

White Paper – Board Portals

Secure online board portals provide the best solution for the timely distribution of confidential information between increasingly mobile executive management and geographically dispersed board members. Board portals replace paper-based delivery and unsecure email distribution with secure, easy-to-use, online access to confidential board information for board members at work, at home or on the road.

Chartwell and many of our clients are active users of **portal technology** and, based on our experience, we have prepared this short 'White Paper' to provide background on portal terminology, development and utilization.

Delivery of software is evolving from packaged software installed on desktops, laptops or local servers to **application service providers** (ASP) offering **software-as-a-service** (SAAS) hosted online on secure servers. An online **portal** is designed to organize information on a secure server for access by authorized users utilizing a standard web browser - no special software or equipment is required.

The conversion to portal technology permits your staff to focus their time and effort on the quality of information and provides a **significant savings** in time, supplies, printing, assembly and distribution – meeting preparation is reduced from days to hours. No need to replace updated pages in board books – new portal information is instantly up to date.

Portals provide **improved security** – no need to mail or email your confidential documents. No need to collect and destroy confidential documents after a meeting. Leading portal providers host their services at nationally recognized **SAS 70** Type II certified managed hosting facilities. **SSL encryption** provides data security for online access.

Boards utilize portal information in a variety of ways for posting board, board committee and management information. Portals are used to post pre-meeting materials and providing a central archive for other important information including news reports, industry reports, competitive information, regular management reports, etc.

Many boards have completely migrated from board books to the use of laptops by each board member. Internet access is provided by Ethernet connections or over a secure wireless network. Secure wireless routers are also setup for meetings at offsite locations.

Other boards utilize their board portal for the distribution of pre-meeting materials and the posting of other documents and reports but also provide board books to board members who still prefer to use a book at their meetings. Digital projectors may also be utilized to view reports during a board meeting.

Telephonic board and committee meetings have generally migrated to the portal as all members can view updated secure documents at the same time.

LexPortal (www.LexPortal.com), powered by **VenuLex**, is a cost effective custom portal (not a shared service) providing **easy-to-use** tools to the right people (board members, management, support staff, etc) at the right time to perform the right task (view, add, update, delete, etc). Venulex, founded in 2000, is an experienced provider of ASP/SAAS portal solutions for a wide variety of clients coast-to-coast.