

Top Benefits of a Tailored Board Management Solution

...and Why Your Board Should Care

How can board and staff leaders make innovative, data-driven decisions if the only information they receive is presented in lengthy, manually-created (and dated) written reports? Board portals are now transforming into governance management software platforms that digitize routine governance processes, freeing the board to focus on the organization's mission. Your board members and executives are likely already using governance management software elsewhere; therefore, adoption can help better position your board as innovative, tech-savvy leaders. That said, not all board portals are the same. We breakdown the top five benefits of a tailored board management solution built specifically for mission-focused organizations, including:

1. **Reputation Management**
2. **Cost-Effectiveness**
3. **Board Effectiveness and Development**
4. **Better Governance**
5. **Exceptional Service and Reputation**

REPUTATION MANAGEMENT

The Alliance for Nonprofit Management defines risk management as an actual discipline "... for dealing with the possibility that some future event will cause harm. It provides strategies, techniques, and an

approach to recognizing and confronting any threat faced by an organization in fulfilling its mission."

Most governance professionals have no idea of how prevalent cybercrimes are or how they may be unintentionally contributing to cybersecurity risks. When breaches occur, panic among donors can spread rapidly and lead to a loss of support, and if the incident isn't handled properly, mistrust among the public can produce lasting reputational damages. It's never appropriate to use personal email accounts, free cloud-storage apps or other consumer-based file sharing apps that aren't within the organization's control.

Teaching staff and board members how to recognize and avoid potential viruses is crucial, yet protecting important information from such threats is even more effective. Since sharing sensitive data via email or other external channels can expose the entire system, a modern governance solution should eliminate that potential. A board management software solution like BoardEffect enables the board and staff to exchange, store, and retrieve sensitive information immediately without jeopardizing security or stakeholder confidence.

The Bottom Line: Managing the reputation of your organization is critical to maintaining long-term support. BoardEffect mitigates cyber risks and ensures that sensitive information is safeguarded to prevent any breaches, mishaps or scandals.

COST-EFFECTIVENESS

Regardless of what task you want to do or what electronic device is handy, chances are good that you'll find an electronic app that's right for the job. Whether you want to text or email a message, video chat or store thousands of documents, not only will you find one app, chances are pretty good that you'll find several of them. And for board work, all apps and low-cost solutions are not created equal.

Every meeting has a cycle. Beginning with preparing for the meeting with an agenda and an electronic board book, BoardEffect streamlines the processes that follow, including holding the meeting, taking the meeting minutes, following up, completing tasks using automated messages, and getting rounds of approvals using electronic signatures and secure communications software. Overlooking efficiency for a lower-cost solution sets your board up to underperform and miss major goals. Specifically designed for mission-focused organizations, BoardEffect provides streamlined functionality with an eye for the unique needs characteristic of the nonprofit, healthcare, higher education and community banking spaces.

The Bottom Line: In the world of governance management, choosing a free or low-cost solution will create more problems than it will solve. Opting for a technology partner that actually understands your unique governance needs will best position your organization to achieve its mission, while making the best use of time and money.

BOARD EFFECTIVENESS AND DEVELOPMENT

Board self-evaluations are a valuable tool for understanding the gaps in skills and talents that

boards need to maintain a high-quality, diverse board. An ideal solution will provide a digital survey tool that allows your board to set up evaluation templates, and enable the storage of resumes for board director candidates, resolutions for director appointments, and signed statements of expectations for roles and responsibilities.

In essence, BoardEffect helps create greater transparency and accountability, ensuring that regular board self-assessments will be conducted to guarantee long term effectiveness. Additionally, BoardEffect technology can be leveraged to facilitate better board member recruitment and onboarding, digitizing and streamlining many of the required processes and documents. With secure access to the portal around the clock, your board members will be more engaged and more involved in the governance process as a whole.

The Bottom Line: Smart recruiting and strong onboarding leads to ongoing board effectiveness. BoardEffect provides everything your organization needs to establish a sound onboarding process and conduct regular evaluations to ensure effectiveness, and engagement, at the highest level.



BETTER GOVERNANCE

Governance and compliance are hot-button issues for corporations, non-profits, hospitals, colleges, universities and nearly every other type of organization. Today's boards need the ability to share the right information at the right time with their peers using a secure platform. Since board portals allow board members to complete work, review materials and communicate outside of scheduled meetings, more time is made available for strategic planning.

