

Successful collaboration ... Local or Global... Independent of Time or Place...

Efficient teamwork requires transparent flawless communication, control for all involved ones, simple and constant availability of relevant information. Documents, appointment, opinions and messages should be available and easy retrievable. cowork fulfils this and more...

cowork is completely Web-based. Any normal web browser allows you to access your information and data stored in cowork.

cowork users are independent – doesn't care if you are in your office, at home or on the way, doesn't care which hardware environment you are working with, cowork is platform-independent and can handle all file formats. The data is stored central on the server. The exchange of data and information can optionally be encrypted for transport over the internet

Features:

cowork is versatile, high performance collaboration server. No matter how large or small your workgroup is or the amount of data you want to store, cowork convinces:

- collaboration of workgroups via Internet, Intranet or Extranet
- A central document repository with version control and archiving
- Supports all file formats. Automatic notification over new events and changes by email
- A simple to administer multi-threaded discussion forums
- High performance indexing and full-text search tools.
- Index and search your information based on Metadata
- History of all activities over all your workspaces
- Flexible and scalable authorization and administration of data and users

Collaboration for workgroups:

Collaboration of workgroups via Internet, Intranet or Extranet. Create and share workspaces you're your coworkers, invite other project members in your project workspace. To work, share and store information and data on cowork you only need a PC with web browser. Cowork is platform independent whether you work on a PC or a MAC, irrespective of the operating system you use, the data is stored on the server, so that you can co-operate completely platform independent with your coworkers.

Document Management:

cowork provides a central document management with version-control, locking and archiving mechanism. cowork support of all file formats on all platforms.. Now you don't have to bother with sending, receiving and controlling of files and documents via emails. Open and edit your documents directly from the server. If you decide to work longer on a document you can lock it on the server. Other members can view it but they can't change it. You need not to inquire if a team member has read a document or not. cowork informs you and your coworkers of all events in the system like, someone read a document, a new document was created, an existing document was modified. cowork pursues each action and marking the document with easy to interpret icons as "created", "changed", "read", "shifted", etc. with indications such as by whom and when the event took place. For a more precise pursuit of the development in documents an extensive version administration is available. Finished projects or workspace can be compressed and archived very simply.

Event Notification:

cowork automatically notifies the user of all changes by email. After logon cowork presents the users with icons indicating changes made since last visit, with information as to who and when a document was changed. A user doesn't has to logon to cowork to be informed of the changes, cowork can be

configured on per user basis if it should send a notification email on a regular interval informing the user of changes made in the system.

Discussion Forums:

In the Discussion Forum coworkers can discuss ideas, solve problems and share their thoughts. Contributions are threaded for easier overview. A feedback function in the Discussion Forum enables you to see who has read the contribution and when. You can edit your own contributions, archive and print out contributions, and even attach documents and links.

Full-text Search Facility:

cowork offers an intelligent search tool, in order to fully research your work area. You can search cowork based on metadata of data or do a full-text search on the content of your data. cowork indexes all the common document formats.

Activity History:

History of all activities in the workspace of each object is kept, such as when that object was created, modified, read, number of accesses, etc. Each access is recorded with indication to user, date and the access method.

User Privileges and Roles:

cowork has a flexible and scalable authorization and user administration system. Only those with a certain access rights and roles as defined by the administrator have authorization to documents and areas of cowork. Each owner of an object can decide which access and rights he wants to give to other cowork users. Within the users and groups the authorizations can be defined on a per file or document basis. cowork also integrates easily with an LDAP / NT-ADS server to authenticate its users from a LDAP or ADS server.

Some examples of how you and your business can use cowork to get that extra cut against your competition.

cowork has been suitable for each form of decentralized co-operation and collaboration.

Project managers can manage and distribute project relevant information and documents easily using cowork. Everything is stored centrally on the server, allowing cowork to be an ideal tool to use for inter-departmental projects or projects which involves external suppliers or customers. Problems with the co-ordination are not a hindrance any more, cowork takes over that part for you.

A company can use cowork as a central document server. Bids, tariffs, product prospects, manuals and other documentations can be stored on cowork and be made available to all.

Business development with external partner

A company wishes to streamline its core business and for this reason sets up a subsidiary. The company commissions a firm of consultants to develop ideas, produce guidelines and get the subsidiary off the ground, using the very latest e-commerce solutions.

Neither partner is prepared to let the other party access their respective network, but all co-ordination and all material must be accessible to everyone involved in the project. Moreover, this co-operation must be done between a geographically dispersed organisation and external companies, here is cowork an extremely suitable tool for the project document repository.

Structuring of transnational projects

When a major global organisation starts a project they often face the problem of having so many parties involved in the project that it is difficult to co-ordinate the work and make sure everyone works effectively together. Cowork can solve many of these problems.

Documents and project information can be shared easily using cowork. The flexible version management and document history enable users to always stay in control of documents while at the same time ensuring that all project members are continuously updated on what is happening in the

common workspace.

By using cowork the organisation can also create a system for gathering information from all directions on how the individual parties are working. This enables all company employees to learn from each other and makes their efforts more effective and better structured.

