



## **CipherShare**

Rapidly Enabling Secure Project-Team  
Collaboration

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## Table of Contents

<b>Table of Contents .....</b>	<b>2</b>
1.    Rapidly Enabling Secure Project Collaboration.....	3
2.    Regulatory Pressure to Secure Privacy and Confidentiality.....	3
3.    The Challenge – Securing Project Collaboration .....	4
4.    What is CipherShare? .....	4
5.    CipherShare Engineering Case Study.....	5
5.1    The Company .....	5
5.2    The Need .....	5
5.3    The Solution – CipherShare.....	5
6.    About Proven Security Solutions .....	6

## 1. Rapidly Enabling Secure Project Collaboration

Civil, structural, mechanical and electrical engineering design and project implementation are extremely demanding, highly skilled and highly exacting endeavors. Projects generally demand an integrated team of specialists, working efficiently together to achieve highly structured objectives.

This kind of collaboration demands flexibility, rigor and security. *Flexibility* because projects - often requiring differing participants and expertise – must engage, collaborate and disband quickly. *Rigor* because the process and outputs for each project must be controllable, accountable and auditable. *Security* since many projects – especially those undertaken on behalf of government or defense - will involve sensitive or confidential information.

## 2. Regulatory Pressure to Secure Privacy and Confidentiality

In response to growing concern over issues of privacy and electronic data security, a number of regulatory statutes in both the U.S. and Canada have been enacted. These include PIPEDA in Canada, the GLBA in the U.S. and the Data Protection Directive in Europe.

Canadian and U.S. legislation provide a broad data management mandate to organizations engaging in commercial and/or financial activities requiring personal information. Confidential data must be secured, regardless of where it resides and organizations of all types are being held to higher standards. Organizations failing to implement proper security, privacy and retention practices put their reputation, their customers' trust, and ultimately their entire business, at risk.

Organizations can no longer be passive players in managing this information, but must demonstrate that they have engaged in developing, documenting, implementing and monitoring measures which enable a high degree of data privacy, integrity and accuracy. This is a much broader data management mandate than has ever been previously legislated. It clearly requires a far more proactive role by senior management in driving good data management and security practices throughout the enterprise.

In effect, the emerging regulatory environment is demanding that organizations adopt a far more holistic approach to data management and security, an approach Kasten Chase refers to as 'data-centric security.'

### 3. The Challenge – Securing Project Collaboration

Electronically mediated collaboration raises two significant challenges for engineering firms:

- 1) The need to facilitate efficient, flexible and structured collaboration; and,
- 2) The need to secure such collaboration

These issues are exacerbated by the following challenges:

- Engineering project teams may be distributed around the world;
- Engineering project team members may be very mobile, carrying much of the data with them on laptops or other mobile devices;
- Engineering project team members may work for different organizations in different countries, with different networks, firewall configurations and security policies;
- Engineering project teams may include 3<sup>rd</sup> parties that should only be privy to a very limited sub-set of the available information;
- Engineering project teams need to be flexible and adaptable to changing priorities and mandates.

This need to securely bind a distributed group of collaborative participants together would represent a substantial challenge to meet using conventional software. CipherShare was designed from the ground up, to meet this challenge.

### 4. What is CipherShare?

CipherShare is a *rapidly enabled* business application that offers engineering companies the ability to provide a *completely secure* communication and document/file collaboration channel for internal, external and client communications. It is an out-of-the-box solution that can be installed and deployed in hours with virtually no impact on a company's or clients' IT infrastructure. It does not compete with but rather complements and strengthens both a company's - and a company's clients' - existing security measures (e.g., firewalls, extranets and virtual private networks).

Providing state-of-the-art encryption and security within an easy-to-use, mature, commercial grade, and robust technology platform, CipherShare ensures that all documents, files, messaging and communication between a pharmaceutical and biotechnology team and the client are always securely stored and transmitted. CipherShare makes it safe and simple for an organization to share information, and communicate and collaborate. Access to information is 'granular' or limited to only specific personnel. Administrators have no access whatsoever to material unless stipulated by the author.

CipherShare provides a broad range of sophisticated collaborative services such as versioning, check-in/check-out, notes, tasks, scheduling and secured messaging.

Providing support for all document, file and data types, it is a true global and roaming secure workspace that allows anytime and anywhere access to all relevant material – all that is required is a standard TCP-IP connection. In view of the complete collaboration solution that CipherShare provides, a company does not need to purchase separate collaborative software.

## 5. CipherShare Engineering Case Study

The following is a case study of the way in which one of our customers has exploited CipherShare's flexible framework to meet their specific needs.

### 5.1 The Company

An international manufacturer of scientific instruments with:

- Multi-national locations;
- A wide range of third party partnerships;
- Internationally distributed research and product development teams;
- Multiple research and development groups and projects established on an 'as-needed' basis;
- A high degree of sensitivity to intellectual property protection including manufacturing methods and patents.

### 5.2 The Need

- Highly secure (encrypted) storage of all digital content both on and off-line.
- Support broad range of R& D projects.
- Allow for 'roaming' access to secured content.
- Bring together employees and third parties in highly controlled, secure, collaborative environment.
- Requires easily deployed, accessed and managed solution.
- Must support multiple international encryption regulations.
- Must be easily extended to include new projects, partners, and employees.
- Must integrate into existing IT infrastructure.

### 5.3 The Solution – CipherShare

- Internally hosted.
- Deployed in less than a week
- Completely self-administered work-team creation and maintenance.
- Full use of collaboration features including: version control, tasks, scheduling, threaded discussions, secure messaging.
- Versioning and modification auditing.

- Real-time notification and synchronization of all content.
- Full control over access rights by author.
- Ready access from anywhere though standard Internet connections.
- Industry standard component technologies - Windows client/server, TCP/IP.
- Very cost-effective.

## 6. About Proven Security Solutions

Proven Security Solutions is a software development and consulting company specializing in highly secure and completely transparent applications of encryption and key management.

Proven Security's mission is simple - making state-of-the-art cryptographic security an invisible component of high value software applications.

For more information on, please visit [www.provensecuritysolutions.com](http://www.provensecuritysolutions.com) or e-mail us at [info@provensecuritysolutions.com](mailto:info@provensecuritysolutions.com).