry-specific tools, 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 percent** of general contractors believe problems with coordination and communication between project team members contribute to decreased labor productivity.
- By adopting specific processes for project management, contracting firms and trades professionals can reduce risk and minimize downstream problems, improving performance.

Source: The Key Performance Indicators of Construction, Autodesk with Dodge Data & Analytics, Oct. 2019.

## Section 01

# Is it possible to deploy one secure collaboration tool to power seamless site-to-HQ interaction?

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 additions. 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.

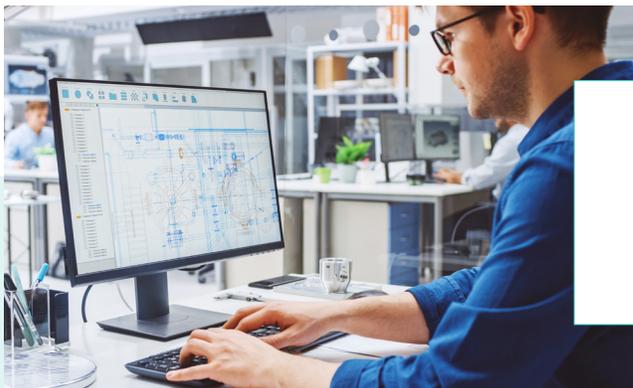
Give your people a solution that allows them to securely share and govern files of multiple types – including drawings, project files, videos and blueprints – no matter the data size or remoteness of location. All the better when those files can

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, the lifeblood of every project, secure. After all, breaches are never good for reputations or the bottom line. Data privacy is tantamount to customer confidence, regulatory compliance and overall project quality.

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, along with integrations to leading industry applications. Egnyte makes this possible, for all project collaborators, no matter where they're located.



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# Devcon builds secure **governance** platform for **diverse** user needs



Founded in 1976, Devcon Construction, Inc. has been the largest general contractor in Silicon Valley over the last 20 years. The company is renowned for its large-scale projects, including Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, Calif.

A challenge that Devcon faces in any project is enabling simple and secure access to large project plans and drawings on oft-remote job sites. To address this obstacle, Devcon originally deployed a file server with remote access through FTP connections.

As the number of concurrent projects grew, Devcon's legacy file system became increasingly difficult to manage. They quickly realized that they needed an easier and more secure solution to access and manage files while on the job site.

Enter Egnyte. Today, all aspects of Devcon's project processes start with Egnyte. To share project plans, budgets, or contracts, Devcon now has a centralized point of control and visibility to sync and share files with customers, contractors and employees through Egnyte's enterprise-class features, flexibility, security, and ease-of-use.

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

## Section 02

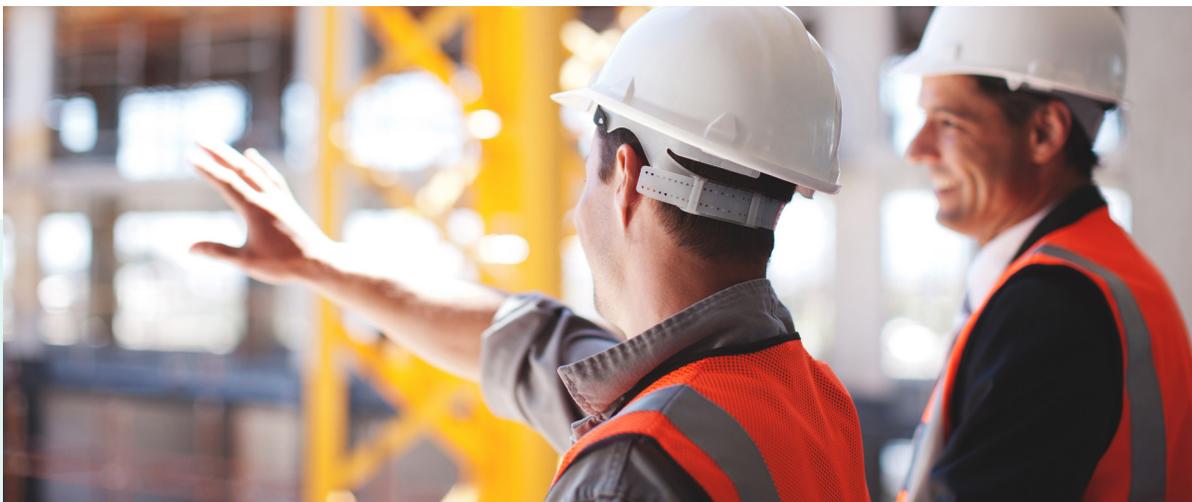
# Can a secure governance solution really improve operational efficiency?

