



Cloud Collaboration for the Diaspora

A paper by HyperOffice

How can diaspora communities benefit from modern cloud collaboration and social technologies?

Diaspora communities around the world are held together by the deep bonds of shared roots, common values and overlapping interests. They have every reason to get together in shared communities to meet, network, share and endeavor for common causes.

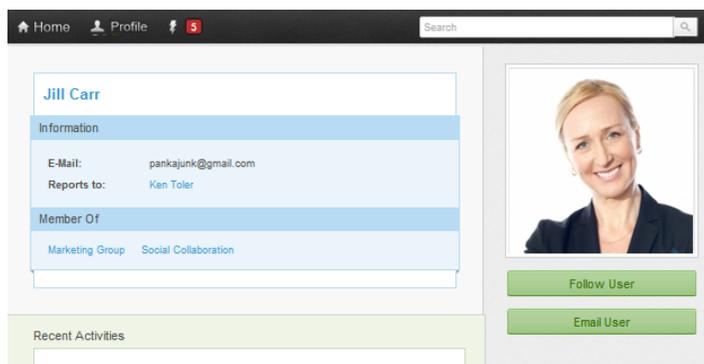
Social collaboration tools offer diaspora communities - by their very nature distributed across the world – an unprecedented opportunity to connect and collaborate

Advances in internet technology and modern social collaboration tools offer diaspora communities - by their very nature distributed across the world – an unprecedented opportunity to connect and collaborate. This document briefly lays out the various ways in which online collaboration can bring value to diaspora communities.

Networking and community

There are scores of social networks for the general public. However, diaspora communities need a dedicated network free from the noise and clutter of a public social network, where they can find, interact and work together with fellow community members. Social collaboration allows them to create their own thriving community that members can access from anywhere on the planet. This includes:

- ✓ **Social profiles** that allow everyone to have a presence in the network, display their skills, interests, and find and connect with their peers.
- ✓ **Social conversations** that allow everyone to have open group conversations
- ✓ Tools like **“tagging”** and **“following”** that allow everyone to keep track of peers of interest
- ✓ **Sub groups around specific topics** and special areas of interest that can be created within the main community on the fly



Rich communication

Community members can communicate in multiple ways:

- ✓ Social messages and email allow everyone to talk on their own schedule
- ✓ Instant messaging for an instant exchange of ideas
- ✓ Video and web conferencing on the fly allow members to have involved discussions on a one-on-one or close group basis, set up a seminar, or conduct a talk, a debate or a training.
- ✓ People outside the community on public networks like Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn can easily be included in these conversations within clicks.



Social collaboration addresses every stage of a conversation. Start slow with a text based conversation thread. Jump into a video/web conferencing session when the conversation gets more involved.

Collaboration and Sharing

Members of the diaspora can freely store and share information of sensitive nature in online libraries and even work together on proposals, manifestos, and project documents.

Coordination

Social collaboration includes tools to allow community members to work closely on joint projects and coordinate effort:

- ✓ Task tools like task assignments, deadlines and reminders allow diaspora groups to exactly and transparently lay out responsibilities
- ✓ Calendars and meeting coordination tools allow everyone to coordinate schedules, lay out timelines and have meetings on the fly

Mobile Freedom

The true power of online social communities allow members to keep connected no matter where they are in the world on any device, whether a PC, a Mac, an iPhone, an iPad, an Android, a Blackberry or even a basic phone. This is ideal for diaspora communities which live in different countries at different levels of technological development.



Security

Diaspora communities often deal with communications and information of a sensitive nature. Social collaboration offers a highly private and secure environment. Members can freely interact and share information within the community and rest assured that it is protected from the outside world. Community managers have access to advanced permission tools, where they can set different member levels even within the community.



Community Management

Even while the community thrives and everyone interacts freely, community moderators can keep complete control and oversight over who joins the community, who gets access to what information and can also pitch in and guide conversations so that they remain on topic.

Simplicity

Finally, all community tools are presented in beautiful, seamless and pleasing experiences such that people spontaneously take to and wholeheartedly participate in the community.

Unlike public social networks like Facebook and Twitter, a social collaboration environment brings more robust capabilities for the needs of closely knit diaspora communities

Check HyperOffice's Social Collaboration Solutions