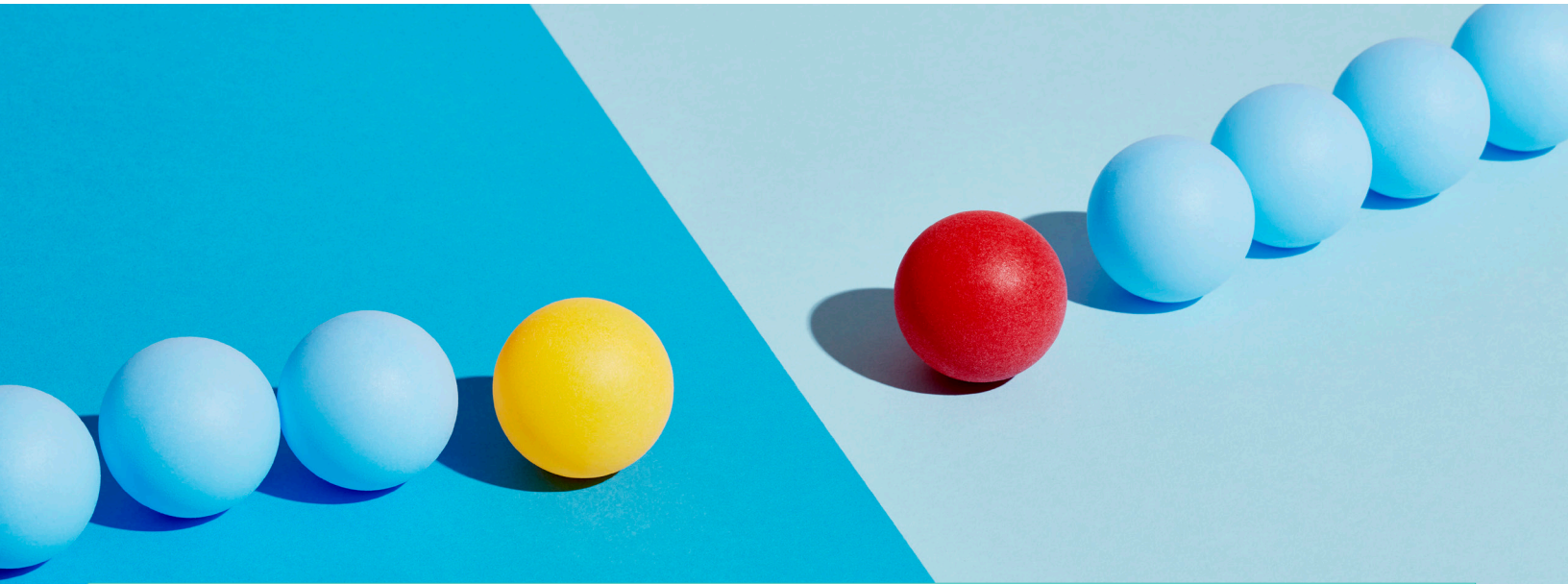




File Sharing for Remote Workers without the Cost and Complexity of VPN

5 Key Challenges and Best Practices





The COVID-19 (coronavirus) is having an impact on business operations for companies all over the world. Whether due to government mandate, or because of safety concerns for their employees, many companies have shut down their workplaces or are implementing flexible working arrangements. This creates challenges for companies that want to maintain business continuity and limit disruption to their standard operations.

With the coronavirus now achieving pandemic status, we are seeing social distancing becoming policy for companies and their employees. Businesses have to prepare for this global situation, and others yet to come, and adapt to new ways of working. While the remote, work-from-anywhere mantra has been associated with the rise of cloud and mobile computing, we are seeing the acceleration of remote work rapidly becoming the new normal.

Adapting to a new way of working

Even small changes to employee routines are difficult to adapt to and shatter productivity. To overcome these disruptions, companies have to quickly implement remote-working policies; but to make these employees successful, they have to be given the same tools and experience they have in their traditional working environment.

Most importantly, they need access to the required sources of data that are at the center of their daily work. That information is stored in files and folders and, if it cannot be accessed and shared, the resulting slowdown

in productivity is a momentum killer and can be a massive detriment to a company's bottom line.

In this rapidly-changing environment, leaders are called upon to balance productivity with the health and well-being of their employees and partners. While the first concern is for the safety of their people, it's also important to maintain some level of normal operations so that people can be productive and companies can still meet their financial and innovation goals.

Doing that demands that IT decision makers consider these challenges and ways to overcome them:

01 | Workers can't access on-premises files

The natural inclination for employees to combat work from home limitations is to initiate their own solutions by relying on email or shadow IT cloud apps, like free file storage services. While the problem-solving initiatives are commendable, these workarounds typically encounter multiple issues with bandwidth, version control, security, and incomplete collaboration (not all teammates included on vital discussions or given access to needed files).

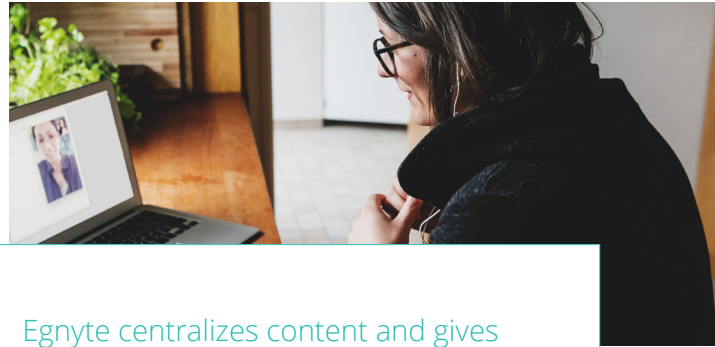
When employing a remote-working strategy, companies need to first ensure secure access to business content, no matter where it lives and irrespective of where it's being accessed. A cloud solution like Egnyte allows content from on-premises servers and other sources to be discovered and shared, which means workers can get to the content they need without being delayed by compatibility issues. A hybrid approach like this discovers and connects to the optimal on-prem device when workers are in the office. When they go home, the Egnyte desktop app intelligently redirects requests to the cloud. Administrators can connect desktop app users to on-prem devices with no end-user involvement.