A secure 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 BIM data via electronic project rooms, in real time. Every minute saved setting up sites and every reduction in rework contributes to profitability, improved timelines, and customer satisfaction.

Crucially, a 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 Faro, Procore, Bluebeam, PlanGrid, Revit and Microsoft. Complicated workarounds and data silos can cause security issues, waste time and undermine project managers' ability to meet tight deadlines.

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 controlled access to sensitive information across the external supply chain, simplified version control, and continuous data back-up – something that's not so simple with on-site file servers. Your collaboration solution should also allow the estimating team to view and accept new bids from the supply chain via simple upload links, rather than having them search through bloated inboxes and/or unstructured consumer file sharing applications.



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



Balfour Beatty's business was growing, and so was its volume of digital files and the data within them. But the company's use of traditional file servers and reliance on email attachments for sharing documents created unnecessary complexity, security and governance gaps, and drove up costs associated with compliance risks, hardware and software refreshes, VPN services, administrative overhead, and printing.

Although it considered competitive solutions, Balfour Beatty decided to replace its locally managed file system with the EgnYTE governance platform. A key to the decision was the ability to implement EgnYTE as

a cloud-based platform augmented by on-premises servers, with no reliance on a VPN. The EgnYTE platform provided immediate value, saving more than \$5 million on the DFW project.

Following successful pilots around the US, Balfour Beatty made EgnYTE the standard for its more than 2,500 US vertical construction employees. The hybrid deployment model was ideal for an organization with a workforce with numerous offices and job sites. It allowed the entire company and hundreds of trade partners to access content in the cloud securely with highly available, on-premises performance.

The benefits of EgnYTE 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

## Section 03

### 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.

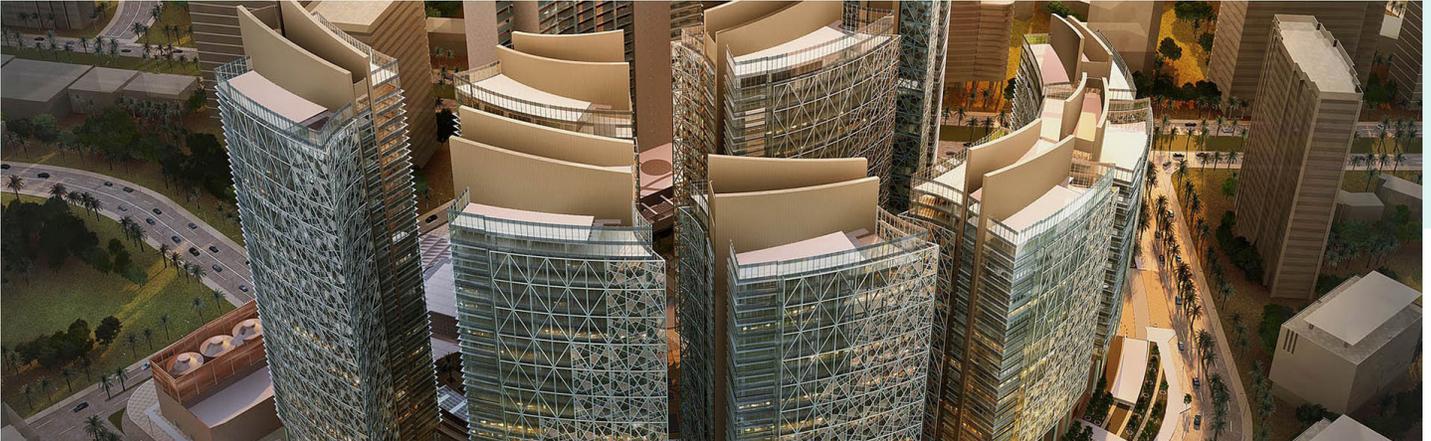
Therefore, one of the biggest threats to performance is connectivity – its reliability and bandwidth. Sites can be vast, with inconsistent mobile access. Workers, however, need fast, always-on access to the very latest plans, 3D models, and many other large data files. Returning to trailers to access 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.

Workers, however, need fast, always-on access to the very latest plans, 3D models, drone images, workflows and many other large data files.



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



Numbered among Qatar's leading construction contractors, Al Jaber Engineering (JEC) works on many of the country's most pioneering construction projects – including the Doha Metro's Gold Line, Al Thumama Stadium for the 2022 FIFA World Cup™ and a major project to design and construct food security facilities and warehouses at Hamad Port.

Everything about JEC is big: its ambition, its projects, and the 250mb files it needs to share between internal and external users. Not always an easy task when the majority of personnel work on job sites without reliable internet connectivity, sync capabilities, or access to on-premises shared file storage; problems that led to unsecure employee workarounds.

