

BuildCentrix

CONSTRUCTION IN THE CLOUD

Connect Your Team,
Grow Your Business





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Companies with robust technology solutions excel in building connected, resilient teams.

By Jessica Kirby

Everyone in business knows the value of a strong, connected team. Working together builds trust, inspires creativity, and breeds empathy among divisions, and all of these factors lead to higher productivity and improved profitability.

There are many ways to foster cohesive teams and build better connections, and one of the most important but lesser considered ways is with a robust, cross-departmental software platform that integrates tasks and outcomes.

Traditional corporate culture can find people stuck in a divisional mindset where they think of their work as existing in one division versus the other, rather than all divisions working toward a common goal, which is completing a project on time and on budget. A connected software solution reiterates that everyone is on the same team.

“When you connect everyone, it makes a difference in how you view your role in the company,” says James Beveridge, CEO at BuildCentrix (BCX). “It forces you to take the blinders off and

think, ‘Yes, I am in the shop, and it can be challenging to receive a rush order from the field, but since I can see all of the data and understand why it is required, it changes my mindset.’”

Connecting departments eliminates the mystery employees sometimes perceive about what happens to their work when it leaves their department. Employees who have a firm understanding of the workflow—because they can see their work at all stages—are more productive, proactive, and empathetic if something goes wrong. And from a management perspective, being able to overview any part of a project in one place can help save time, money, and frustration when changes are necessary.

The ordering process

BCX is unique in that the platform manages everything according to labor, so every order from VDC is budgeted by labor, including the time it took to produce it. “In terms of managing the fabrication, the shop always has the ability to pull a report and view the dashboard or calendar,” Beveridge says.

“They don’t have to do calculations or pick up the phone. They can make changes and requests on their own and everyone gets notified.”

Once an order is scheduled, the person who makes it receives a notification and can immediately view the order content and key dates. Subsequently, that person will automatically receive notification if the order’s status or date changes. At the next stage, the shop processes the order and, once complete, the status updates again.

“There are two status options: Manufacturing and Shipping,” Beveridge says. “The order moves to the floor and people there input the time and status. Once the order is complete, it gets assigned to a truck and put into a Delivery Window.”

Next, the field person is informed that the manufacturing is done, and the system notifies the field that the order has shipped and when it will arrive. The order is installed, and the order status moves to Archived.

“There is a place on the dashboard page where the accountant can create a biweekly or monthly report, including material by job, which includes the type, weight, and products used,” Beveridge says. “From an administrative overhead perspective, this is much more practical than typing out an email containing the work order, possibly accompanied by hand drawings. In that case, there is lost productivity, and nothing is connected. The same thing happens if an order comes from VCD with a spool for a model project and it is going to the shop—once you do that, it is in an inbox somewhere and you lose visibility.”


Answers in real time

The ultimate BCX advantage is that order updates and status are available across the platform and change in real time, so everyone is on the same page. There is also the surety factor in that the ability to see the process ensures the order is correct.

“I don’t have to reach out to answer questions about the materials or how it was ordered and why because the orders are standardized and sent to the shop,” Beveridge says. “No one should ever be left thinking, ‘I wonder what’s going on with my material’.”

Accounting and finance

The benefits for the financing and accounting departments are immediacy and accuracy. In most companies that are not connected with this kind of technology, the payroll team is waiting for someone in the shop to get back to them with a stack of timecards. With BCX, the person can sit at a desk and process the timecard for the week prior without the delay. “The process is all automated and they are not re-entering the data,”



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Beveridge says. “The accounting person can generate the report on their own and aren’t waiting for other people.”

Generational views on technology

When implementing new systems, there can be pushback from employees who are risk averse or uncomfortable with change. Although we tend to assume the younger generation is more eager to take on the tech, Beveridge says that in many trade construction companies, it is the long-tenured employees in construction roles who best understand the need for connected technology.

“The younger generation has expectations around technology, communication, and access to information because they grew up that way, but it is often the older generation that asks for it,” Beveridge says. “They are the biggest advocates because they have struggled for so long. Having accessibility and communication opens avenues for connection, and they have always wanted continuous improvement.”

Suddenly, employees are no longer emailing or calling around to get the information they need. Instead, they are managing and staying focused on training, operations, and growth.

“They like a system like this because it automates administrative tasks so they can spend their time on bettering productivity,” Beveridge says.

This sense of connection is essential to a thriving, productive company because, besides improving profitability and workflow, it helps people enjoy their jobs.

“Having access to information helps people see how other divisions are performing and it is motivating,” Beveridge says. “No one likes to be compartmentalized. Having that visibility among orders makes a big difference.”

Ready to connect your team? Visit buildcentrix.com today and schedule your free demo. ■

What is team building?

We all know team building is important because it brings people together and improves productivity. Engaging in activities that enforce collective effort remind employees that the company runs best when everyone works toward a common goal, rather than assuming a division versus division mindset.

Team building, whether through events, activities, friendly competition, or group training, helps employees form bonds and connections, which lead to increased communication, planning skills, motivation, and collaboration. Fun and motivational activities help teams build skills like planning, problem-solving, and conflict resolution.

