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Let business flow – securely.

Put secure third party collaboration first.

Your world is big.
That's how we think.

Put secure third party collaboration first.

Super-simple sharing. One-click connections. Real-time progress. On the face of it, efficient collaboration between businesses has never been easier. But with all this valuable data and Intellectual Property (IP) flying around, there's just one rather significant grounding factor – how do you stop it all from falling into the wrong hands and securely manage third party collaboration?

Today, almost every business has learned the importance of securing its employees, data and processes. It's become an integral part of IT infrastructure. It needs to be. No-one wants to make front page news for a data breach. Aside from the price of embarrassment, there's an enormous financial cost to pay. And stolen IP can cause a rapid reduction in stocks and shares.

So, why is it that the same organisations with good internal practices have been slow to apply similar thinking to third party collaboration? Whether it's due to fear of change or perceived complication, a different mindset needs to be adopted. Because while your business focuses on the obvious threat of intelligent hacking, your data's in danger of disappearing where you least expect it.

How far will trust get you?

Once a third party obtains the all-important identity that allows them into your IT environment, anything could happen. Even if you trust the recipient, you've ultimately no control over what they'll do with your data. It's a scary thought, but it's crucial to consider certain questions when your business's entire reputation is at stake:

When your files, documents, spreadsheets or IP have been received, how will they be used? Where will they end up? What if the third party have no means of managing themselves adequately? What if the data is lost or stolen? Can you afford to lose what you've sent? And don't forget there's still no assurance the recipient is who they say they are, even if access is given via an email address...

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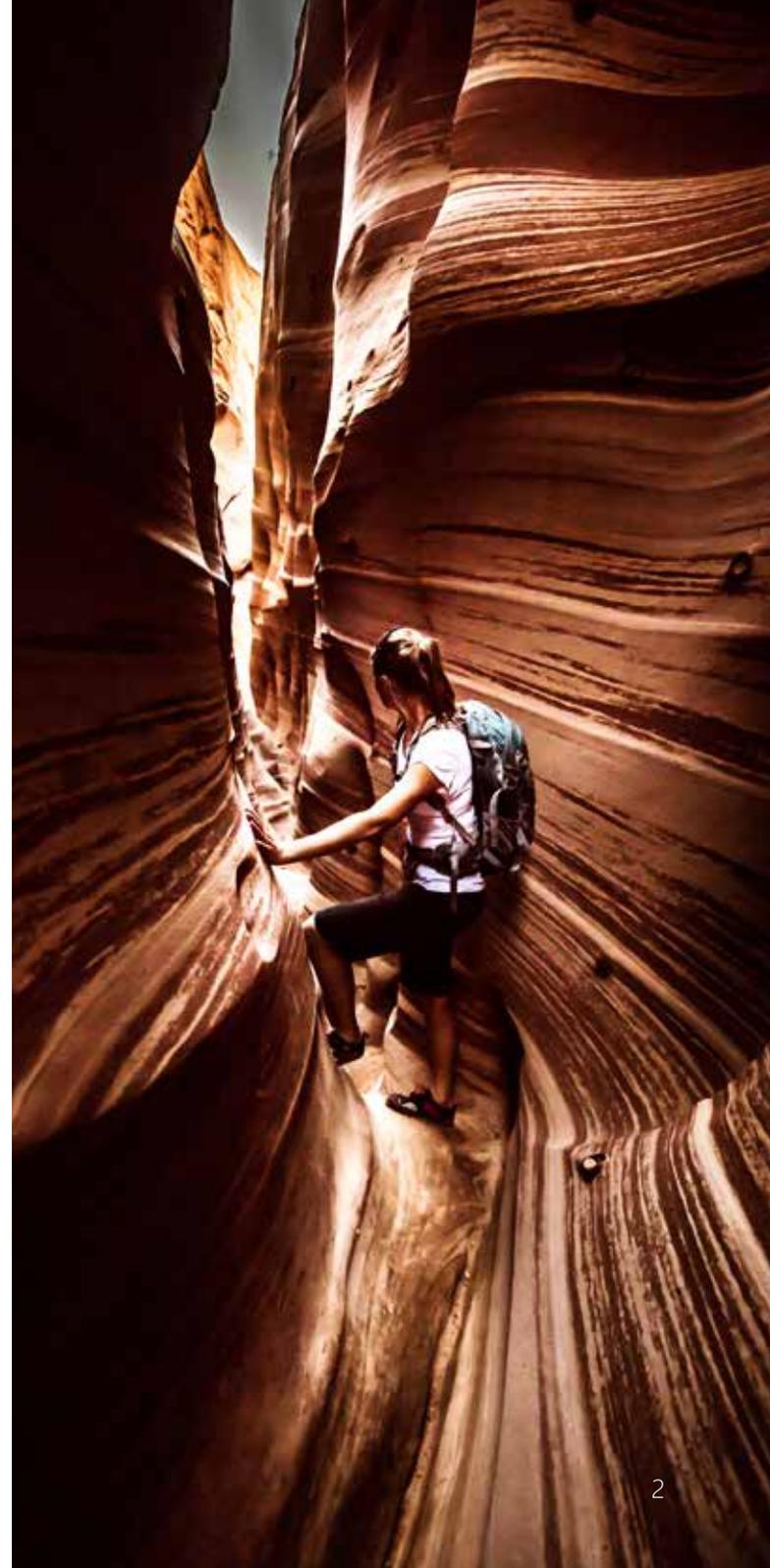
Overcoming the challenges

