



The online revolution

As projects grow, so too does the need for a centralised document control system.

Sheryl Iafferty reports

An initiative of QA Software, TeamBinder is an internet-based project collaboration solution, enabling all parties on a project to communicate and share project documents in a controlled environment.

Originally developed and released in early 2001, Team Binder has continually evolved over the past 12 years, establishing itself as a reliable and comprehensive industry tool. With the launch of TeamBinder 5 to projects over the past six months, the latest model will be rolled out across the industry throughout 2013.

"We are conducting individual consultations with businesses using the product to ensure a smooth transition from the current version to TeamBinder 5," QA Software general manager sales and marketing Robert Bryant said.

"Any new projects, or current projects continuing for a significant period of time, will be migrated over to the new system."

Following subscription to the system, TeamBinder customers incur a monthly hosting fee for smaller projects, with corporate clients paying an annual fee to acquire unlimited system access. System training is available and a 24/7 telephone line is active to address user queries and concerns.

"TeamBinder costs less than 0.1% of a total project value and this is relative across projects of all sizes," QA Software CEO Russell Mortimer said.

"We've heard about huge expenses being incurred when the wrong documents have changed hands, resulting in the wrong project

materials being ordered. An investment in TeamBinder is well worth it in order to avoid costly mistakes such as this."

QA Software has undertaken extensive consultation and development to ensure that TeamBinder 5 is capable of servicing the industry for which it was designed.

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"It is vital that new technology is able to meet the needs and expectations of a modern world and TeamBinder 5 does this," Bryant said.

"We have undertaken a great deal of research and development to make TeamBinder 5 an ideal assistant for today's project teams."

TeamBinder 5 acts as a tool for improving productivity and efficiency while simultaneously reducing costs for projects. It eliminates the usual concerns associated with document control, most notably a lack of control over external document distribution and the inaccurate exchange of current information, through its capacity to host vital information in a readily accessible and user-friendly central location. The product also removes the need for projects to invest in

IT infrastructure. By reducing upload times, simplifying documentation handover, improving accountability and providing immediate access to the latest project information, TeamBinder 5 offers a rigorous system capable of capturing all correspondence – allowing project teams to track and audit all information throughout and on completion of a project.

As a web-based application, TeamBinder operates online providing 24/7 access to all project information, regardless of location.

"All you need is an internet connection," according to Mortimer. "TeamBinder has the capacity to host high volumes of data and offer specific ways of locating that data. It's like a filing cabinet for each project on the internet."

By streamlining the document control process for projects of all sizes, TeamBinder enables companies and their teams to refocus on the successful, on-budget delivery of their projects.

