mangomind
from mangosoft

Balay Architects, LLC

Balay Architects, LLC Leverages Mangomind's Secure Internet File Sharing to Improve Collaboration with Consultants and Enhance Business Productivity

Balay Architects is a Midwestern architectural firm that brings together a team of professionals on a project-by-project basis necessary to complete a project from schematic design phase through construction. Balay differentiates itself from its competitors by integrating more advanced electronic communication and technology tools to afford their clients the benefits of an *"Information Age Practice."*

Using Mangomind as a collaboration tool between its corporate offices and its external consultants, Balay is able to:

- Improve the productivity of its project teams
- Ensure better quality and accuracy of its project drawings
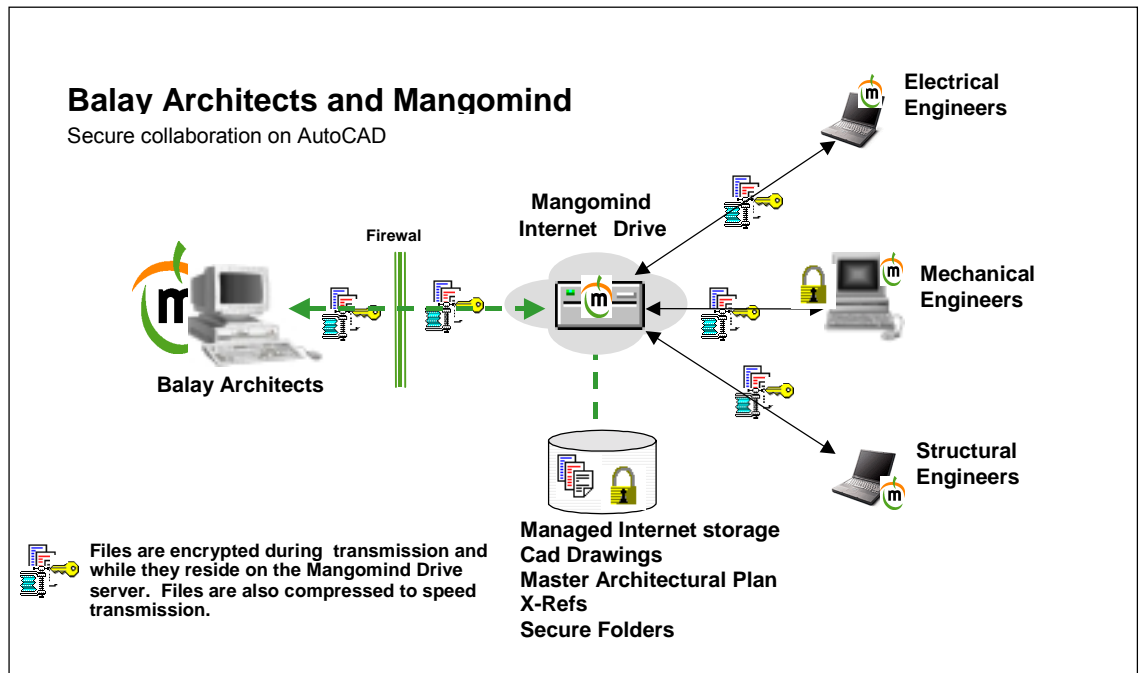- Deliver a premium product to its clients

Balay relies upon a tool inherent in AutoCAD to synchronize all of the drawings from their participating, project consultants. The external reference (x-ref) function in AutoCAD allows a master drawing to be referenced by many additional drawings. When changes are made to the master architectural plan, the x-ref function automatically updates other affected plans and can also update the master plan. This powerful utility is only effective if all of the drawings are accessible on the same local area network. Because their consultants work in geographically dispersed locations, Balay typically would deliver the AutoCAD files via an email attachment and instruct the consultants to make the appropriate updates by overwriting their local copies of the master drawing.

"Using our old methodology, when we needed to make a change to the architectural plan, we needed to contact all of the consultants and trust them to copy and replace the old drawing with the new one," said Michael Balay, partner Balay Architects. "This conventional, Internet method was a project management nightmare in a world running on Internet time."

One File, One Place
To automate the process, Balay Architects created a Mangomind Drive and invited all of their external, project consultants to participate. Now Balay only has to change the master architectural plan on the Mangomind Drive and its consultants' drawings are automatically updated by the AutoCAD x-ref function and the Mangomind synchronization.

"This is the real power of the Mangomind service: real time access to electronic data, even though our project team resides in disparate locations. The process reduces the time spent on the change and edit process, ensures accuracy, and improves our overall project quality and productivity," continued Balay.

Balay Architects and Mangomind

Secure collaboration on AutoCAD

Firewal

Mangomind Internet Drive

Electrical Engineers

Mechanical Engineers

Structural Engineers

Balay Architects

Managed Internet storage
Cad Drawings
Master Architectural Plan
X-Refs
Secure Folders

Files are encrypted during transmission and while they reside on the Mangomind Drive server. Files are also compressed to speed transmission.