And while the work environment is a good place to embrace team culture, holding team-focused activities outside of work helps people connect in a different setting and mindset where the task at hand—rather than the work—is the mental focus. Later, when people are back at work, the implications of these activities on their workplace actions and thoughts, become clear.

Here are eight reasons to build team building into your yearly workplace activity schedule.

1. Teamwork boosts performance

Once a team works together in friendly competition or another, non-work related activity, they come back together at work with a better understanding of each other's strengths, weaknesses, and interests. This understanding helps them work even better together.

2. Celebration and team spirit bring victory

Working together toward the possibility of victory builds momentum—just ask any sports team. Every celebratory cheer is a step toward motivating employees to bring the quest for victory back to the office.

3. Collaboration fosters innovation and creativity

Creativity is born when people connect with those with whom they are comfortable. Not only do team building events bring people closer together, but also, they are the perfect venue for bringing out people's creative side. Problem-solving, conflict

resolution, and snap decision making all require creative thinking and collaborative idea sharing. Work these into your team building events and watch the creative juices flow.

4. Communication helps people work better together

Everything from conflict to new product development can be solved with great communication. This element of the workplace culture is so important, it is worth focusing on a few activities designed exclusively to improve communication and build trust.

5. Connecting departments makes the whole company stronger

“Team” doesn't have to—and shouldn't—be reserved for employees within a single department. Bring employees together from across teams and create activities that depend on getting to know one another. This will surely bring departments closer together, encourage cross-functional collaboration, and help build a culture of collective understanding and goal-setting.

6. Discover leaders to grow the business

Your obvious leaders are, well... obvious. But in a more relaxed environment, you may find leadership where you least expect it. There are also many types of leadership, and in a less formal environment, employees with non-traditional leadership skills may feel more confident showing their stuff and inspiring their peers.

7. Camaraderie improves engagement and morale

Build camaraderie with regularly scheduled team building events, and watch how employees become more enthusiastic about their work and more comfortable approaching each other. Employees feel more encouraged to work fun and ease into their day, which helps them feel refreshed, energized, and more productive.

8. Show your team appreciation

Cultural change comes from the top. Taking the time to bring people together outside of work demonstrates the importance of team building from a leadership perspective. Employees feel appreciated and valued, and morale grows as people understand team building as an investment in their success. ■



New Project Feature in BCX Assembly Builder

If you haven't had a chance to use the BCX Assembly Builder, now is the time to try it out.

Over the last few months we've added the ability to upload a blueprint and easily set the drawing scale so you can do a perfect online take-off right on top of your blueprint. Building take-offs on any device is fast and easy, especially on iPads, but alas, many users needed to submit more than one take-off on a drawing, and this calls for a better solution.

BCX is pleased to introduce the new Projects feature to the Assembly Builder. By creating Projects, users are able to create multiple take-offs on the same drawing, and all the take-offs are stored within each Project. Submitted (fabricated) take-offs show in red on the Project, so users can easily see and track their progress as they complete their projects.

Early in the New Year, BCX will be adding more controls to help users navigate around their projects easier. We are also adding another feature called Prefabricated assemblies. The feature will give shop managers the ability to create Pre-fabricated items made of multiple parts and then share them with all users. This will make it faster and easier for users to drop Prefabricated components into their take-offs saving time and money in the field and shop.

If you would like more information on the BCX Assembly Builder email support@buildcentrix.com ■

New Features for 2024

As we head to the close of another busy year at BuildCentrix, we want to let you know about a couple cool features we will be releasing in early January.

To help improve communication between the shop and field we have added an automated email notification feature when production or shipping dates are changed on the calendars. This will help keep everyone in the loop from production and shipping to delivery and installation.

We are also adding a new feature for detailing and fabrication professionals, which automatically creates a .MAJ file when an assembly (spool) is created from the building model. The .MAJ file will be added to the work order, streamlining workflow from model to fabrication.

These are just a couple of new features coming in 2024. Our development team has been working hard on some really big projects to help our clients increase efficiency, lower costs, and improve communication. Our 3D assembly builder is getting a whole new suite of features to help make creating online take-offs for piping and duct faster and easier. We are also looking forward to launching our next-generation of Autodesk plug-ins and features, which will make model-to-fabrication and installation easier than ever before.

2023 has been a great year for the construction industry and at BuildCentrix. As we head toward the holiday break we'd like to take the time to wish everyone a happy holiday and prosperous new year. ■

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BCX comprises the following modules. While there is no requirement to use them all, they are available for contractors to grow into.

- Field ordering of sheet metal and piping and plumbing
- Machine integration
- CAM integration (Trimble, PractiCAM, CAMduct)
- Watts Orbital Welder
- Field timecards
- Shop timecards
- Labor reporting
- Payroll integration (all applicable payroll packages for contractors)
- ERP/accounting integration for jobs and labor codes
- Revit® integration
- CAD integration
- Content generation (not dependent on old Windows databases)
- Labor and material costing and pricing