JEC was already a heavy user of Microsoft solutions and services – utilising SharePoint in engineering and procurement, M365 in corporate environments, and Azure Active Directory (AD) and cloud-storage services. It was natural for JEC to look to leverage these investments while adding new capabilities.

This is where Egnyte came in: providing JEC with a hybrid file server to support cross-group collaboration and integration with existing Microsoft investments. Additionally, seamless and secure data upload and sharing were critical to eliminate operational downtime, risky shadow IT and workarounds. caused by lack of access to the latest plans and files,

“ 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

## Section 04

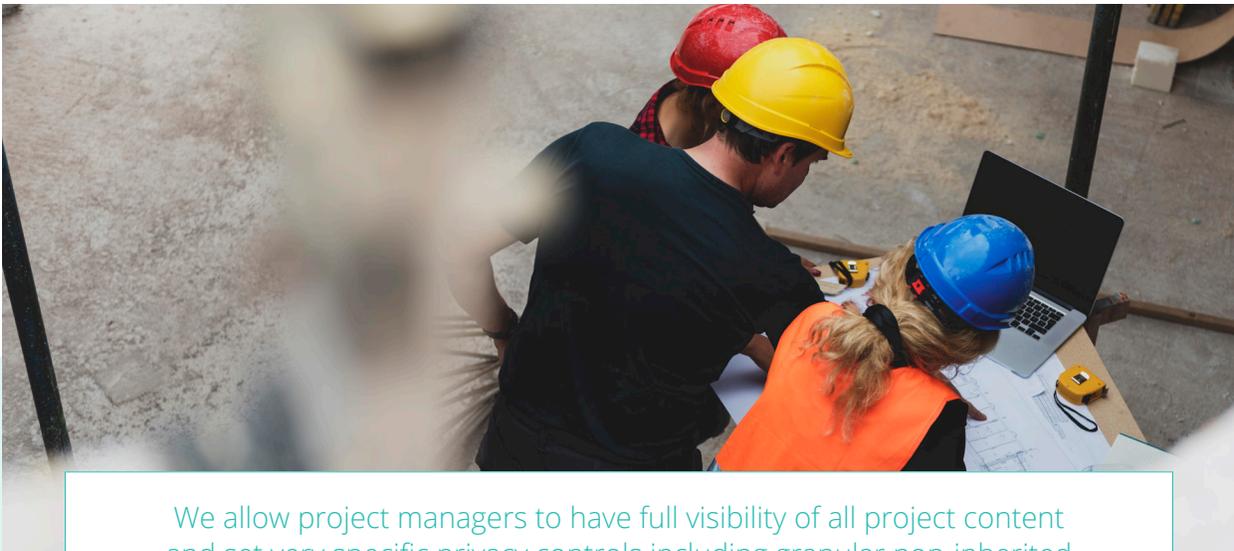
### What kind of collaboration tool can keep data safe and compliant?

Every construction project is based on unique intellectual property – from architects' drawings to processes, costings to quality metrics. It's vital that information is protected, yet made available to relevant workers and trade partners. 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, allowing 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, Egnyte detects potential vulnerabilities proactively by logging access activity. If unusual patterns coming from internal and third-party users are detected, project owners receive an immediate notification. This not only protects customers' IP and your reputation, it helps meet contractual or regulatory requirements.



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.

# From the Office to the Job Site, Alberici Uses Egnyte to **Securely** Keep Teams in **Sync**



Alberici operates 17 regional offices across the United States, Mexico, and Canada. The company typically averages around 100 construction projects across a wide variety of commercial and industrial markets. Document sprawl across multiple site collections and many document libraries would create additional complexity for users and IT administrators alike. Between the added process inefficiencies, the cost of retaining necessary consultants, and the probability of increased risk due to a complex permissions model, Alberici determined the actual costs on the business would be too significant.