With BoardEffect, board members actually have the time to focus on governance best practices and bring their work into the digital age. Built to support modern governance, BoardEffect empowers governance professionals to perform their very best work and better fulfill the mission of the organization. BoardEffect helps boards master the pinnacles of good governance by enhancing accountability, efficiency, compliance, transparency, effectiveness, security and timeliness.

The Bottom Line: Board members are in a unique position to make a positive impact through the way they govern. BoardEffect gives leaders the tools, insights and processes to follow governance best practices and drive better results in the digital age.

EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AND REPUTATION

Board software isn't the type of product that you can order from an ordinary retailer, or find at free to little cost online. Governance software solution providers need to have tenured experience in the world of governance. In doing your due diligence, it's important to know whether the provider is an industry leader with many years of experience in the field. You can recognize top governance software providers by how long they've been in business and by which top clients place their trust in their company.

BoardEffect is proud to have qualified customer service representatives standing by 24/7, 365 days a year, to help with any problems. With over a decade of tailored experience in its DNA, BoardEffect has over 2,000 customers and 180,000 users globally, with a 96% customer retention rate. For boards worried about adopting new technology and establishing digital processes for the first time, the BoardEffect platform is known for its ease-of-use, allowing even the not so tech-savvy board member to get up to speed in no time. There is no downside to partnering with a provider that puts customers first and is committed to improving efficiency, collaboration, governance, security and engagement of all stakeholders.

The Bottom Line: Some organizations seek out a software vendor to meet their immediate needs and look no further. When you adopt BoardEffect, you gain an experienced technology partner that is with you every step of the way on your organization's journey, growing with you as your needs evolve over time.

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The Hidden Costs of Free or Low-Cost Board Management Software

A free or low-cost board management software program may not cost you much upfront. Consider, however, the costs that you are likely to incur because the free or low-cost program doesn't meet your direct needs. Pay attention to this list of costs that your board could be facing:

**Time**

"Free" and "low-cost" do not equal efficiency

**Cybersecurity Risks**

Crises can be very expensive, including legal costs, liability and problems caused by ill-preparedness and poor communication

**Money**

Lost revenues due to lost donations or lack of a secure platform for planning

**Convenience**

The inability to access a working system 24/7 every day of the year on all electronic mobile devices

**Lawsuits**

Poor risk management could cost you tens of thousands in damages and legal fees

**Cost of Switching Programs**

You'll have downtime while searching for a better program and then you'll need to retrain workers on the new system

**Downtime and Continuity**

You can't do business when you can't access board business materials

**Reputation**

There's no amount of money that can replace a lost reputation due to scandals or mishaps

The old adage "You get what you pay for" holds true with board management software programs. What organizations need is a board management software solution that provides a lot of value for the money. When boards realize the incomparable benefits of a platform designed specifically for the critical work of boards, it will be easy enough to see the cost savings in the board budget.

Hear From Our Customers: The Top Benefits of BoardEffect

Efficiency



“BoardEffect has made my life easier by making it a one-stop shop for all of our board members for what they need and the information that they need to be effective board members.”

- April V.E., Board Administrator



“What BoardEffect helps us do is make sure that all of the information that is out there for our board, we’re able to get it to them quickly and efficiently and easily. It helps us inform our board when they need to make decisions on those important matters.”

- Debbie B., Director of Board and Government Relations



“I absolutely would recommend BoardEffect. It has streamlined our process. It has helped our board. It’s wonderful, it’s innovative.”

- Laura M., Manager of Administrative Services

Security



"We feel really confident with BoardEffect when we're sending information to the board that they're able to retrieve it easily, but that it's also a secure process."

- Debbie B., Director of Board and Government Relations



"It has saved us time, but it really does bring us such a great feeling of confidence and security that our information is secure."

- Laura M., Manager of Administrative Services



"Being on a secure platform where we can not only store, but share, information that's extremely confidential, is a tremendous benefit."

- Felicia F., Board Liaison



Transformative



"BoardEffect has transformed our board in several ways. Making them more efficient and effective, for sure, giving them timely access to information and collaboration opportunities. I think it has made them smarter because they have better access to stuff that they wouldn't have had before, and they're able to make better informed decisions."

- April V.E., Board Administrator



"BoardEffect has really allowed me to automate those tasks, and it has made space for me to do the deeper work of this work. So to really be able to focus on governance, to really look at best practices."

- Felicia F., Board Liaison



"BoardEffect has transformed our board because it has allowed our board to collaborate with each other... It helps them to make the decisions that need to be made and prepare in advance for the work that the foundation collectively does."

