

DIGITAL ENTERPRISE CENTER

ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF A DIGITAL ENTERPRISE CENTER

WHAT IS A DIGITAL ENTERPRISE CENTER

Digital Enterprise Center (def.) - where organizations come together for the purpose of exchanging digital information, either internally or outside of their organization.

Exchanging information has always been the foundation for the evolution of the Human species. Our early efforts to communicate included gestures, basic speak and drawings. Written language and printing provided a means to convey information to a larger number of individuals and to store that information for future generations. Today's Information Technologies allow us to capture, calculate, store, transmit and reproduce vast quantities of information to large portions of the population in seconds.

Businesses have also joined this evolution and are constantly searching for improved, faster, less expensive and more reliable ways to handle information. In fact they have come to rely on being able to exchange information, just as the Human species and our society has.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF A DIGITAL ENTERPRISE CENTER

Businesses of all types need to be able to exchange information both internally as well as externally. Below are several examples from differing Industries;

Manufacturing;

Design/Engineering - Designers and Engineers use a wide variety of tools to assist with their designs, provide specifications, capture and store that information. Exchanging design information with other Engineers working on different parts or systems is critical to ensure the final overall product will function properly, fit, will be maintainable, can be built economically, etc.

Production – Actual production provides feedback to Engineering to improve the design, reduce costs and build time. Purchasing of raw materials is also controlled to ensure adequate supplies while minimizing inventories and monitoring quality.

Sales & Marketing – Must be able to convey product information to potential customers, delivery schedules, pricing, etc.

Distribution – Information from Manufacturing regarding quantities, model types, color, etc. and provide the logistics to transport, store, and deliver products as directed by Sales.

Medical;

Research - Development of new pharmaceuticals and medical devices is now primarily done with computer cycles before any actual compounds are mixed in the lab or prototype prosthetics are built.

Diagnostic – Test results and imagery are provided by a variety of systems with information rapidly transmitted to distant locations for interpretation, consultation, storage/retrieval,

Records – Medical records are stored and transmitted to distant locations as needed by medical personnel for diagnosing and treating patients.

Government;

Tax records, Medicare, Social Security, Homeland Security, Military, etc.

Aerospace;

Design specifications, manufacturing, maintenance programs, etc.

Travel Industry;

Reservations, scheduling, on-line bookings, pricing, etc.

Business, and our entire Economic System, has become very dependant on the timely and accurate sharing of information, whether it is within an organization, between partnerships, or with external groups or customers. The timeliness and accuracy of this information has increased as we become more and more dependant on this exchange to control critical functions and safety within our society. Numerous automated environments are considered as basic life-support within the medical industry, travel control systems are used within the transportation and airline industries, and various forms of security, both local and national, are based on information exchange.

For Businesses the exchange of information also needs to be affordable. Being able to bring a new product to market quickly is important, but being able to do so at a reasonable price is also required. The 'competitive edge' a company needs is not only being formed with the timely and accurate movement of vast amounts of data, but also being able to do so in a less expensive manner than your competition.

The ability to reduce costs is heavily influenced by having alternative sources available, whether it is multiple vendors that provide connectivity or multiple places to store your information off-site for Disaster Recovery reasons. Having multiple Providers available tends to reduce costs for End Users, which in turn allow them to product, distribute and sell their product at a more competitive price.

In the past companies that were looking to relocate their operations looked at various aspects of different communities. Many of these areas investigated included availability of workforce, cost of living, tax structure, schools, services, transportation systems, and infrastructure. As our economy evolves to rely more and more on information exchange, companies are more often looking at areas such as access to multiple Carriers for connectivity, workforce with specific Information Technology skills, secure locations to store information, Information Exchange companies and providers that can integrate and manage various services, i.e. Digital Enterprise Centers. These items which revolve around the information exchange needs of a company have and will continue to become more significant in their searches for new locations. Communities that can provide these technology infrastructures will have a decided advantage in retaining as well as attracting businesses, employment, increased tax base, etc.

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