

Freedom of the Share

As computer technologies continue to advance, so does the ability for hundreds of users, world-wide, to interact and collaborate online on the same projects in real time. When I use the phrase, “in real time,” I am referring to the idea that changes made to any code, music, image, file, folder, system, is realized and actualized instantly for any and all users that are also interacting with the project (code, music, image, file, folder, or system). These forms of sharing or exchanging of files has been available before, but not readily available to the general public. Today, a small business can create a simple excel documents and share it with all of their employees to share the schedule, contact information, and any announcements that are made regularly. Specifically, I am referring to Google Drive and Google Docs.

Google Docs is a free, online, and downloadable application that offers four different types of document editors: Docs, Sheets, Slides, and Forms. Docs being your general type of word processor much like Microsoft’s Word application. Sheets is the equivalent of MS Excel, Slides is much like MS Power Point, and Forms which can be used to “collect and organize information big & small.” Google Docs became available to most users late 2007, and has developed into a popular form of storage and sharing of files, documents, and programs. Google Drive, which is where your Docs are stored, allows for any file type to be stored.

The sharing aspect of Google Docs is what attracts me so much to it. Google Drive allows you to share with any person, no matter their email address or location or device. The story of the small business using Google Docs to keep the schedule, contact information, and announcements is a true story that I live week that I need to find out what days I am working or need to find information to contact my fellow coworkers. All employees, regardless of email, are allowed to access this document, and make changes to the document while any other user is on the document. The changes are saved automatically, almost immediately after you have completing entering any data to the form. For example, user one logs on to the document and is submitting a request for a specific day off. While that is occurring, user two logs on and see’s the changes happening in real time. User two has the availability to interfere with what user one is doing and make things difficult for that user. All changes are recorded in a history tab, so if one user makes a change (for the better) and another user removes that change (for the worse), that action is recorded so that fault can be placed to the right user.

I have Google Drive downloaded on all my machines. This creates a folder that I can save any and all files to, and after every change to that folder is made, it automatically syncs to the Google Drive server, and syncs to all machines that are logged into my Google Drive account.

Some link action:

<http://www.google.com/docs/about/>