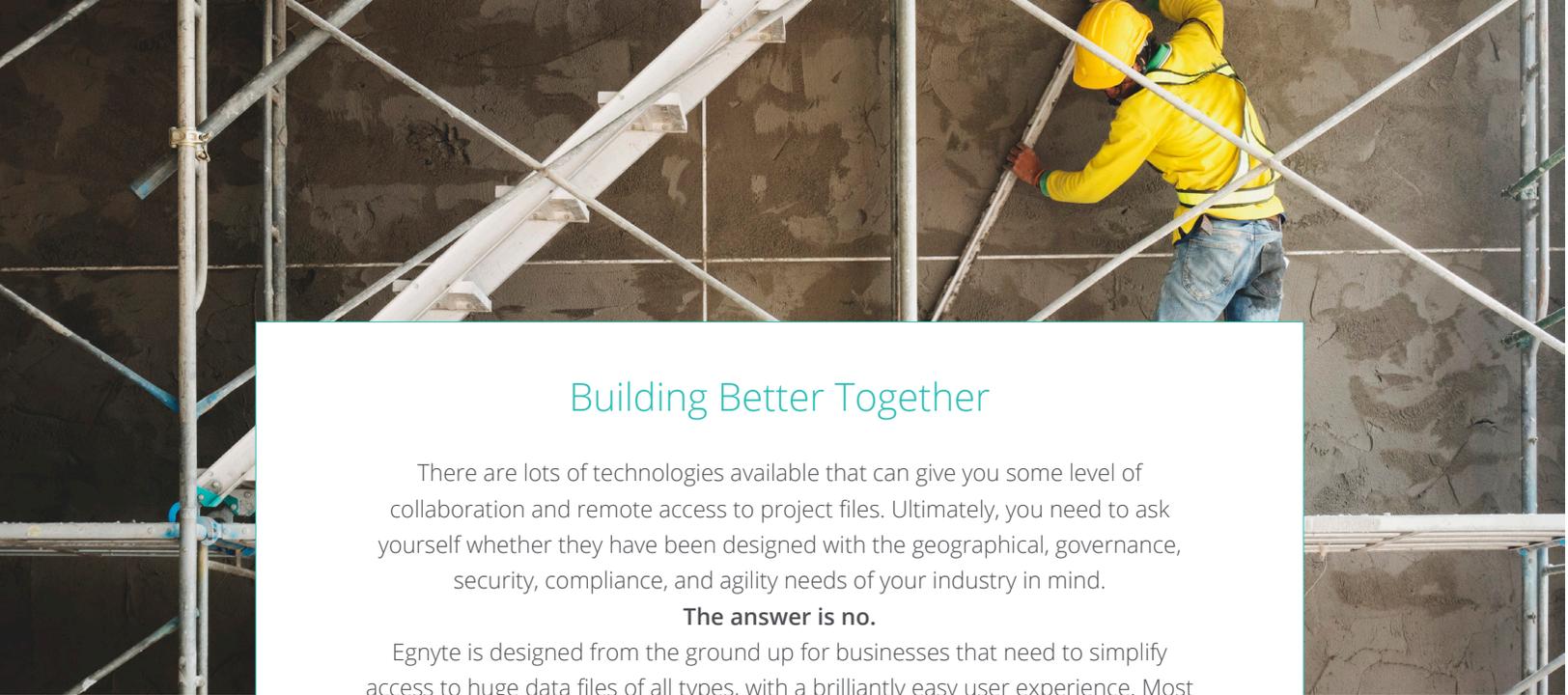
They needed to consolidate into a centralized content platform that would allow them to organize data into a standard folder structure and give the correct individuals access to the data they needed, while excluding those who did not. They also needed to

securely and efficiently sync data to regional offices and project teams in the field with the goal to have one centralized copy of the data.

Since implementing Egnyte, Alberici has not experienced problems or delays in accessing data as they were before. The company has eliminated the costly delays experienced by teams waiting for file changes to sync to project sites. Smart Caching allows Alberici to maintain a lower operating cost at remote locations. With the Egnyte for Procore integration, Alberici provides subcontractors and clients the ability to collaborate on project bids, onsite photos, designs and more, all from within Procore. This provides users the optimal experience to access critical documents for a specific job through a single system and log-in experience, while the remaining Alberici data remains secure and inaccessible.

The architecture and performance of the (Egnyte) Desktop App - that they only have one drive letter to worry about - with all of their data contained within has been amazing for the individuals working at home

- Ron Borrer | Director, IT Infrastructure, Alberici



## Building Better Together

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, governance, security, compliance, 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.



Share and revise important planning documents, work orders, photos, and more instantaneously, whether on the job site or in an office.



Media that is captured and synced on StructionSite will seamlessly sync to an Egnyte storage folder, for data redundancy and archiving



SmartVid automatically pulls all photos and videos together from your folders and sub-folders in Egnyte.



Share and sign contracts and change orders with Egnyte and DocuSign.



With Raken and Egnyte you can automatically sync Raken daily reports, subcontractor reports, and photos to your Egnyte project folder, ensuring compliant and standardized record-keeping.

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](#)



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 governance solution 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, Caulfield & Byers, and Goldman Sachs. **For more information, visit [www.egnyte.com](http://www.egnyte.com)**

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