

PCL Construction Reduces IT Costs Despite Doubling Data

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—Mark Bryant | CIO, PCL Construction

Challenge: A digital free-for-all

With original roots reaching back to 1906, PCL is a group of independent construction companies in Canada, Australia, the Caribbean and the United States that carry out diverse operations in the civil infrastructure, heavy industrial, and buildings markets. PCL is 100% employee owned and does roughly \$8.5B in construction volume.

PCL was like most organizations in the early days of cloud adoption; it lacked a standardized strategy for reliably managing documents. Employees used a mixture of cloud-based point products for their individual document-sharing needs, which raised security and continuity concerns throughout the organization. Without a strategy in place, it soon became a digital free-for-all that undermined productivity.

AT A GLANCE

100+ TB
Data migrated

40-50 TB
data archived,
but accessible



Drastic reduction
in storage footprint



“We took a look at how much project data there would be and how spread out users were geographically. We started questioning if we could scale and if we would get the performance we needed out of an on-premises app.” Chris Palmer, Advanced Technology Services Manager at PCL said.

Sharing large files across disparate geography can be very challenging. Approximately 200 PCL projects at any given time were large enough to require a dedicated, on-site file server. This led to document duplication and content sprawl - a nightmare for construction companies that generate a lot of computer-aided design CAD drawings and other large file types. Meanwhile, those projects without dedicated job-site servers were run out of a district office, resulting in the poor performance associated with remotely accessing large files.

The final incentive for change was triggered by an upgrade to its in-house “PM3” construction-management app. The business technology team realized PM3’s existing on-premises architecture would not scale to support its next generation PM4 application and the amount of data generated by such geographically-diverse operations.

It was determined that to move forward, PCL needed to centralize their files and documents around a cloud-based content services platform, with superior mobile and integration capabilities.

The Solution: A comprehensive content strategy

After a proof of concept and validation of technical requirements, PCL selected Egnyte because of its hybrid-cloud architecture for remote sites to get rapid access using an on-premises repository while users elsewhere can use the cloud and IT maintains visibility across all systems.

Key criteria that had Bryant really excited was that Egnyte wasn’t strictly cloud-based. They could have a hybrid solution that allowed them to synchronize files to the cloud. If a construction site loses connectivity to files in a cloud-only system that would be detrimental to the operations of PCL’s business.

Critical integrations were also set up with Salesforce, Microsoft Office, Bluebeam, and PCL’s in-house apps through Egnyte’s open API to help streamline their existing business processes and address continuity requirements.



COMPANY

With original roots reaching back to 1906, PCL is a group of independent construction companies in Canada, Australia, the Caribbean and the United States that carry out diverse operations in the civil infrastructure, heavy industrial, and buildings markets.

LOCATION

Headquarters: Edmonton, Canada
31 major centers worldwide

INDUSTRY

Construction

“
Selecting an enterprise-grade solution for PCL was very critical as we employ 4,500 people and up to 30,000 sub-trades at any given time, so ensuring we had the best solution that could be scalable, easily accessed, and extensible was critically important for the construction operations of our business.
”

—Chris Palmer | Advanced Technology Services Manager

Egnyte was the only solution that allowed PCL to consolidate all of its existing content services technologies together but also enable productivity and efficiency gains.

The Results: Double the data, not the cost

Three years into its Egnyte deployment, PCL is seeing great results. Egnyte has been deployed to everyone in the company, its in-house applications continue to be developed, and users have successfully migrated away from unauthorized products for file sharing.

“PCL’s data has doubled in the last two years. With Egnyte, we’ve been able to eliminate the labor required in provisioning new storage while reducing our capital spend in this area, saving PCL time and money.” said Palmer.

Not only is Egnyte saving users a ton of time, more importantly it’s actually changing the way they operate and do business in the field. An architect or engineer can make changes to a drawing and it gets changed in Egnyte and they can access that on the field outside the trailer immediately on their device.

Field workers are saving significant time by accessing the most up-to-date files at project sites via electronic plan rooms and mobile devices that eliminate steps to and from the jobsite trailer for manual changes. Employees can now access and upload the most recent file version from anywhere, regardless of file size or device. The mobile app eliminates the need for paper documents to be stored in trailers and now digital documents are always in sync, even with intermittent internet access.

BENEFITS

- Enterprise-grade hybrid solution
- Seamless, integrated user experience with integrations to the systems they use
- Efficient content access from anywhere, to the latest data, regardless of Wi-Fi availability

INTEGRATIONS

- Salesforce
- Microsoft Office
- Bluebeam
- MxHero
- In-house products

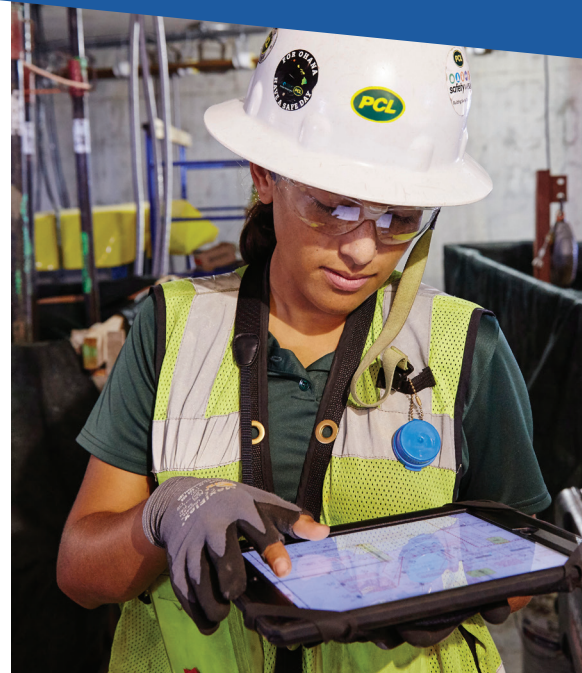
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Larger PCL sites that require their own file servers are now able to be set up and operational in minutes. They are synced in the cloud, making files accessible remotely and shareable, eliminating file duplication issues. According to Palmer, the mobility and access to the data from anywhere on any device has been flawless.

Thanks to Egnyte, despite seeing its data doubling in the last few years, PCL has been able to reduce IT costs.

In 2019, PCL's CIO, Mark Bryant was named the *Information Technology Association of Canada (ITAC) Canadian CIO of the Year*.



EGNYTE

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