

Professional services firms have an ever-increasing need for productive communication and collaboration, secure data access and effective knowledge management systems.

But a comprehensive, on-premises corporate intranet is often beyond the reach of small- to mid-size firms due to the time and cost of design, customization, implementation and support.

Fortunately, today's ready-to-go intranet solutions offer an alternative that minimizes time, cost, complexity and risk.

While some ready-to-go intranet solutions were available in the past, firms often found them too generic and inflexible to meet their requirements for communication and document sharing. These platforms typically focused on communications or document management, but failed to provide adequate solutions across both areas.

In the absence of a traditional corporate intranet, organizations would use a jumble of various tools and solutions. Some of these tools are offered and sanctioned by the company, while others are "shadow IT" — tools introduced by users desperate for an alternative.

For example, an employee on the business development team might sign up for a Dropbox account to

share files with clients. Company-wide communications are typically limited to email blasts, while forms and workflows usually rely on standard Office productivity tools — downloading files in Word or Excel formats, completing the documents and then submitting them via email.

5 Signs A Ready-To-Go Intranet Is Right For Your Firm

On the whole, an out-of-the-box intranet solution is ideal for many professional services firms. Here are five signs your firm could benefit from such a platform:

1 YOU NEED A LOW-COST SOLUTION FOR KNOWLEDGE SHARING:

Effective knowledge sharing is a key driver for professional services firms. In this respect, an intranet's communication and collaboration capabilities make a big impact on your firm's productivity and effectiveness. A low-cost, ready-to-go alternative helps magnify and accelerate the returns on productivity.

2 YOU NEED TO QUICKLY DEPLOY AND MANAGE PROJECT SITES:

Project-based businesses need the right tools to effectively manage projects and clients. If the process of deploying and managing project



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WithumSmith+Brown, PC (“Withum”) empowers clients with innovative tools and solutions to address their accounting, tax and digital workplace advisory needs. Our highly responsive team of professionals offers deep industry expertise and service experience to help our clients grow and thrive. Founded in 1974, Withum ranks in the top 30 largest public accounting and consulting firms in the country with offices in Bethesda, MD; New Jersey (including its Princeton headquarters); New York City, NY; Orlando and West Palm Beach, FL; Philadelphia, PA; Boston, MA; Aspen, CO; and Cayman Island.

sites is cumbersome and time-consuming, employees soon develop workarounds or abandon the sites altogether. A ready-to-go intranet offers pre-configured project sites that are deployable with one click, helping to boost adoption while eliminating the workarounds and external tools.

3 YOUR INTERNAL IT STAFF IS SPREAD TOO THIN:

At many firms, limited IT resources mean employees have to use tools with basic functionality and little or no emphasis on user experience. A ready-to-go intranet solution helps you meet or exceed user expectations without having to add staff or request large budgets for design and custom development.

4 YOU’VE STRUGGLED TO IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE INTRANET SOLUTION IN THE PAST:

When professional services firms take the plunge with a full-blown intranet, they typically allocate the budget to licensing, infrastructure and customization, with few resources set aside for ongoing support and making improvements.

5 LOW ADOPTION OF CURRENT SOLUTION:

When firms try to cut corners on user experience design, usability suffers, leading to low adoption rates. A ready-to-go intranet based on user experience best practices is a cost-effective way to bolster adoption and user satisfaction.

With that said, a ready-to-go intranet solution isn’t for everyone. For example, if you require a great deal of customization or have very specific branding and design requirements, a custom solution would be a better option. Similarly, if you’re working with complex workflows, custom authentication and integration with home-grown systems, the ready-to-go route may not be ideal.

But if you’re like most professional services firms, a ready-to-go intranet could be the “80 percent solution” that you need. It’s a great way to achieve faster, more cost-effective deployments, improve user satisfaction and minimize the burden on your IT staff.

Want to learn more about how a ready-to-go corporate intranet could help your firm become more efficient and productive? [Schedule a demo of Portal Solutions’ new OneWindow Workplace social intranet.](#)