Nationwide consulting projects

An IT-consultancy gets an order that requires the services of 15 partners around the country. From experience, they know that it is very difficult to manage such a large project from the head office. There is a substantial risk that communication will be erratic, that there will be a backlog of information at various levels, that the process will be hampered by the lack of a common work method, that there will be a shortage of control, and that team members will be involuntarily excluded from information and decision making.

Using cowork as a common platform avoids such problems that are typical for a large project.

The project manager does not have to travel the length and breadth of the country which offers major savings in travel and hotel costs alone. Instead the Project Manager has access to all information from his or her office and can communicate effectively from there.

Everyone involved can see all updates in cowork immediately, and activity reports are sent by e-mail on a regular interval, detailing what has happened in the project over the previous period.

Co-ordination construction projects

Construction projects can be multi million pound undertakings. Products and services from 30 - 40 different suppliers must be delivered at the right time and place and the project is always required to be completed on time.

In order to co-ordinate this cowork acts as a kind of virtual construction site on the Internet keeping builders, clients, architects, joiners, plumbers, electricians, consultants, etc. updated and persuading everyone involved in the project to share information. Thanks to the integral cowork functions, everyone has access to plans, memos, calculations, and can check who should chase what and who has done revisions.

The savings on the copying costs alone usually cover the cost of using cowork for a construction project.

Cowork Architecture:

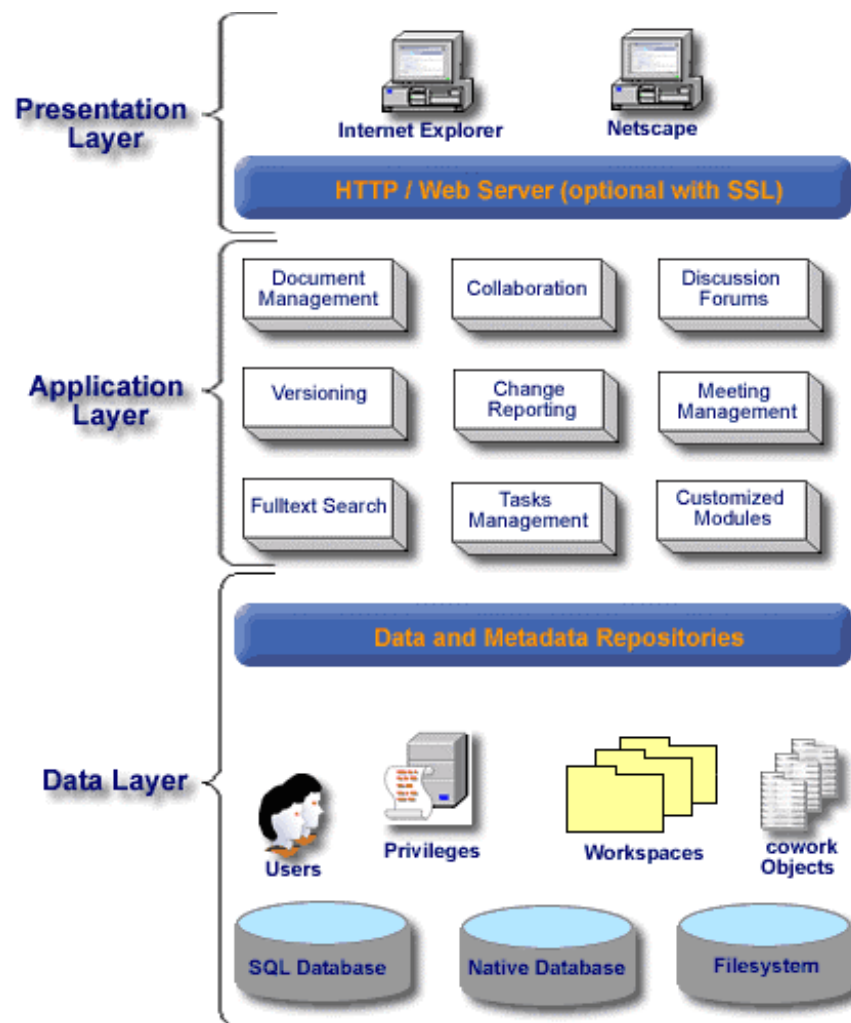
cowork is build using the proven 3-tier-architecture . It is web-based and as such platform independent for the client. A normal web browser is all you need on your computer to access cowork.

The multi -tier approach allows for a flexible design and future scalability of the whole architecture. The whole architecture is divided into 3 layers:

The Data Layer is responsible for the storage of user and system data. The metadata is stored in an object-oriented database. This allows for a very flexible and fast retrieval of the information when needed by the various modules. The user objects (documents and data), is stored in a central data-store and in an SQL database which allows for a quick retrieval, full-text search and scalability.

The Application Layer is programmed using python and uses the Zope application server framework to build the whole application logic.

The Presentation Layer is programmed using DTML, CSS, HTML and Javascripts. The whole presentation layer is completely separated from the data and the application logic. This allows cowork to be customized very easily to reflect any corporate identity and look n feel.



A short reference list:



COLT Telecom AG, Switzerland, Germany and UK



AWK Polytraffic, Switzerland



City of Aarau, Switzerland

Isaac Newton Group, Spain
British Telecom, UK
Siemens AG, Germany
Deutsche Post AG

To name a few....