Your Mobile Majesty of File and Print

opentext™

Introduction

We know this article's cover title is a little bold, but we are truly founding royalty in the world of file and print. And there are some very good reasons why we deserve to keep the crown.

First, and very importantly, we've been doing this a long time. For thirty years, in fact, we have been working in file and print solutions. In all that time, files and printed documents haven't changed much, so while the devices we use are different (and much smaller), the fundamentals remain the same. Though a few other file and print competitors have been around for years, many more are barely out of diapers. Our experience gives us an edge.

Perhaps because they're so young, many file and print vendors tackle only pieces of the file and print area. We believe real solutions cover all an organization's needs, and this will become even more important in the increasingly mobile workplace. That's why our file and print solutions work in both mobile and desktop environments. Think anyone out there can challenge the throne? Let's look at the two solutions and show just how far the competition still has to go.

Filr

The Consumer Cloud Competitors

Consumer cloud solutions like Dropbox say they invented file synching and sharing, but we and the other enterprise software companies that created file servers would disagree. These consumer cloud solutions suffer serious drawbacks.

The first and most obvious difference is the way these competitors rely on the cloud. Much has been written about cloud security, or lack thereof, and past issues of Open Horizons Magazine have discussed the benefits of OpenText™ Filr in this area. In a sentence: with Filr, your files stay on premise where you control the security.

Another downside to consumer solutions is the file size limits they impose. Most limit files to 2 GB. This is fine for the average consumer, but for large video files or enterprise data, 2 GB doesn't cut it. Filr has no such limits.

Because these consumer solutions are created by smaller companies, they don't always support everything you'd like. Some don't have iPhone apps, others don't have Android apps. Filr has them all.

Finally, none of these offers user authentication. Yes, users would prefer not to log in, and that's fine for when they're at home working with their

Figure 1. It doesn't have to be either/or. With our solutions, users and IT can both get what they want.

personal data. The office is different. Many companies will tell you that security gets in the way of user convenience, and if you annoy your users, they'll take matters into their own hands. We don't believe you have to choose between the two. You can enforce security and authentication while offering convenient, anywhere file access and sharing.

The Enterprise File Syncing Options

This is a much more varied bag of competitors. Syncplicity, Skydrive Pro and Chatterbox could all fall into this category. Some are consumer solutions dressed up in business suits, like Box, while others come from large enterprise software corporations like Citrix. Still, many of them use the cloud. We don't need to go over the reasons this can be an issue.

The next failing of many solutions in this group is that they give you a big empty box to put things in. It's up to you to move your data. For an organization of any decent size, migrating all that data (and making sure it's the right data to migrate) is a huge job—likely equivalent to many employees working for weeks, if not months. With Filr, you're integrating with the home directories, network folders and personal data your users already use—right where it already exists. No moving or populating required.
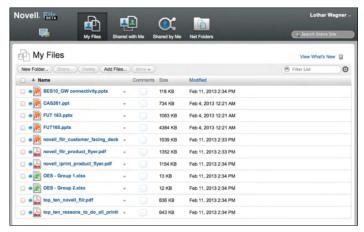

Figure 2. On sign-in, Filr shows you all your files, ready and waiting. IT didn't have to move them there, and neither did you.

Other competitors offer hybrid cloud and on-premise solutions. You get to use your own data center infrastructure—too bad you need to put files in a special volume or section of your file structure to push those files to mobile devices. That means added management, and do you put the original or a copy in the new repository? Where do you tell users to look for it? And how do you reconcile the version control issues that inevitably result from multiple copies of the same data in different places?

And finally, we come to other on-premise, enterprise-focused file sharing providers. Even among the likes of Varonis, NetApp and AppSense, Filr stands alone. No other vendor can match the ability of Filr to not only let users share files, but collaborate on them. How often have you (or your users) shared a file with someone using a file sharing service, and then had to send a separate email to explain what the recipient was supposed to do with it? With Filr, you can add comments on shared files and keep the collaboration in a single tool. Filr also uniquely offers full-text search that leverages each user's access rights and permissions.

So far, the mobile majesty of file and print is looking pretty secure.

iPrint

Existing enterprise printing solutions, like those from Microsoft and others, can do a lot of what OpenText™ iPrint can do, but not all of it. First, many manage only one platform, operating system, or only desktops and not mobile. iPrint can do it all.

Many enterprise solutions also require an administrator to install a printer. Employees can email the same document to every person in their address book without an admin. Why do they need an admin to get access to a printer? iPrint offers self-service printing. Any employee that wants to print can find a printer and install it or connect to it without help.
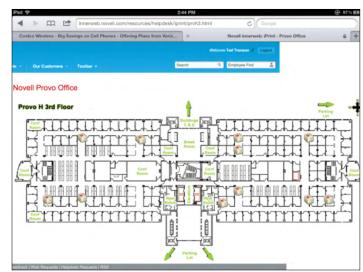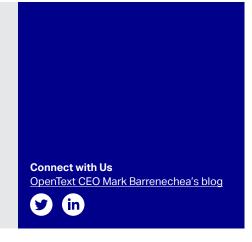

Figure 3. Users can pick and install their own printers without help from IT

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The Mobile Print Solutions

Sending corporate data to the cloud creates compliance and security issues: you know that. Are there other reasons not to use the mobile print solutions available today? Well, like many of the consumer file solutions, mobile print solutions are often the creations of small, young companies. They don't have the resources to offer support for multiple platforms or printers, and certainly can't offer enterprise-class maintenance and consulting.
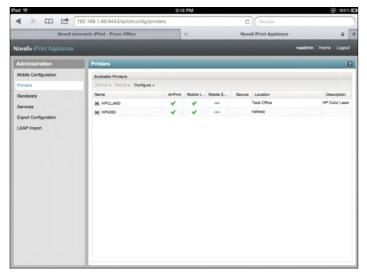

Figure 4. The iPrint management page, showing two printers ready for either AirPrint or other mobile printing.

Many of these solutions also require new printers (like AirPrint-capable printers). This creates the same problem as the hardware requirements of the enterprise-class solutions.

Even if one of these mobile print solutions were to meet all your needs, what it won't do is manage your desktop printing. That means your IT team needs to use two different dashboards for print management. They may even need to reconfigure your existing print environment. iPrint manages everything in one place, and you can install it without modifying your existing print configurations.

Finally, while buying an AirPrint-capable printer might allow one department to go mobile with their printing, that strategy doesn't scale easily or inexpensively for an entire organization, and neither do most of the mobile print solutions available. iPrint scales to handle any number of desktops, laptops or mobile devices, and even different office locations around the world.

After looking at all these different solutions, it appears that a truly mobile, enterprise-class solution for file and print really is a majestic thing. We are happy to be the file and print royalty offering that solution. With Filr and iPrint you can offer file synching, sharing and printing to employees on the go while maintaining your current high standards for security and accountability.

All hail the mobile majesty of file and print.

Learn more at
www.microfocus.com/opentext