EGNYTE + C.W. Driver
BUILDERS SINCE 1919

This 100-Year-Old Construction Company Found a File-Management Solution for the Next 100 Years—with Egnyte and Autodesk

> The combination of migrating our project data to Egnyte, and then integrating Egnyte with our Autodesk environment, improved our operations so much that our executive team took notice. That success gave us the credibility to propose other ambitious IT projects.
>
> **— Blaine Crawford** | Director of IT, C.W. Driver Cos.

One of the longest-operating construction companies in California—now more than 102 years old—C.W. Driver Companies has helped bring thousands of construction projects to fruition across the state.

The company is responsible for several of California's iconic structures, including the Warner Bros. Theatre, Temple Baptist Church, and the renovated Sony Pictures Studio Lot & Office.

Year after year, developers and property owners seek out the experts at C.W. Driver Cos. for the construction or renovation of K-12 schools, higher education buildings, entertainment studios, shopping centers, hotels and casinos, civic and cultural centers, creative office space, senior living and residential facilities.

AT A GLANCE

8 straight years without having to increase IT budget

all 20 on-premises servers eliminated after move to the cloud

The Challenge:

Data silos and on-premises servers created challenges with storage and document control, as well as a growing backlog of projects

With its client roster growing each year, along with the number of projects the company had in precon or under construction, C.W. Driver Cos. took an organic approach to building its IT infrastructure—adding storage capacity and file-sharing tools as needed.

But Blaine Crawford, the company's director of IT, explains that over time this approach led to a technical-debt problem. When he joined the company, Crawford's top priority was to migrate C.W. Driver Cos.' data and IT operations to the cloud. File management, he points out, was creating three major challenges. The first was storage.

"Construction companies generate an enormous amount of paperwork on projects," he says. "We were using Windows File Servers to maintain our project data, and we paid for a large, costly SAN."

Complicating matters further explains Crawford, C.W. Driver Cos. was experiencing an exponential rate of data growth each year—a common challenge for businesses in the AEC industry. Whereas that new high-capacity SAN might have represented a three- to five-year investment for another company, Crawford notes, "In less than two years, our SAN was already running out of space. That was far too expensive a solution to repurchase every couple of years."

The second drawback of C.W. Driver Cos.' organic approach to file management was that it had led to shadow IT. "We had data silos everywhere," says Crawford. "Our employees were creating Box and Dropbox accounts on their own, which made it difficult to make sure we were backing everything up." And as Crawford adds, this data sprawl also created workflow problems for the company.

"Because people used different apps for their files, we couldn't be sure everyone was working with the most recent information," Crawford says. "Say we had a superintendent in

COMPANY
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LOCATION
Pasadena, California

INDUSTRY
Construction

the field looking for drawings. If the engineers in the office had updated those drawings but saved the file to a different app or folder, the field team might grab an outdated version."

The third challenge, says Crawford, involved the business and contractual-requirement risks of missing documentation that construction companies are required to archive on every project. "If there's ever a legal issue with a project, or if we're audited, we need to produce every project-related document," he says. "With our files distributed across different apps and accounts, we couldn't be sure we were meeting those requirements."

> "We wanted a cloud solution that could give our teams one trusted place to store and share their files, sync data between the office and field, and make it easy to scale up as our data-storage needs increased.
>
> — **Blaine Crawford** | Director of IT, C.W. Driver Cos.

The Solution:

A cloud platform for collaboration, data syncing, and archiving—made even better with an Autodesk integration

After investigating cloud-based file management solutions, Crawford found that Egnyte checked all the key boxes for his company.

Egnyte offered a user-friendly interface for file collaboration from any device. It also provided the familiar Windows-mapped-drive format the company's employees had become comfortable using. And it allowed C.W. Driver Cos. to retire its on-premises data-storage infrastructure and outsource it all to the cloud.

"As enthusiastic as we were about Egnyte, we wanted to migrate slowly," explains Crawford. "We started with the marketing department as our test group. They had a lot of large files and wanted to make sure they were all synced across their department's six California locations."

EGNYTE PROVIDES

- **Advanced revision control**
  Integrating Egnyte with Autodesk, C.W. Driver Cos. ensures its teams always have the most recent document versions. Because they can access files from mobile devices, superintendents can easily pull up drawings and RFIs in the field.

- **Improved field access = faster decision making**
  Because they can access files from mobile devices, superintendents can easily pull up drawings and RFIs in the field. in the field.

- **IT cost control**
  After replacing on-premises storage with Egnyte's easy-to-scale cloud solution, the IT team hasn't had to raise its data storage budget for eight years.

"That test worked extremely well," he says. "Using Egnyte, our marketing team managed to keep their data fully synced across all six offices for more than a year. And at about that time, our new SAN began nearing its capacity limits. It was clearly time to roll out Egnyte companywide."

Eventually, Crawford's team retired all 20 of its on-premises servers, moved out of their colocation data centers, and migrated all C.W. Driver Cos.' project data onto the Egnyte platform. "When everyone had gotten familiar with Egnyte, they were thrilled to have this new, user-friendly cloud file server and collaboration tool," he says.

