



The Advantages of a ready-to-go Intranet

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Why choose a ready-to-go intranet?

Regardless of the size, amount of employees or field of work, almost any business experiences an increase in productivity and efficiency with a well implemented Intranet system. The question is often: “where to start?”

When thinking of implementing an Intranet system or replacing a current system, companies often start with an immense list of functional requirements and complex ideas of what the system should be capable of. Nine out of ten times, a customized Intranet solution would be needed to meet all the needs.

What people often don't realize is that nowadays, a much cheaper and quicker alternative is available: Ready-To-Go Intranet. This type of solution offers the same functionality for communication and collaboration and will accomplish more than it seems to at first glance.





“ Ready-to-go intranets were quite limited in the past

Don't get me wrong: Ready-To-Go Intranet has been around for a while. However, the difference between “then and now” is that these solutions were quite limited in the past. Most of them had a clear purpose which was either communication or content management, but not both. Modern Intranet systems adequately address both areas – and more.

Some of the standard functionality available in today's off the shelf Intranet solutions:

- » Internal and external file sharing and document sharing
- » Collaborating on documents and spreadsheets
- » Knowledge sharing
- » Communicating across project teams and even company-wide

Admittedly, some companies will still benefit more from a highly customized solution. That said, here are the advantages of a Ready-To-Go Intranet so you can find out if this is something for you.

1) It's cheaper

Solutions like this are typically much cheaper than the high-end customized Intranet solutions. For a relatively low cost, you can deploy a very efficient and effective platform for collaboration and communication.

Although intangible for the most part, the return on investment will show in terms of productivity of employees.

2) It requires minimal internal resources

This type of Intranet is straightforward to implement and doesn't require your internal IT staff to study the ins and outs of the software. It's deployed with a standard set of functionality with an emphasis on user friendliness. This eliminates the need to develop and implement custom functionality to the solution.

3) It boosts project management

One of the biggest advantages is the instant availability of user friendly project management tools. End users typically use various systems and applications to manage their projects; this will not be needed anymore.

The only thing they need to do is create a project team on Intranet and work with the ready-made project management solution. The tool provides everything from communication channels to progress tracking.

4) It increases user adoption

Problems with usability and user friendliness are among the main reasons user adoptions typically fail. A Ready-To-Go Intranet is not just built without keeping the end user in mind. It's built upon user feedback from a wide spectrum of users, maximizing the user satisfaction and with it the chance of a high user adoption.

Especially if user adoption caused problems in the past while trying to implement an intranet solution, this might just be the alternative you need. That said, even a standard solution like this will require an active approach to user adoption.

5) It's customizable later on

Even though the Intranet solution is Ready-To-Go, that does not mean it's impossible to customize it later.

As your company and user base grows, new requirements and needs may arise in the future. If this happens, it's always possible to build custom functionality on top of the existing Intranet solution. This ensures that you still have the flexibility to make changes if the need would arise.



“ Less costs and resources, more user adoption and customization

Conclusion

Ready-To-Go Intranet solutions have some clear advantages compared to customized versions. They have proven to increase productivity, user satisfaction and efficiency. However, if there's no way around creating complex functionality to support your existing business processes and workflows, a customized solution might still be the better alternative.

It all depends on your requirements and needs for an Intranet system. Having said that, I am convinced that a Ready-To-Go Intranet is one of the best ways to start for companies without any specific custom requirements.

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