ABOUT BOX

Box (NYSE:BOX) is the leading Content Cloud, a single platform that empowers organizations to manage the entire content lifecycle, work securely from anywhere, and integrate across best-of-breed apps. Founded in 2005, Box simplifies work for leading global organizations, including over 1000 public sector agencies including NASA, National Institute of Health, and Department of Energy who power their research and development missions with Box. Box has over 58 Authority to Operate authorizations with federal agencies on the FedRAMP Marketplace. Box is headquartered in Redwood City, CA, with offices across the United States, Europe, and Asia. Visit box.com to learn more. And visit box.org to learn more about how Box empowers nonprofits to fulfill their missions.

RESOURCES

Box for Government: Powering Leading Government Agencies
carah.io/box-for-gov-industries

Digital government ebook: Simplify Mission-critical Services
carah.io/box-for-gov-cloud-services

Streamlining secure federal research and development collaboration with Box

TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Research and development (R&D) is a core capability of the federal government. It is critical to the advancement of defense systems, improves our nation's renewable energy technology, and drives innovation — which propel our economy forward. Federal agencies fund critical research efforts through various grants and programs to create and expand our scientific knowledge and build critical technologies and solutions. To that end, real-time, effective collaboration across research teams, universities, industries, and public sector organizations is an integral part of America's R&D success.

Federal agencies need a secure digital content platform to share and edit documents, presentations, spreadsheets, and other unstructured content, but outdated software, poor R&D collaboration practices, and unreliable budget allocations make it difficult. The Box Content Cloud provides a secure content layer for an agency's unstructured data across all its applications. Researchers can standardize on Box for authorized users — both inside and outside the agency — making collaboration significantly easier. Additionally, Box's APIs allow different software platforms to seamlessly integrate and work together in order to accomplish meaningful real-time collaboration. The net result for agencies using Box: more streamlined collaboration, which ultimately allows researchers to achieve their agency's R&D missions.

THE CHALLENGE

The R&D process requires extensive communication and sharing of information, outcomes, documents, research, and raw data, which must also pass through regulatory and compliance filters before it is shared externally. However, agencies face difficult challenges when trying to quickly and securely share that data externally or ingest data from external partners. Most agencies struggle to find a standardized, secure, governed, and easy-to-use platform that allows them to quickly and securely share required data with authorized users outside the agency. For many agency researchers, the problem is quite simple: "How do I securely share and co-edit research information with people outside my agency in real time?" Unfortunately, too many agencies lack a great answer. These agencies use a combination of outdated and cumbersome software that does not meet the need, and in many cases, they still have to send printed documents in unsecure ways.

Additionally, many researchers are forced to use unsafe, unsecure, and inefficient methods, such as downloading data onto a physical data storage device or sending data through email. However, agencies can avoid this risk with a FedRAMP-certified cloud platform that allows them to share and edit important data while maintaining cybersecurity requirements. The Box Content Cloud was built for this — all while being user-friendly and easy for new users to get started. Research and development teams can adapt quickly when they need to work with other research labs, government agencies, industry groups, or universities. The low barrier to entry allows agencies to stand up Box successfully within weeks with minimal administrative overhead support.

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While Box makes work easier for federal R&D researchers, the benefits don't stop there. For agency administrators, Box brings real-time control and visibility of who is accessing and what is happening to the agency's research data. Unlike when researchers send data via email or download onto a hard drive, Box keeps all agency data on a secure platform and has several native control and governance mechanisms that give admins even more control of their content. Box provides granular controls that help minimize data loss, allowing agencies to produce their own set of security policies and classifications. Users can classify files or folders with configurable, assigned security policies, which minimizes unsafe sharing practices with third-party users. This helps admins prevent inadvertent data loss or sharing data with unauthorized users. Box also provides and maintains audit logs of all activity, allowing agencies to go back and see exactly what happened with their content stored in Box.

Box's security protocols include rigorous identity and access management, which helps ensure only authorized users have access to appropriate data. Theft deterrence features like digital watermarking also help reduce the risk of internal employee threats. Additionally, Box automatically inspects all content for malicious code and malware, aiding awareness and response time to cyber threats. Box Governance enables agencies to apply retention policies and disposition actions on content, meeting agency-wide or project specific retention regulations.

Finally, built-in e-signature with Box Sign allows users to electronically sign contractual, project, or any internal documents at no additional cost — allowing agencies to reduce spend on third-party e-signature solutions.

As federal agencies update outdated technology and data sharing practices, their critical research and development projects will accelerate America's scientific and technological progress. When ideas and data are shared faster, research and development teams are more productive, and federal agencies can utilize taxpayer dollars for additional research efforts.

KEY BENEFITS

- The Box Content Cloud is a highly secure cloud platform that enables federal agencies to collaborate externally with universities, other labs, and industry and other research partners.
    - Box is FedRAMP High, DoD IL-4, and HIPAA compliant
- Box is an ITAR and Export Control ready environment for secure collaboration.
- Box's encryption complies with FIPS 140-2 and is encrypted at rest using 256-bit AES encryption and in transit using TLS 1.2.
- Because Box is technology vendor-agnostic, federal employees can use Box from any device, using any operating system (MacOS, Windows, Android, etc), and any productivity suite (MS Office, G-Suite, etc). This allows agencies to fully support hybrid and "work from anywhere" policies.
- Box licenses provide unlimited storage, external/unlimited collaboration, and uploads up to 150GB media files, which allow agencies to create predictable and reliable budgets.

For more information, visit www.box.com

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