End-to-End File Security

Because Balay relies on external consultants and has several projects working concurrently, file security is of paramount importance. In addition to end-to-end 128-bit encryption and user authentication protocols, Mangomind also allows Balay to implement access controls on various files and folders to ensure only the appropriate people, or groups of people, have access to the appropriate information.

"Mangomind's rigorous security protocols not only protect our architectural plans and files, but also provide protection for our consultants' drawings as well," said Balay. "They feel comfortable that only those who require access have permission to view or work on their files."
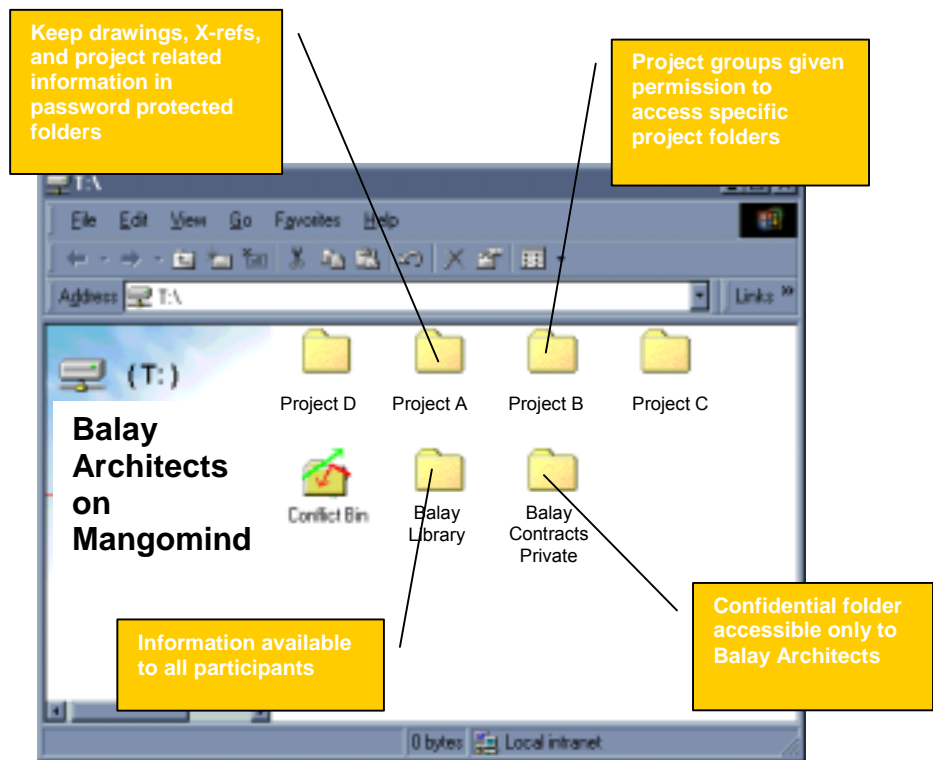
Easy-to-set up / Easy-to-use

According to Michael Balay, Mangomind was easy to implement, even for some of their external consultants who are generally novices with current computer and software technology. Because Mangomind is integrated into Windows, anyone who runs Windows applications can easily install and work with a Mangomind Drive. No additional training is required.

Automatic File Updates and Offsite and Offline File Access

Balay uses Mangomind's advanced synchronization feature to ensure that all the information on the Mangomind Drive that is cached on their local PCs is always up to date. When Balay or their consultants are not connected to the Internet, they can continue to work on current files. When they reconnect to the Internet, their files are automatically synchronized on the Mangomind Drive.

Balay also installs Mangomind's Portable Identity Profiles on their home PCs so they can continue to work on files at home, or on portable notebook computers to allow access to current project files while on the road.

"Mangomind's Portable Identity file allows me to work on a project while at home, and saves me a trip to the office on weekends or during off hours," said Steve Dickens, IT Wizard and CAD Technician. "I simply email the Mangomind software to myself, load it onto my PC at home, install Mangomind, and work just as if I was in the office."

Keep drawings, X-refs, and project related information in password protected folders

Project groups given permission to access specific project folders

T:\

File Edit View Go Favorites Help

Address T:\   Links »

{T:}

Balay Architects on Mangomind

Project D   Project A   Project B   Project C

Conflict Bin   Balay Library   Balay Contracts Private

Information available to all participants

Confidential folder accessible only to Balay Architects

0 bytes   Local intranet

About Balay Architects, LLC

Balay Architects combines the client-centered values of traditional architectural practice with the new technologies of the Information Age. Balay Architects is comprised of its two managing partners and employees and their disparate consultant teams. At the firm level, the management pyramid has been replaced by a flat organization of autonomous firms and consultants brought together on a project-by-project basis. Balay Architects has responded to change driven by technological, client, and competitive forces to form an architectural practice for the Information Age. This Information Age Practice creates value for the Client by enabling more work to be produced faster, at lower cost, and at a higher level of quality. Their Web site is http://www.balayarchitects.com.