# = Hightail =

Hightail ? formerly YouSendIt ? is a cloud service that lets users send , receive , digitally sign and synchronize files . YouSendIt.com and YouSendIt Inc. were founded in 2004 ; the company renamed itself Hightail in 2013 .

The company 's early focus was on helping users send files that were too large for email ; it started adding features and plug @-@ ins for businesses in 2007 . The service grew quickly , and the firm raised $ 49 million in funding between 2005 and 2010 . The service can now be used via the web , a desktop client , mobile devices , or from within business applications with a Hightail plugin .

In May 2015 , the company launched Hightail Spaces , designed to encourage creative professionals from conception of an idea to delivery .

## = = History = =

Hightail was founded as YouSendIt Inc. in 2004 by three cofounders : Ranjith Kumaram , Amir Shaikh and Khalid Shaikh . In its early years , Amir pursued advertising revenues , Jimmy Vienneau managed business development , Francis Wu created the graphic design including the logo , while Kumaran focused on the user experience and Khalid did technical work . By May 2004 , the company had 300 @,@ 000 users and was growing 30 percent each month . That September , Cambrian Ventures invested $ 250 @,@ 000 . At first , YouSendIt was mainly used to send large files , such as photos or audio files , which were too large for the file @-@ size limits set by email providers at the time .

$ 5 million in funding was raised in August 2005 . Afterwards there was a falling out between the founders . Within a few years , Khalid and Amir Shaikh left the company , while Kumaran stayed in a product management and marketing role . In 2011 , Shaikh plead guilty to making denial of service ( DoS ) attacks on the website for the YouSendIt service between December 2008 to June 2009 .

Ivan Koon took over as CEO and YouSendIt continued to raise a total of $ 49 million . YouSendIt grew as file recipients saw how the service works , reaching 100 @,@ 000 paying users and 8 @.@ 5 million registered users by March 2009 . In January 2011 , YouSendIt Inc. acquired a developer of Microsoft Outlook add @-@ ons , Attassa , and an iPhone app developer , Zosh .

In May 2012 , a former AOL and Yahoo ! executive , Brad Garlinghouse , was appointed as CEO . He refocused the company on file sharing and remote document access , placing it in competition with Dropbox Inc. and Box Inc . Hightail began advertising against competitors Dropbox and Box with slogans like " Your files should be neither Dropped nor Boxed " .

In January 2013 , YouSendIt acquired Found Software , a company that develops the Found for Mac application that searches for files on Macintosh computers and connected networks . In July of that year YouSendIt announced its rebranding as Hightail , to represent its move beyond file sharing and into file collaboration services . New mobile apps for iOS and Windows devices were also introduced , as well as an unlimited storage option .

In September 2013 , Hightail acquired adeptCloud , a security @-@ focused file @-@ sharing service for hosting files inside a corporate firewall . In November , Hightail raised $ 34 million in additional funding . Brad Garlinghouse resigned as CEO in September 2014 , allegedly due to disagreements with the board of directors . He was replaced by co @-@ founder Ranjith Kumaran .

## = = Products and services = =

Users of the Hightail service upload a file to Hightail 's servers and recipients are provided with a link where the file can be downloaded . Users can also manage files in an online folder system , or create desktop folders that access online storage .

In addition to Hightail.com , the service can be used from desktop applications for Windows and Mac , or from mobile apps for iOS and Android devices . There are also plugins for business applications , such as Microsoft Outlook and Yahoo ! Mail , that allow users to send files from within the application . Documents can be signed digitally with Hightail using a mouse or touch @-@

screen . The service has a pay @-@ per @-@ use security feature and files sent through Hightail are encrypted during transit and while stored on individual devices or servers .

The consumer version is sold on a freemium basis , while a business product is sold as YouSendIt for Business , which was originally released as Workstream . YouSendIt for Business integrates with Active Directory and Microsoft Sharepoint . The business version has additional features for corporate use , such as remote data wipes on mobile devices , service level agreements and controls for compliance requirements , such as HIPAA and PCI .

As of 2013 , the company has more than 40 million registered users , in about 200 countries . Most use its free service for 2 GB of storage , while a half @-@ million pay for unlimited storage and additional features .

= = = Software versions = = =

YouSendIt was initially known as a way for individuals to share personal files and images on YouSendIt.com. In 2007 , a Corporate Suite was released that had management and reporting features for business users . The following year , a tool for embedding YouSendIt into third @-@ party websites , called SiteDrop , was introduced .

Throughout 2008 , YouSendIt added plugins that allowed files to be sent through YouSendIt from within applications like Final Cut Pro , Microsoft Outlook , and Adobe Acrobat . In May of that year , a new release of Yahoo ! Mail included YouSendIt built @-@ in , which added a million YouSendIt users over the following two months . In July , YouSendIt 's online folder management system and digital signing features were introduced in order to compete with Dropbox . The following month , YouSendIt added applications for Mac and PC desktops , as well as iOS and Android devices .

In March 2012 , YouSendIt released a separate product intended for business users called Workstream , which was later renamed to YouSendIt for Business .

= = Reception = =

PC Magazine gave the service a 4 / 5 rating . The reviewer , Jeffrey Wilson , found its app easy to use and noted its digital signing and cloud storage features . Wilson reported problems when trying to use the digital signing feature with the phone held vertically and experienced occasional crashes . TopTenReviews gave the service a 9 @.@ 5 out of 10 . TopTenReviews praised the product for unlimited downloads and accessibility from a desktop , laptop or other mobile device . In benchmark tests , the service took seven minutes to upload a 30 MB file , compared to an industry average of six minutes .

According to a review in Small Business Trends , " Probably one of the most powerful features is the ability to sign digital documents . " A review in About.com said the service was easy @-@ to @-@ use and noted its features for password protection , file @-@ tracking and interface branding , but also pointed out that users cannot copy themselves on files sent through the Hightail Outlook application . A reviewer at MacLife liked its synchronization and collaboration tools , but had some complaints about a " clunky " user interface .

For the " for Business " product , PC Advisor stated that Dropbox , had better customization , while YouSendIt had the advantage of integration with Sharepoint and Active Directory for corporate environments . Enterprise Strategy Group ( ESG ) conducted a comparative review of vendors in the file sharing and collaboration market in 2012 . It gave an average score from an end @-@ user 's perspective and a slightly below @-@ average score from an administrator 's perspective . ESG noted that the pricing model was expensive on a per @-@ user basis , but its lack of caps or surcharges made it more affordable for heavy users . ESG testers found it easy and secure , but noted it lacked the auditing and workflow features of some competitors .