Grow Your Business with Collaboration Tools

Empower your employees to innovate, improve productivity, accelerate engagement, and encourage meaningful contributions.
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Introduction

There are many elements that go into building a business. For example, without strong leadership or accounting, no business can thrive. The same goes for collaboration and teamwork. Getting employees to collaborate is often easier said than done, especially if they work remote.

Yet, technology instills a positive impact on the business world, and collaboration tools are the perfect example. Still, many business owners are in the dark about how beneficial collaboration can be.

Let’s take a look at how online collaboration tools fit into your organization, the benefits you’ll see, and what you can do to get started.
The benefits of business collaboration.
Collaboration has many perks. But these perks are difficult to see if you aren’t looking ... or if you aren’t trying to make an improvement. Of course, they become crystal clear as soon as you start paying attention and make changes.

Here are a few common benefits you’ll see by improving collaboration in your company.

1. **Increased employee engagement.**

   Employee engagement is a huge topic in the business world today. Many companies try to measure engagement levels with surveys, polls, etc. Managers scour the web for employee engagement ideas, activities, quotes, inspiration, and more.

   But does all that stuff work? Maybe to some degree. But more often than not, communication and interaction is all employees need to feel engaged in their work.

   When employees work together, engagement tends to increase, especially when using online collaboration tools. They can share their thoughts and bounce ideas off each other. They can update each other on their progress, and keep an open line of communication.

   Engaged employees work harder, care about what they do, and are happier than those who feel constrained in their job.

2. **Faster solutions.**

   Business is all about solving problems. But coming up with solutions on your own can be difficult ... and it’s common to run into a brick wall during the process.

   Your employees are likely to achieve faster solutions if they work together with collaboration tools. They’ll have have quicker access to available resources. This means people, files, etc. ... whatever is necessary for them to further complete what
they’re working on. For instance, if Mary is stuck on something, Joe is just a click away to help her figure it out and come up with a solution.

3. Greater innovation.

It doesn’t matter how many ideas your team has or how fast they can come up with them ... they’ll be useless if they aren’t great. Great ideas don’t come easy. That’s why it takes teamwork and collaboration to come up with the most ingenious ideas and solutions.

Improved opportunities for innovation is one of the biggest perks of collaboration tools.

4. Informed employees.

When employees work on their own, with no supervision or interaction, there’s a good chance they’ll fall behind. Even worse, they may just give up because they don’t even know what’s going on anymore.

But working with a team that uses collaboration tools requires them to be present at all times. Coworkers in the group will drive and motivate each other, causing everyone to stay updated and aware of what’s going on.
Collaboration tools and your business.
When improving teamwork and collaboration in your organization, there are many routes you can take. Getting involved in your company’s daily operations is a must, but you’ll benefit even more by using collaboration tools.

**Collaboration tools are suite of applications that improve how people work together on a daily basis.**

They’re made up of familiar tools such as calendars, document management systems, chat platforms, task management, wikis, and more. They’re a one-stop-shop for everything you need to do better work.

Here are some of the most common tools that come bundled with a good social collaboration platform.
Document & File Sharing

The ability to share documents and files is important for collaboration to exist.

Most social collaboration platforms feature robust document management systems, ensuring your team can share and access essential files with ease.

In Communifire, files and documents become collaborative with comments, like and follow buttons, and rating controls. Upload and share them with others quickly and easily. Drag-and-drop them from your desktop or use the built-in content browsers. View the upload history of each file, with features to roll-back to previous versions if you need. Set fine-grained permissions on individual folders and choose who can view, upload, edit, and delete them, so things are always organized for you. Preview entire documents in your web browser before downloading by using the advanced file viewer.
Chat & Messaging System

Your team needs to be able to communicate to stay on task and avoid overlooking the important aspects of a project.

Well-designed collaboration software can reduce email and other communication types. Since everything is located in one place, finding conversations is easy.