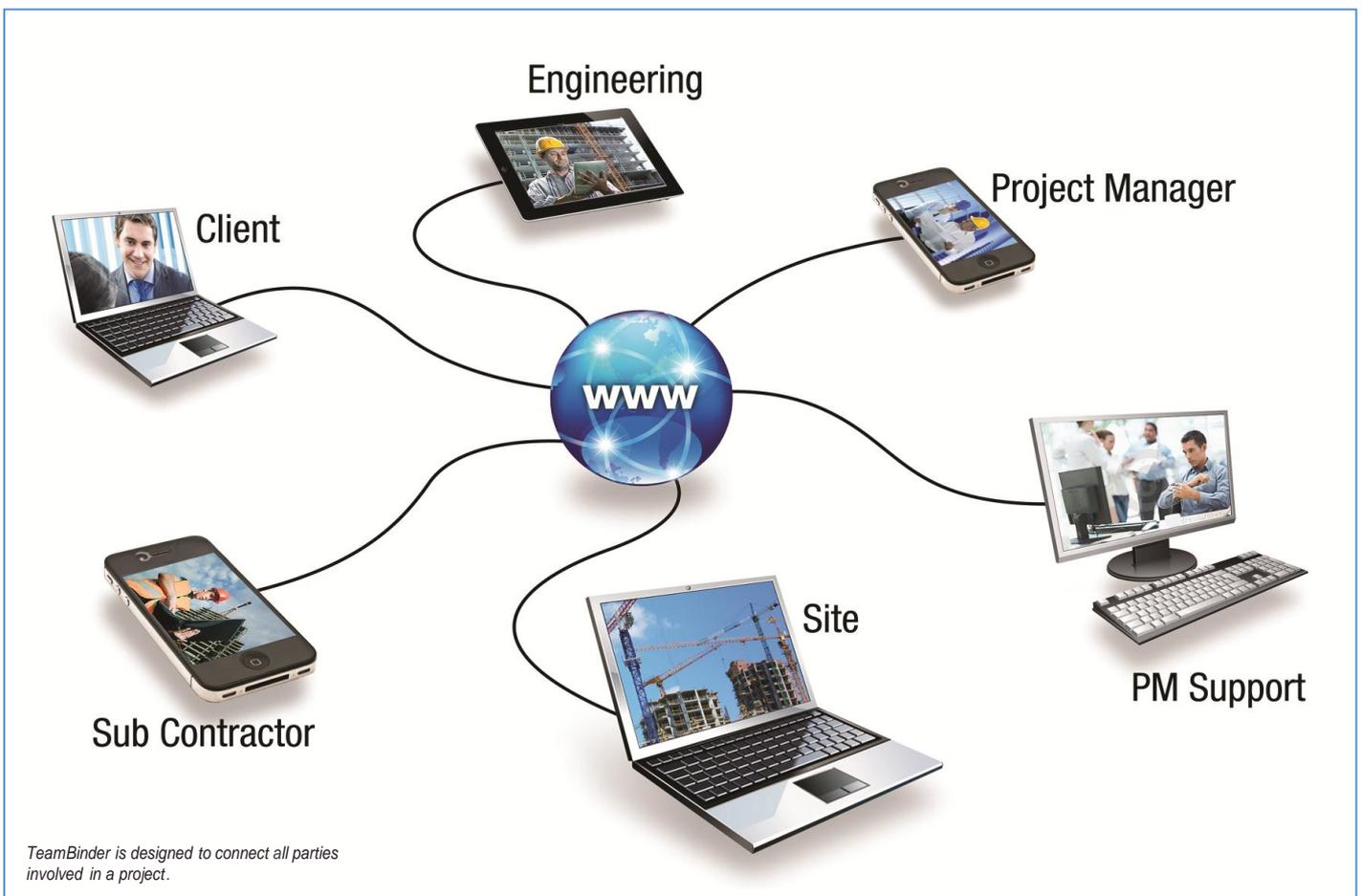
The product's uniqueness lies in its ability to almost fully automate the process of uploading, validating, distributing and approving documents. Decisions such as which folder to upload to are removed, allowing users to configure a series of business rules within TeamBinder at the start of the project.

"TeamBinder's default setting is for workflows to be activated automatically and documents distributed upon completion, but this can be changed to a manual setting at any time," Mortimer said.

"This gives the user control over which documents are automatically issued and which are sent manually, as well as who can access, edit and receive particular documents."



Projects of all sizes can rely on the capabilities of TeamBinder.



Careful management of information is critical on any project and, through its central repository, TeamBinder is designed to ensure that all communications and issues are controlled, enabling teams to work efficiently and effectively.

The product has a strong reputation in the construction and engineering industry and is utilised by a number of large-scale projects Australia-wide including Abigroup, Origin Energy, UGL and Alcoa.

In late 2012, QA Software won the contract for Transport for New South Wales' northwest rail link, which will see TeamBinder 5 used across the project.

"It was a great win. A really proud moment for us," said Bryant. "TeamBinder 5 is practical for projects of all scales, from those under \$10 million to those in excess of \$10 billion.

"Our range of clients and project involvement demonstrates that."

TeamBinder's accessibility and capacity to manage, organise and distribute all project documents is further broadened by its ability to withstand large numbers of users accessing its database at the same time. TeamBinder is used across projects from top-end managers through to onsite workers, in many cases with more than 1000 users on the same project. Built on the latest Microsoft technology, it is accessible across any system as well as on smart phones and tablets.

"Essentially, TeamBinder 5 is unlimited in

terms of how many people can access the system from one project," Bryant said.

"Simultaneous logins are no problem and we've never encountered a maximum capacity limit for people using the system."

By needing only an internet connection and login details to access all information, the product speaks to an industry driven by time pressures and deadlines.

Project teams are increasingly mobile in their daily operations across projects and TeamBinder complements this.

Over the past few years substantial growth

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has been seen in Western Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory.

"We have seen a lot of take-up of the product in these areas across the mining and resources sectors, with the construction and engineering sectors supporting this," Bryant said.

"TeamBinder's usage growth in government



QA Software CEO Russell Mortimer

infrastructure, transport and civil projects across Australia has also been substantial."

As an instrument for improving productivity, TeamBinder has helped a number of companies make the switch to an electronic document control system.

"We currently have hundreds of thousands of users utilising the product on a global scale.

"Collaboration tools like this make the world a smaller place, with projects becoming more international in their operations. It's great to be behind a product that is helping to facilitate this," Bryant said.