

The advantages of cloud-based collaboration with the example of Secure Data Space

The Evolution of Cloud Storage

The cloud's ongoing triumph has changed the entire IT landscape: the digital cloud often means not just being used as a mere online storage or the outsourcing of IT capacity and know-how to the cloud storage provider. Rather, it offers companies in all branches new opportunities for cooperation and business processes.

Enterprise File Sync and Share (EFSS), the innovative approach to optimizing data exchange and collaboration in the enterprise environment, has made a major contribution to this. "In many cases, EFSS solutions such as Secure Data Space even open up access to previously untapped markets and new customer segments", said Thomas Haberl, Partner and Business Development at SSP Europe. The German specialist for cloud services and IT security shows important criteria for elaborate EFSS solutions and examples of how companies can improve their work processes and business models.

Collaboration with EFSS

The Heilbronner voice, a 500-strong medium-sized media company with a daily newspaper and web TV offer, provides the advertising service via the EFSS "Hast-Box" media documentation. The employees should always have access to the latest documentation on all their devices in order to be able to advise customers individually and optimally. Further usage scenario via the Outlook Add In of Data Space is the relief of the e-mail system by the convenient, fast and secure provision of large files as a simple downloadlink within the mail. The management plans to use the system as a so-called advisory board for the secure document exchange. In the controlling area, this is to use data between friendly publishers for benchmarking. In the future, the plan foresees that, for example, external editors will also make their research results, articles and video recordings available to the editorial staff in a timely manner with SDS.

The DGUV, the leading association of professional trade cooperatives and the public accident insurance institutions, has also been able to shorten its communications channels with SecureDataSpace and significantly expand its cooperation. The association represents statutory accident insurance against policy, federal, state, European and international institutions as well as social partners. In order to efficiently manage this wide range of activities, the DGUV has, through the Data Space collaboration, especially involved external partners in ongoing projects. The big advantage of the cloud storage solution is the easy handling with file id and upload in both directions. The fast and resource-saving administration of the system is essential in addition to the high functionality.

For SSP Europe, the challenges for successful cloud collaboration lie specifically in the following aspects:

1. Decentralized user role concept: To meet the requirements for multi-level user and data management rights management, a modern EFSS solution requires an intelligent user role model that maps the individual hierarchical levels with their different access rights. This allows you to determine the rights that the respective users have in the individual data rooms. The DataSpace Admin as the highest authority in the IT department plays the central role and has always the authority over the system. Beside him, there are further data room

admins (subadmin rolls) so that the individual departments such as marketing, sales, accounting etc. can manage themselves. Only in this way is it possible for the individual corporate divisions to autonomously manage their authorization rules and design them according to their specific needs.

2. Employees and their mobile devices: Since the employees often use several mobile devices such as smartphones or tablets, these must also be captured, secured and networked, best simply and without complex VPN connections. Without precise regulation, which users are allowed to process which type of data, security gaps often occur due to improper handling of information access, forwarding or storage. For enterprises, a dedicated user-role concept has the advantage that data does not land in inadequately secured services, either intentionally or unintentionally.

3. Secure Private Room Function: Another important feature of a convincing EFSS solution is a so-called Secure Private Room Function. This is the setting up of closed data spaces for individual users or even groups. The advantage of such a "private space" lies in the fact that unauthorized users are not allowed access. Even the DataSpace Admin does not have access to it even though it retains the parent control. This even represents a clear added value against Windows file servers, where you can access the Domain Admins through the backdoor.

4. Security high three and server location: Whether mobile devices, notebooks or fixed-line computers, no matter whether national or international framework - who exchanges documents with external business partners via EFSS should transmit all data only encrypted. This applies to the transmission process (channel encryption) as well as to storage in the cloud (server-side encryption) or on the end-users of the user (local encryption). Thanks to these advanced encryption technologies, data is completely protected without complicating or slowing down collaboration. Important is, in particular, the client-side encryption, which is designated and recommended by Edward Snowden as Zero Knowledge Technology and which is only offered by a few Cloud-stores. In addition to secure data encryption, the location at which the data is kept is also extremely important. Data centers in Germany, which are still certified according to the ISO / IEC standard 27001, are recommended here.

5. Revision-safe logging: For the purpose of protection, the central data space admin should at all times be in control of all processes at the higher level. For this reason, the audit-proof logging of all activities is urgently recommended. A protocol shows, for example, who has performed which actions or operations at a given time in which order. These entries must be valid, comply with data protection regulations, and must be managed or stored in compliance with the highest security standards.

6. Branding: Some vendors offer complete co-branding (URL, website and APPs) to customers and OEM partners. The big advantage is that the application fits into the entire corporate design of the company and does not act as a distracting foreign product to the outside. Headquarters, for example, is able to offer its subsidiaries a collaborative solution that is functionally broad, but which carries the CI of the regional society.

Conclusion

With the Cloud, innovative companies have the chance for exciting times with numerous lucrative opportunities. Collaborations become flexible and simple as never before. With appropriate security precautions and employees sensitized to the subject, participation in the "cloud transformation" is safe for every company.

The original article can be found at <http://www.cloudcomputing-insider.de/die-evolution-des-cloud-speichers-a-471404/>