



A Box Case Study

# For Simple File Sharing, Emory University Went to the Head of the Class: Box®



---

*“ We literally have hundreds of files per project; how would we access and share everything without Box? Microsoft hasn’t provided a legitimate tool to do that – Box has. ”*

**Jamie Smith**  
Manager for Strategic Business  
Solutions, Innovations and  
Process Improvement,  
Emory University

---

**Box Sales**  
Call 877-729-4269  
[www.box.com](http://www.box.com)

## What if ...

- Your team needs to share files quickly and easily, but it’s dispersed – with some members working halfway across the country?
- Critical content is shared through clunky, non-user-friendly platforms – and even via paper documents?
- You tried SharePoint, but it was complicated and your team experienced file compatibility issues?

Welcome to Jamie Smith’s world, pre-Box®.

Jamie – Manager for Strategic Business Solutions and Innovations at Emory University’s Office of Business Practice Improvement – needed a content-sharing platform that would:

1. Empower his team to access and share critical content anywhere, anytime, from any device
2. Enable simple collaboration and make project management easier and faster than ever
3. Be extremely user-friendly

Unfortunately, the team’s file-sharing platform simply wasn’t up to the job, proving complicated to use and generating significant file compatibility issues. It became so unworkable, the team resorted to sharing important content through email and even paper – a time-intensive and insecure process, at best.

A brief organizational snapshot: Functioning as an internal consulting firm, Emory University’s Business Practice Improvement Office is tasked with improving and enhancing processes, applying industry best practices, reducing redundancies and increasing efficiencies. The overarching goal: To optimize performance and enhance results.

The Office is an integral part of Emory University, a private research institution in metropolitan Atlanta. Founded in 1836, the university consistently ranks among the best in the US.

## The Challenge: For This School, Dated Platforms and Paper Content Sharing Didn’t Make the Grade

“We needed an electronic tool, not a paper system, that would enable us to stay organized and communicate our analysis and strategy effectively,” Jamie reveals. “We started using a platform – Blackboard – that was totally antiquated. From there, we moved to SharePoint, and that was problematic.”



---

*“Implementing Box was so easy. We have people all the time that say, ‘I don’t know how to do anything: I can check my email and that’s about it.’ Even those people have been fine adopting Box.”*

**Jamie Smith**  
Manager for Strategic Business  
Solutions, Innovations and  
Process Improvement,  
Emory University

---

**Box Sales**  
Call 877-729-4269  
[www.box.com](http://www.box.com)

Specifically, Jamie reveals: “With SharePoint, there were general compatibility issues, including several restrictions that really hampered file sharing and collaboration. To make matters worse, it was difficult for people to learn.”

Jamie’s geographically dispersed team was another parameter a new file-sharing platform would have to address: “Our biggest challenge, really, was leading a team and keeping them organized and focused, as we’re spread all over the place. We have worked with people who don’t even come to work on the Emory Campus and, instead, live in Illinois and Missouri.”

Bottom line: An easy-to-use and mobile file-sharing platform wasn’t a “nice-to-have”: It was an absolute necessity.

Finally, a new solution would need to optimize workflow management, as a typical project involves hundreds of files.

## **The Simple Solution: Box, a Content-Sharing Valedictorian**

“I did research on cloud-based solutions and Box was in the top three on review sites,” Jamie reveals. “I signed up for Box and some other companies and found that Box had the best interface – so the choice was clear.”

Today, over 100 people use Box at the university, in several different departments – and states. “I’m a big believer in cloud-based solutions that you can access anywhere, anytime,” Jamie notes. “Our people are everywhere and they also travel, so I didn’t want them to need an Emory VPN to access and share important files.”

Another Box plus point: “Implementing Box was so easy. We have people all the time that say, ‘I don’t know how to do anything: I can check my email and that’s about it.’ Even those people have been fine adopting Box.”

Jamie’s three favorite Box benefits: “First, we love the admin tools, we love knowing who’s doing what, reading what, checking what, knowing if someone’s logged in,” he observes. “This ability to monitor and track user participation is just awesome. It allows me to optimize our workflow, to keep everybody organized. Second, the version history is just fantastic – we always are working with the most current content now.”

Third, Jamie observes: “I’ve lost data before, so I appreciate that Box is cloud-based and our information is safe there. And the mobile access is just great: No VPN, no new hardware for IT to maintain and support.”

He summarizes enthusiastically: “We literally have hundreds of files per project; how would we access and share everything without Box? Microsoft hasn’t provided a legitimate tool to do that – Box has.”

What will the future bring for Emory University and Box? “I want to investigate integrating our Box solution with Google Docs,” Jamie noted. “I’m all about integration; it could make us even more efficient.”

One thing’s certain: For simple, secure content sharing – anywhere, anytime – Emory University gives Box high marks.