- Scott O., Executive Assistant to the President and CEO



"The boards that I've worked with that have adopted BoardEffect have become savvier boards. They have become better governing boards."

- Felicia F., Board Liaison

Ease-of-Use



“Everybody loves using it. It’s very, very easy. It’s user-friendly. I have all age types on my board, and everyone can access it and do what they need to do.”

- Laura M., Manager of Administrative Services



“It’s made my board’s life easier because they receive the materials in a way that’s convenient for them. They can access it at home, on the road, on their iPad, on their desktop, even on their mobile phone.”

- Scott O., Executive Assistant to the President and CEO

Bring BoardEffect to Your Organization

BoardEffect strives to provide solutions that support board governance best practices, addressing the challenges organizations of all sizes and industries face with board governance. Offering robust training options from in person to self-service, BoardEffect works with you to define an implementation strategy to best fit your needs. BoardEffect leads the industry in defining governance management software platforms, and its commitment to innovation puts you in control of an intuitive environment that improves efficiency, collaboration, communication, security and governance.

See how BoardEffect can benefit your organization by visiting:

<http://www.boardeffect.com>.



BoardEffect is the board management solution that allows boards to work smarter.

BoardEffect provides board directors, executives, and administrators with the modern governance tools to efficiently and securely manage their board information.

By answering the direct board management needs of organizations with different structures, missions, and goals, BoardEffect enables better communication and collaboration, while fueling efficiency at every turn.

Part of Diligent, the leader in modern governance, BoardEffect is committed to providing the best in board meeting management. We proudly serve users across a range of verticals in both the nonprofit and for-profit sectors.



180,000 users globally



2,500 clients



96% client retention rate



24/7/365 support

- Phone
- Email
- Help desk ticketing system



Online guides

- Tips & tricks
- User videos
- Customer webinars



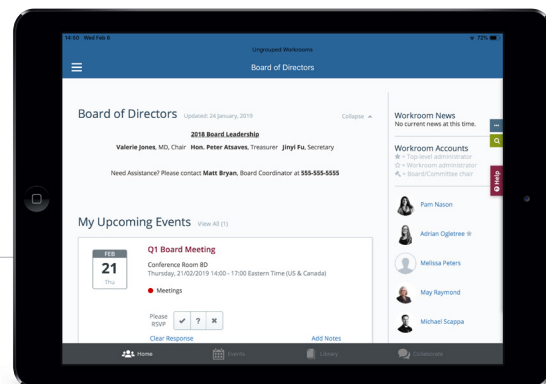
In-person networking

- Annual user conference
- Focus groups



Governance resources

- Weekly blog posts
- White papers
- Thought leadership webinars





BoardEffect is a flexible, feature-rich platform that can be tailored to meet your governance needs.

Product Integrations

- Single Sign-On (SSO) enabled
- Various applications through web services and APIs
- Pre-packaged integrations
- Governance tools from Diligent

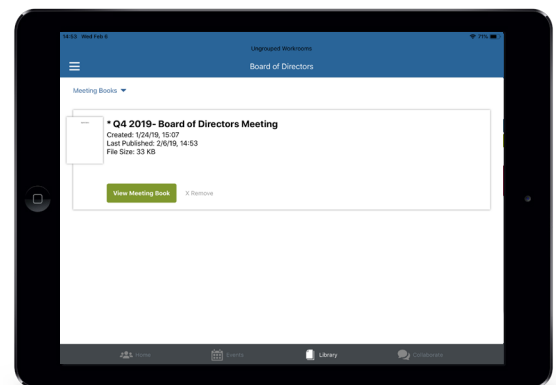


Essential Features

- Secure workrooms for boards and committees
- Workroom-level permissions
- Online meeting books
- Dynamic agenda management
- Full annotation capabilities
- Clickable, searchable & printable meeting books
- Event calendar & meeting scheduler
- RSVPs & attendance tracking
- Calendar integration
- Electronic signatures
- Polling & surveys
- Discussion forums
- Calendar integrations (Google, iCal, Outlook, etc.)
- Task management and approvals
- Newsfeed
- Unlimited storage
- Mobile apps with offline access
- User directories
- Dynamic reporting

Best-In-Class Security

- 5-part security program
- Secure SSAE 16 audited SOC1 and SOC2 Type 2 data centers
- 99.999% facility uptime
- Disaster recovery and business continuity plans
- Intrusion-detection systems
- Ownership and full control of all our data centers



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