

Solution Brief

The Old Way: Email, FTP and Overnight Shipping Services

Across industries, a trend toward increased collaboration and co-development with partners and customers has fueled the need for more secure and simpler ways to share information within and between organizations.

Organizations are testing and deploying collaborative services to overcome the security risks and mounting costs associated with the traditional methods of sharing information. In particular, these organizations are trying to:

- Reduce or eliminate email as a method for transferring sensitive files;
- Avoid the use of FTP and other complex transfer methods which can increase data exposure risk; and
- Eliminate the use of costly express/overnight document delivery services.

The New Way: Secure Content Collaboration With Xythos

The Xythos platform was built from the ground up to help organizations capture, store, manage and share documents securely over corporate intranets and the Internet. It is specifically designed to help employees securely share information with users, inside and outside of their organization, without forcing users to learn new ways of collaborating.

Xythos helps to address today's information security requirements by:

Eliminating File Attachments and Ensuring Safe File Sharing

Xythos eliminates problems and risks created by email file attachments by replacing attachments with secure file links (URLs) which can be password protected and safely exchanged with users outside an organization via SSL connections. As a result, there is no need to send out multiple copies of a file and create increased risks of exposure. In addition, every user is always viewing the most recent version of a file, reducing confusion while maintaining a complete process history. Finally, Xythos supports firewall integrity by exchanging data through existing Internet gateways and ports eliminating unnecessary exposure.

“Xythos makes it possible to securely access and share files from anywhere.”

Sandy Schaeffer

*Director of the Advanced Learning Center
at the FedEx Technology Institute
University of Memphis*

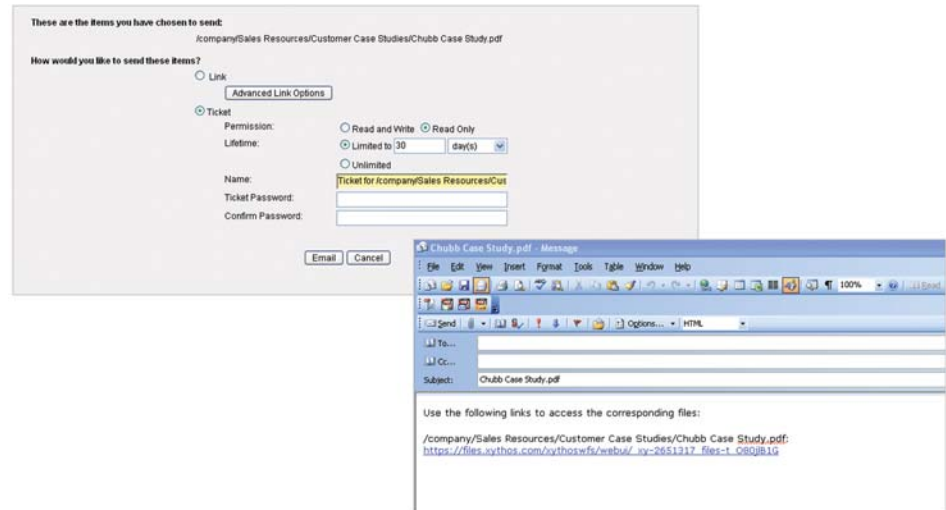


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“Xythos provides a scalable file store for users that uses HTTP protocols, eliminating the hole in the firewall created by FTP.”

- Network Computing

In the example below, Outlook is automatically launched as the default email client. Other email clients can be launched in the same fashion.



Leveraging Existing Standards of Authentication

The Xythos platform is designed to leverage existing standards for system authentication and authorization, including LDAP and Active Directory. This provides an easy and secure way to manage user and group access rights and allows organizations to perform a search against the LDAP server in order to authenticate users. Xythos can also be integrated with other authentication systems, including Kerberos and CAS, or to implement single sign-on.

Xythos was designed to leverage an organization's best practices for security policy. As a result, integration of Xythos into an organization's current applications and infrastructure becomes much simpler.

Flexibly Securing File Storage

One of the most common sources of unintended data exposure is shared drives and folders; end users often do not recognize the risks they create when they give access to these internal resources. Some IT organizations respond to this threat by banning the use of shared drives beyond the LAN, but this often encourages users to employ other content exchange methods such as exchanging thumb drives. Flexible access controls which allow users to create temporary sharing permissions can help address this risk and in particular help reduce DOS attacks on shared drives by limiting access to “read only” status. Inheritable directory permissions also help minimize data exposure when employees forget to create their own access control rules.

Providing Ad Hoc Workspaces

With Xythos, employees can easily create ad-hoc workspaces and extend it to external collaborators to view and edit any files within the project folder. Employees can also send secure links to files or folders in Xythos — and have them password protected — without having to ask for IT support.

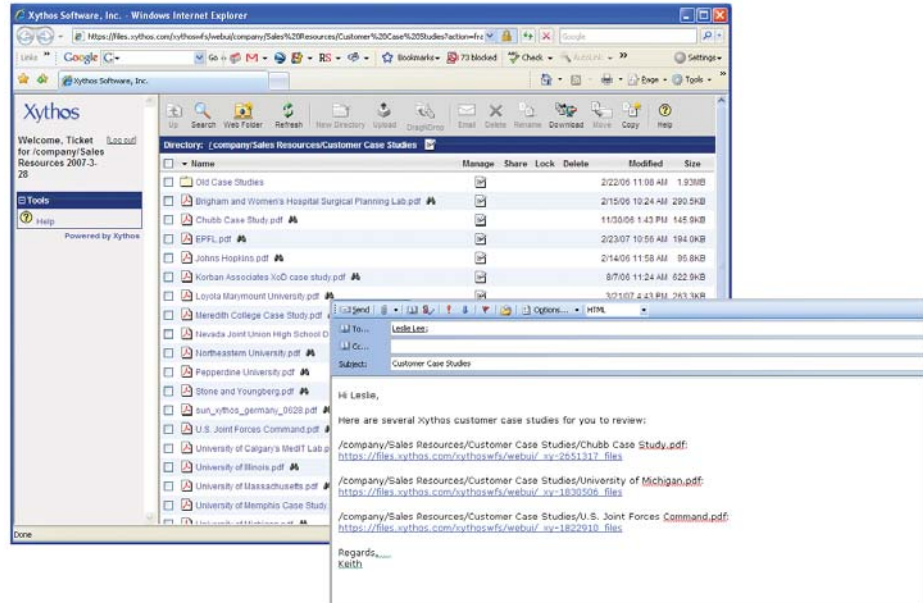


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“If your enterprise is still e-mailing documents back and forth, Xythos has a better way.”

Network Computing

In the example below, a user receives an email with a “Ticket” link in the body of the message. The user simply clicks on the link to enter the project workspace. Instead of sending multi-megabyte file attachments, messages are kept to the minimum size.



Customer Example

A large Electronic Design Automation company previously used email file attachments and file transfer protocol (FTP) to exchange files, such as CAD drawings, design data and software code. The problem was that neither email nor FTP provided a secure means to transfer files that could support detailed auditing. Their customers, however, were demanding an easy and secure method for transferring their large design files.

As the IT team searched for a solution, they discovered Xythos and found that Xythos satisfied all of the company's requirements. With Xythos, employees could securely send password protected folder and file links to partners and clients outside of the company's firewall.

Xythos also provided collaboration features that helped the company's engineering, legal and marketing departments be more productive in a variety of tasks related to preparing content for their customers. Finally, Xythos provided the detailed auditing and reporting of all files and folders that the organization needed to adhere to specific compliance requirements.

For more information please call 1.888.4XYTHOS or visit www.xythos.com

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