This hybrid approach is effective for modern organizations who store content in different types of environments. Egnyte centralizes content and gives users a simple user interface to facilitate ease of use and continued productivity.

02 | No structure for sharing and collaboration

While access is the first step in maintaining continuity, for workers to be productive they also have to collaborate with business-critical content. Work becomes derailed when multiple users and access issues create file chaos and security risks. It's difficult to track file versions and histories through emails, especially across multiple collaborators.

In remote environments, file collaboration can be impacted by inconsistent Internet connections, and workers resort to emailing files among team members. This isn't sustainable, as versions of documents are not controlled, security policies are not applied, and large files are dependent on a users' home bandwidth limitations.



Egnyte centralizes content and gives users a simple user interface to facilitate ease of use and continued productivity.

The Egnyte Platform lets users create shared folders that can correspond to a project, department or client, enabling employees, clients, contractors and vendors to securely collaborate from anywhere. While others may be dealing with issues of social distancing, innovative companies can achieve collaborative proximity when they adopt the right mix of policies that are paired with the requisite enabling technology.

03 | Cumbersome VPNs

Setting up, configuring, and managing access for a VPN is a huge drain on resources, and it takes significant time. It also only works when users have a solid connection to the network.

Also, consider that VPNs are rarely designed to support a majority of a company's employees working remotely. When large numbers of people are using a VPN from home offices, performance can be degraded due to the network being overwhelmed with requests. This hinders the ability to download and share files, and sync content among users. Users require instant access to their data on their mobile devices for accessing, storing and collaborating, and VPN is cracking under the pressure. Even IT held desks, usually staffed to deal with on-site issues, can become overwhelmed with requests from huge numbers of employees dealing with VPN connectivity and usage issues.

Egnyte simplifies the issue of connecting securely to company files for employees working from home — all the files that a user needs, even those that reside in widely-used third-party apps — are securely accessible from Egnyte’s cloud service. Employees can create, share, and access files directly through Egnyte; no need to add the player of connecting through a VPN and dealing with inconsistent performance issues. It removes the overhead costs and latency associated with a VPN, and users get a comprehensive cloud storage solution with file sharing and collaboration tools for teams, along with sophisticated administrative controls for management and IT.

Users also benefit from 256-bit AES encryptions over SSL, and encryption at the storage layer, which provides the secure transmission of data. All of this is happening in Egnyte data centers that use 24-hour manned security, biometric access control, video surveillance and physical locks.

04 | Security, management, and performance

If all your employees were told next week to work remotely, companies that rely on file servers would need to be a corresponding effort to scale up hardware capacity and software upgrades, implement antivirus and ransomware protection, network bandwidth, and compliance oversight — and that’s all just to access the regular files and content employees are accustomed to using. File servers simply can’t meet the needs of teams that need to quickly adapt to new, and unstructured working conditions.

Innovative companies can achieve collaborative proximity when they adopt the right mix of policies that are paired with the requisite enabling technology.

Companies require a solution that works in harmony across a company’s digital landscape. Built specifically to meet the data compliance needs of modern industry, but designed for people, Egnyte leads business-grade content collaboration, data compliance, and in the case of rethinking file servers, secure file management and protection.

The Egnyte Platform provides major advantages for companies with remote workers, including:

- **Granular access control and data protection:** file permissions can be granted on a granular basis. Advanced ransomware and anti-virus protection provides threat detection to avert attacks.
- **Reduced administrative overhead:** no more “server management,” Distributed File System Replication (DFS), permission replication challenges, or “aging out” data to remove it from expensive hardware.
- **Better performance and capabilities:** fast, anywhere access, from any desktop or mobile device without losing performance or productivity — all without requiring a VPN.

05 | Mobile access

Employees adapting to disruptive situations have to create their own working environment and won’t likely be tied to a traditional desktop way of working. In these situations, workers rely more on mobile devices to perform tasks and stay connected. To be productive, they also need to be able to access and collaborate with their files and other content on any device.

A requirement for business continuity is maintaining a consistent experience for any way that a user engages with content. The Egnyte mobile app mimics the functionality of the desktop experience by providing the same level of access and capabilities to access and share files.

The mobile experience presents users with a simple interface that allows them to navigate to folders easily and preview content and files in a simple user experience. Users get quick access and share files from any type of mobile device at the same speed and reliability as a desktop experience.

This gives workers the ability to execute file-dependent business tasks on any type of mobile device at the same speed and reliability they get in a desktop experience. The mobile access from Egnyte eliminates the steps required by most enterprise file-sharing services and reduces or eliminates delays that usually come from uploading and synchronization.



Takeaway

The stark reality is disruptions to your business will occur. The difference between weathering those disruptions and floundering during uncertainty is a solid roadmap for continuity to ensure productivity is not curbed. A big part of that roadmap is ensuring that your business-critical content is available from any location your teams have to work.

The Egnyte Content Services Platform fills that critical need in your continuity plan leaving you to focus on the other aspects of keeping your business moving when facing a new normal.

[Request a Demo](#)



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 content services 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**

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