The single biggest challenge to safe collaboration is when third party identities are required. Obtaining access can take days if a well-established process isn't in place. Plus, access can often be granted but forgotten. Hold ups can hinder progress, slowing down the collaborative process and causing frustration – not to mention time and money.

Third party security needs to be seamless, therefore. And a sense of increased security needs to be communicated as a positive thing, not a negative. It's all easier said than done.

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More hoops to jump

As if identity and access management wasn't enough to think about, the world today is also fast-paced and ever changing. Whether it's DPA or GDPR, there's a new acronym to learn each week – with a new set of rules, regulations and compliance standards that can leave you thinking 'OMG'. There are many scenarios where businesses not only need to provide a secure gateway for sharing information, but also need to overcome data protection requirements.

Telephone companies, for example, are reliant on third parties to carry out essential maintenance work – so they need to provide access to sensitive customer data. And within the media landscape, there's a continual need to protect data from the threat of piracy – particularly when it comes to music.

Don't worry, the solution you need is out there…

Traditionally, secure collaboration can be challenging to manage as it requires complex, people-driven processes that take up time and resources for every engagement. Across the space of a year, it all adds up. But the good news is, these barriers can now be overcome with ease.

In fact, there's never been a better time to challenge what you think you know about secure third party collaboration. There are solutions out there that can help you collaborate seamlessly without security being a barrier – and they're easier to implement than you ever imagined.

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The future is bright

With the realisation that secure third party collaboration is as important as internal security, more investments are being made to ensure that protecting your assets and IP even becomes even more effortless. Intelligent automation, for example, will improve the entire user experience, and offer greater transparency from an administration and governance perspective.

It's important to remember though that there will always be a need for human intervention. And the answer to secure third party collaboration is not a point-in-time solution – it needs to be able to evolve and improve continuously in order to stay relevant.

Thankfully, Avanade is already there. We can help you securely work with third parties – giving you the flexibility to optimise the way your business collaborates. We can transform your identity management and access control to your key assets. In short, our solution grows with you to let business flow – securely.

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Put secure third party collaboration first.

Discover Avanade secure third party collaboration

Contact us to find out more.

www.avanade.com/security

Do you know how many third parties have access to your data? Do you know exactly what they have access to? Are you aware of the environment in which they're getting hold of your data?

It's time to take control. Our solution can help prevent the loss of sensitive business information and IP. It'll reduce your overheads, improve your identity-driven security, and support GDPR readiness by protecting information from loss, theft and breach.

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