Communifire Chat is a fully featured, mobile ready, real-time chat application that supports private direct messages as well as group messaging. Strike up conversations directly with individuals and groups. If people are not online, the chat messages will be saved in their inbox for later viewing. If you want to send a file or attachment to other members of a conversation, you can simply drag and drop your files into the chat window. Communifire cuts out the email middle man, and helps your documents arrive more quickly and securely.
Content Creation Platform

Great social collaboration software gives you the tools to publish, share, and collaborate on content. These tools are designed for sharing a wide variety of content and working together to get real results.

With these content creation tools, your company’s knowledge is centralized in one system, everything is organized, and content is social, shareable, and easy to find.

In Communifire, you can build and share collective knowledge and best practices. Collaborate, share ideas, plan projects, create a knowledge base, and much more. Attach files and embed videos and photos. Extend the conversation into the comments to get the whole team on board, providing feedback and insight that enhances the quality of your work. Each time you edit a wiki page, a new version is saved, so you can view the history of the document, compare versions, and rollback if you need to.
Robust Search

Looking for an old document, conversation, or blog post that has seemingly gone missing? Scenarios like this call for a robust internal search feature.

When using tags and other variables, social collaboration software allows you to find what you’re looking for in a quick and efficient manner.

In Communifire, everything is just a click away. The search remembers everything, so you don’t have to. It’s super smart, because it knows what you’re allowed to find and helps you find it, instantly. It automatically indexes all of the content you publish, including wall posts, comments, and the contents of any PDF, Microsoft Office & Open Office documents. Use the extensive filter to target your search by space and location, by content type, and tags. You can even create your own search filters by using managed tags.
**Personal & Group Calendars**

Sometimes the most difficult part of the day is keeping track of meetings and events.

Personal and group calendars are inherent features in social collaboration platforms, and they can make all the difference to stay present and involved.

In Communifire, you can organize your schedule and keep track of meetings and important dates. Share your calendar with everyone or invite specific people to events. Set up custom reminders that let you know where you need to be and when you need to be there. And now you can plan into the future and save time by creating recurring events, so you never miss a date, a birthday, or important gathering. It’s easy to view your calendar information by day, week, and month, giving you many options for scheduling. There’s also a mini-calendar so you can quickly drill into the date you need to get to.
Activity Streams

Whether you work across the room or across the country, it’s important that everyone stays up to date and knows what’s going on within your company.

Activity streams keep you connected with other employees across time and space to make sure you’re aware of new updates from the people you’re working with and the projects that are most important to you.

With Communifire, it’s microblogging and a feed of new content in one place. A real-time stream of all the latest developments, content, and conversations you are connected to. Post status updates to let everyone know what’s up, @Mention people to bring them into the conversation, and add #hashtags to provide context and make things easy to find. With activity streams, you’re always in-the-know, because everyone is aware of what’s going on and what other people are doing.
Introducing Communifire.
Not all social collaboration software is created equal, some options simply don’t compare. When you set out to make a choice, take your time and make sure you’re happy with your decision.

Collaboration is becoming more and more important in the business world, and finding the right fit can be challenging. If your business is lacking in teamwork and collaboration, and you feel like it needs a boost, let Communifire help.

Communifire is one of the most robust and flexible social collaboration platforms on the market. It is excellent for improving productivity and collaboration within your business.

Getting started with Communifire is quick and easy.
Axero is the leading provider of social intranet software for small and medium sized businesses. Our product, Communifire, is a central, instantly searchable hub for your teams, conversations, and documents.

Today, Communifire powers social intranets, collaboration spaces, knowledge management, and internal social networking. Our estimated user base is over two million people. You might have even heard of some of our customers, like Toyota, Hyundai, Bravo, Schneider Electric, TED, About.com, and USA State and local governments.

Replace your outdated, socially challenged intranet software with Communifire, the intranet solution for teams that love intranets. 100% useful. 100% customizable. 100% loved by over 2 million people.

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99% of Communifire customers are still actively using the platform after 5 years.