

EBOOK

THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO DIGITAL COLLABORATION FOR CONSTRUCTION





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THE STATE OF COLLABORATION IN CONSTRUCTION

Collaboration between various teams and functional groups is what gets construction jobs completed on time. When firms are held back by inefficient processes, however, this goal is hard to accomplish.

Construction firms sometimes lag behind other industries when it comes to technology adoption, bound by years of tradition and precedent. Businesses that can overcome these forces can benefit from a new infusion of technology based on cloud-based storage and collaboration.

The wave of remote, digitally driven collaboration that occurred during closures related to COVID-19 showed a way forward for the construction space, accelerating a wave of technology adoption that has been ongoing in some form for decades.

The time is right for organizations across the sector to fully commit to digital collaboration and start reaping the benefits.



SYSTEMS INCLUDED IN DIGITAL COLLABORATION FOR CONSTRUCTION

Digital collaboration tools are the hubs around which companies can organize their workflows. They have become so central to construction operations that digital collaboration has recently been upgraded from “primary impact” to “foundational technology” by the JLL State of Construction Tech survey.¹

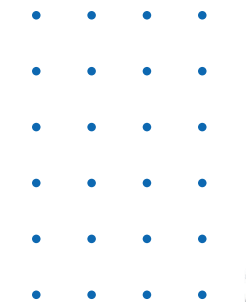
The information shared by cloud-based digital collaboration platforms in the construction sector includes every type of data required to keep a job on track.

THIS ENTAILS:

- ✓ Design review documents
- ✓ Quality assurance and quality control information
- ✓ Building information modeling 3D files
- ✓ Real-time job site logistics data
- ✓ Updated inventory information
- ✓ Requests for information, submittals and change orders
- ✓ Project bid documents

Without digital collaboration tools, this information may be stored in siloed, inconvenient ways and traded via email or as physical documents, raising the threat of inconsistent files and timeline delays. Digitization delivers speed, consistency and visibility.

1. <https://www.us.jll.com/en/trends-and-insights/research/the-state-of-construction-technology>



THE VALUE OF DIGITAL COLLABORATION, PART 1:

THE IMMEDIATE VALUE OF DIGITAL CONSTRUCTION COLLABORATION

The decision to adopt digital collaboration tools doesn't have to be a tough one for organizations in the construction sector because the benefits start to appear shortly after implementation. Rather than having to endure a transitional period, businesses can immediately begin to enjoy advantages.



Upon implementation, the first thing many users and organizational leaders notice is time savings. Quick, effortless collaboration can save organizations up to 10 hours per person per week, delivering greater efficiency and work-life balance.



Firms also cut down on physical clutter. Paper records take up space and are difficult to find on demand. Non-integrated digital solutions lead to redundant copies of information and demand extra time for multiple data entry. Digital collaboration systems avert both sets of issues.



THE VALUE OF DIGITAL COLLABORATION, PART 2:

FUNCTIONAL CHANGES BASED ON DIGITAL COLLABORATION

While time savings and overall content organization can set in quickly, lasting benefits of digital collaboration technology come from the way these systems can change everyday workflows for the better. A centralized source of content, accessible by all personnel who need it, brings functional advantages that would be impossible to realize with disconnected systems or physical documents.



Construction firms gain access and mobility benefits: From the office to the job site, everyone has access to the same figures, diagrams and documents and can update these files, view logs of others’ changes and collaborate with confidence.



Digital platforms also deliver reporting and insights. Reporting features built into dedicated collaboration platforms can deliver actionable insights based on real-time data that help construction personnel plan jobs effectively.



THE VALUE OF DIGITAL COLLABORATION, PART 3:

LONG-TERM ORGANIZATIONAL VALUE

Even beyond the tightening of workflows and the general improvement of practices, there are more advantages to adopting digital collaboration platforms which only become clear over time. These can represent differentiating factors between companies that have made the leap into digitization and those being held back by legacy systems.



Organizations with collaboration systems in place gain confidence, surety and peace of mind. It becomes easier to move forward in perfect alignment, with less waiting or uncertainty, when everyone is collaborating on the same copies of the same documents.



These businesses also gain a potentially overlooked benefit: ease of onboarding. Bringing new personnel onto a consistent digital system and into the company is quick and easy, leading to sustainable success.



THE DIGITAL COLLABORATION TECHNOLOGY IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

A successful implementation process can help ensure that construction organizations' digital collaboration tools start delivering meaningful change. To complete such an implementation, construction firms' IT teams should:

- ✓ **Secure executive buy-in:** When leaders support digital tools, that encourages company-wide adoption and quick uptake.
- ✓ **Train users in useful features:** When users understand how to use the functions relevant to their roles, they can get the most out of the solution.
- ✓ **Measure results and iterate:** Keeping a close eye on how users are working with a system and making changes based on these results allows further optimization.
- ✓ **Collaborate with the platform owner:** Cloud-based software is supported by its providers, who can offer input and assistance.

These best practices can overcome common adoption barriers, such as the perception that new technology delivers greater cost than payoff.



UNIQUE FACTORS AROUND DIGITAL COLLABORATION IN CONSTRUCTION

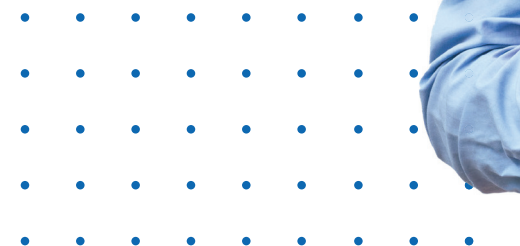
While organizations of all kinds have adopted digital collaboration platforms in recent years, these solutions are not all the same. Each industry comes with its own unique requirements, construction very much included.

UNIQUE FACTORS AROUND CONSTRUCTION

USAGE INCLUDE:

- ✓ The need to **collaborate with third parties** including subcontractors, suppliers and specialists. Digital collaboration platforms for the construction industry should make it easy to share data with parties beyond an organization's own walls.
- ✓ The use of **complex 3D blueprints and CAD files**. With BIM becoming a prominent construction planning tool, collaboration solutions must be compatible with advanced 3D documents.

Finding a collaboration platform built from the ground up to support the construction industry is a valuable way to ensure organizations have the functionality they need to thrive.



THE PRESENT AND FUTURE OF DIGITAL COLLABORATION IN CONSTRUCTION

In the wake of widespread office closures and long-term digital work due to COVID-19, organizations in construction have felt the need for remote communication more acutely than ever in recent years. Amid these unique conditions, digital collaboration is on the rise, and its usage is only poised to increase further.

The long tail of COVID is far from the only factor encouraging digital collaboration use. The solutions are also helping firms cope with **scarcity of labor** by speeding up onboarding and making each team member more efficient. They're also assisting with **supply chain bottlenecks**, helping team members communicate and plan around shortages.

In the future, developments such as **greater mobile connectivity on job sites** and **the ongoing shift to permanent hybrid work** will bring in even more use cases for digital collaboration tools.

To discover the value of digital collaboration, visit [\[INSERT YOUR WEBSITE\]](#)



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