

Reasons to choose PBworks over SharePoint

PBWORKS

PBworks is better, easier-to-use, and less expensive than SharePoint

PBworks Advantages

1. Cost and manageability
2. Accessibility across boundaries
3. Ease of Use
4. Reliability and scalability

Cost and Manageability

PBworks offers considerable advantages in terms of both cost and manageability.

The true cost of SharePoint is much higher than the out-of-pocket license cost. According to Gartner, "It is important not to be lured into buying SharePoint by the low entry fee. When other factors are considered, such as implementation, services, maintenance, hardware, integration, administration, software dependencies, potential expansions, and backup, it becomes clear that initial cost should only be one factor and definitely not a highly weighted one in the selection process."

One of the main reasons that the total cost of operations (TCO) is high for SharePoint is the need for engineering resources to implement, administer, and maintain the installation. For example, Gartner notes, "MSFT's products still require programming and professional software developers skilled in a number of environments--particularly BizTalk Server and Visual Studio."

In contrast, PBworks offers an all-inclusive service fee and an easy-to-use interface designed for laymen. PBworks takes care of implementing and maintaining the solution, essentially eliminating any need for IT efforts, other than for optional items such as Active Directory integration.

PBworks is able to offer such a low-cost solution because it can amortize its aggressive investment in security, scalability, and operations across the 800,000+ different workspaces it hosts.

Accessibility Across Boundaries

A major advantage of PBworks is that it is easy to extend access across corporate and network boundaries to different offices or even to employees, vendors, and partners in the field.

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You can use PBworks' security system to allow access independent of network configuration or topology. This means you don't have to spend IT resources reconfiguring firewalls or getting authentication systems to speak with each other.

This makes PBworks far better than SharePoint for collaborating across corporate and network boundaries. PBworks is especially helpful for partner and client collaboration—you can work with vendors, partners, and contractors in a way that is nearly impossible with SharePoint.

And when you want additional security, you can use IP whitelisting and blacklisting to add yet another layer to your defenses.

Ease-of-use

PBworks is renowned for its ease-of-use, which makes it the collaboration solution that organizations can roll out without spending heavily on training and consultants. PBworks is so easy to use that it is able to handle support inquiries from its millions of end-users with an average response time of less than two hours per request.

This same ease-of-use makes rollouts fast and easy, even when clients are involved. Chris Ronan, President of leading interactive design firm RD2 reported, "We presented a 30-minute tutorial on PBworks to the client, and they were off to the races and loving it."

Reliability and Scalability

As enterprises adopt collaboration technology as part of their standard business processes, a critical question facing IT is how to achieve enterprise-grade standards. Because of the complexity of the technology and the importance of your business-critical data, your collaboration solution must be just as robust as the rest of the enterprise, if not more.

Thanks to PBworks's ability to focus on and devote massive resources to security, scalability, performance, reliability, and disaster recovery, it can provide a more robust solution than any in-house effort, at a fraction of the price.

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PBworks has a long track record of superior performance, with page load times worldwide averaging less than 1.5 seconds. And by building in redundancy such as multiple Tier-1 backbone providers, PBworks delivers outstanding performance and reliability to its many clients, including 1/2 of the Fortune 500.

PBworks offers a 99.9% service-level agreement for Business Edition customers—the same that Microsoft offers for SharePoint. If for any reason, we fail to maintain 99.9% uptime, we will refund that month's service fees.

Conclusion

As we've seen, PBworks holds a number of major advantages over SharePoint in the areas of cost, accessibility, ease-of-use, and reliability. But its ultimate advantage may be the speed with which you can get started. As Doug Cornelius of law firm Goodwin Proctor told InformationWeek: "We didn't need anyone from IT to do anything. Training and setup took 30 seconds. It's a classic story of enterprise 2.0. We're up and running with PBworks in 30 seconds, and SharePoint is taking a year."