

Tangible savings

- reductions in expenses relating to printing, reproduction, distribution (including post and couriers – internal and external), storage/archiving, management and retrieval of drawings, documents, photographs, forms, etc
- reductions in travel and meeting costs
- reductions in telephone costs
- less time spent searching for or chasing already-existing information, or working on out-of-date information
- faster drawing revision cycles

Intangible savings

Time

- faster mobilisation of initial team members; subsequent new joiners can get 'up to speed' more quickly
- greater flexibility (anyone with computer and internet access can use the system; no need for specialist hardware or software)
- earlier/more timely involvement in key decisions (concept, planning, surveying, design, specification, fabrication, construction, installation, maintenance, repair, replacement, etc)
- faster communications (supplier-specific decisions communicated more quickly and completely; reduced time spent processing requests for information, etc)
- more information is shared immediately electronically instead of being converted to paper and being scanned or re-keyed
- more convenient information sharing – employee mobility no longer an obstacle
- fewer drawing revisions
- fewer unnecessary project delays; faster problem-solving
- faster compilation of project hand-over information (eg: Health and Safety File, O&M manual)
- earlier completion dates due to time savings in transferring key information (resulting in lower on-site costs and earlier revenues to owner/developers through use, rental, lease, etc of the facility).
- faster evaluation and resolution of claims

Cost

- fewer claims for incorrect or out-of-date information (audit trail encourages accountability and adherence to programme)
- less re-working
- less reliance on paper (expensive to generate, distribute, store and retrieve)
- fewer disputes and litigation

Quality

- fewer mistakes
- avoidance of doubt through 'a single version of the truth': all data is stored on one system for all authorised project members to see, with their statuses constantly tracked; core information (eg: project team contact details, etc) immediately available to all
- fewer data compatibility issues (eg: no need to have CAD software)
- less 'information overload,' most notably through reduced reliance on email

- better collaboration: more open, cross-discipline discussion of issues (users can review, discuss, mark-up, and ask and answer questions about each others contributions), leading to...
- improved understanding and better management of project and processes (better design, less duplication and re-work) and better problem-solving
- greater transparency (for example, reporting tools can be used to summarise outstanding actions to be resolved at project team meetings)
- better auditability (audit trails detail who did what and when)
- increased scope for creativity and innovation (online collaboration may stimulate new ideas)
- better implementation of and adherence to corporate standards
- improved monitoring of individual professionals and companies' performance
- greater re-use of information within a project (less 're-inventing the wheel')
- as-built data and associated product information becomes part of knowledge base for future projects (or repeat aspects of the same project) and part of operation and maintenance and health and safety systems
- more re-use of standard information across a series of projects – information is not dispersed along with the team members after project hand-over
- more resilient, reliable, robust and secure data management infrastructure (if following 'on-demand' or 'Software-as-a-Service' approach)



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