There was still one workflow challenge, however. Unless the teams consistently placed the newest versions of their files into the project's Egnyte folder—specifically the documents created using their Autodesk tools to plan, design, and build their projects—their project coworkers could find themselves making decisions based on out-of-date documentation.
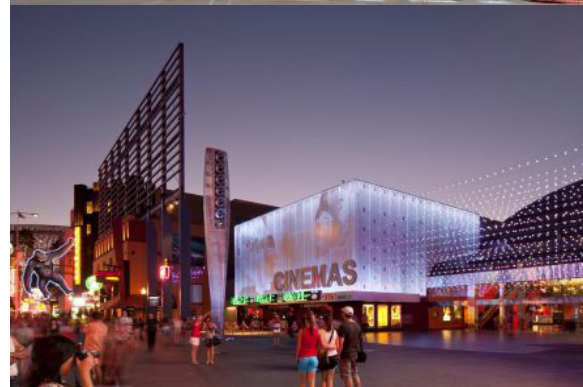
Integrating Egnyte with Autodesk Construction Cloud Connect solved this challenge as well, ensuring data was synced regardless of who was working on it.

> The Egnyte-Autodesk integration has been a huge win for our project teams both in the office and out on project sites. Now that everyone is working from a single, centrally located master file, they know they always have the most current information. It's made everyone's lives so much easier.

Results:

Improved workflows, mobility, contractual adherence, and long-term cost savings

By centralizing all project data in a cloud platform that its employees can access from anywhere, using any device, Egnyte has helped C.W. Driver Cos. improve its business operations in many ways, including:

Improved workflows

Because users can access files in Egnyte folders from any internet-enabled device—including tablets and smartphones—C.W. Driver Cos.' superintendents and other employees can now easily review the latest drawings, CCDs, and other project documents from the field. This accelerates their work and reduces the need for questions and answers between the office and the project site.

Increased data accuracy (with the Autodesk integration)

By integrating Egnyte with their Autodesk Construction Cloud Connect environment, C.W. Driver Cos. has created a single source of truth for Autodesk project documents—such as drawings and RFIs—in each project's official Egnyte master folder. Both the engineers in the office and the team in the field now know they're always viewing the most up-to-date documentation.

Greater content controls

C.W. Driver Cos. has used the Egnyte platform to create public and private folders—and the Autodesk integration allowed them to set rules that automatically send specific types of files to the correct folder. This helps ensure employees can easily share files with their project colleagues—and that they cannot accidentally share proprietary information externally.

Manageable IT costs

Rather than having to purchase and administer additional servers and other storage infrastructure regularly, C.W. Driver Cos. can now quickly scale up the capacity of its cloud storage environment—and at predictable, manageable rates. In fact, Crawford notes, thanks in large part to Egnyte, the team has been able to make continued investments in its technology without having to increase its IT budget for eight straight years.

Enhanced closeout and handoff workflows

Because the company is now storing, saving, and updating all project-related documents in a central project folder on the Egnyte platform, the team is assured that no critical document is missed during the closeout phase, which also ensures the company captures the most up-to-date information at the time of handoff to the owner. C.W. Driver Cos. can also ensure that this content follows a prescribed retention policy to fulfill its contractual warranty obligations in case a defect was to surface.

Freed-up IT resources

Because Egnyte proved so easy to administer, it helped to significantly reduce the time and effort C.W. Driver Cos.' IT team needed to spend on file-management issues. By removing those burdens, Crawford points out, his team was able to focus on more strategic projects. "Once we had Egnyte in place, we finally had the peace of mind knowing we could spend our energy on forward-looking initiatives to benefit the company, instead of document management."

Enhanced mobility

When C.W. Driver Cos. implemented Egnyte as a central cloud platform for its projects' master folders, the field superintendents benefited from being able to access up-to-date project files from their mobile devices. The IT team then increased employee mobility further by replacing office desktops with laptops, enabling even office-based employees to work on their project folders from anywhere using Egnyte.

But the company did not truly learn how much deploying Egnyte had improved their mobility until the COVID-19 lockdowns forced their entire organization to transition to remote work overnight.

"My boss called to tell me we had to shut down all offices literally the next day," recalls Crawford. "Then he asked me what we needed to do to get everyone set up to keep working on their projects from home. I thought for a minute about Egnyte, Autodesk, our company-issued laptops... and I said, 'Nothing.' We're ready."

> C.W Driver Cos. celebrated our 100th anniversary in 2019. With solutions like Egnyte and Autodesk Construction Cloud Connect, we're building an IT environment that'll keep us running efficiently and productively for the next 100 years.

EGNYTE

More than 17,000 businesses worldwide—including thousands of financial-services firms—rely on Egnyte to safeguard their most valuable and sensitive information, while fueling their essential business processes.

With Egnyte's unified data management and governance platform, IT teams can easily manage a full spectrum of content risks—including accidental data deletion, data exfiltration, privacy compliance, and more—while giving users the tools they need to work faster and smarter, from any cloud, using any device, anywhere.

PC Magazine has listed Egnyte's unified data management solution as an Editors' Choice, and the tech review site G2 has designated Egnyte the #1 Software Solution for Governance and Collaboration.