

White Paper – Management Portals

Secure online portals provide a secure solution for the timely distribution of confidential information between increasingly mobile executive management, geographically dispersed managers and other professionals who require periodic access. Portals replace paper-based delivery and unsecure email distribution with secure, easy-to-use, online access to confidential information by authorized users 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 of information. No need to redistribute updated information – new information is instantly available on the portal.

Portals provide **improved security** – no need to mail or email your confidential documents. No need to collect and destroy confidential documents after a meeting or teleconference. 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.

Portal information is utilized in a variety of ways for management, management committees and special projects. Portals are used to post pre-meeting and meeting materials. Portals also provide a **central archive** for posting other important information including financial reports, regulatory updates, news reports, industry reports, competitive information, internal management reports, special projects, etc.

The use of desktop and laptop computers permits the complete migration from many paper based reports to portal based information. Internet access during **internal meetings** is available over internal Ethernet connections or secure wireless networks. Secure wireless routers can be setup for meetings at **offsite locations**. Printed materials can also be provided to participants who still prefer to work with paper documents.

A growing number of **telephonic meetings** are migrating to portals 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.