

POPSUGAR's secret weapon in the shifting media landscape

By Bjorn Pave, Director of Information Technology, POPSUGAR

Editor's note:

Today's guest author is Bjorn Pave, Senior Director of Information Technology at POPSUGAR, an independent media and technology company that provides women with highly engaging content and commerce brands. Founded in 2006, POPSUGAR is in seven countries with more than 75 million unique monthly visitors.

Boosted productivity with an immediate impact in our editorial process.

Prior to using Google Apps, it took our editors 24 hours to interview a celebrity, create a blog post and to publish the post online. Now, the process is cut down to 1- 2 hours, which gives us a huge competitive advantage over other online publications. We now reach our audiences faster. Team meetings are also more productive. Everyone works with the same Google Doc to take notes, track the agenda and assign action items in real time. With the right tools, we created a better environment for inclusive collaboration.

Fosters collaboration between offices.

Our offices are in San Francisco, New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and London, and we're able to function as one team regardless of location. Chromebox for meetings was an easy solution that let employees and contractors communicate with each other around the world. We insisted on providing video capability because communication can be subtle, and those subtleties are lost if team members can't see each other during a discussion. Now, when our West Coast-based Shopstyle team checks in with the European team first thing in the morning, it's face-to-face and personal.

Saves 70 percent per year.

Switching to Google Apps saves us approximately \$110,000 annually, because we no longer pay for upgrades or unused services bundled in enterprise license agreements. For example, Google Hangouts saves us a few thousand every month by eliminating the need for additional video conference software or traditional conference call lines.

Google platform is reliable. An IT department's worst nightmare is an email outage, or loss of work when a

server is down. Google Apps is cloud based and updates automatically, no matter how many people are working in the same document. Because of the reliability of cloud-based servers, my team has the bandwidth to focus on innovation, creating new solutions to support our growth and stay on top of our business objectives.

Our voice matters. While millions of companies have gone Google, Google continues to make sure each customer can share their unique perspective. We're involved with the Google Apps' development program, and we participate in beta testing of new features, which is great for our IT roadmap. We use the Google Apps Marketplace to find third-party applications that build off of and complement our Google Apps tools.

Nine years after launching, POPSUGAR has grown to over 450 employees, in addition to managing a multitude of specialist contractors, in 5 locations around the globe. We've established a reputation for being leaders in the shifting media landscape, but we aren't complacent. Our global audience is constantly expanding as more and more unique users rely on POPSUGAR as their primary source for entertainment, fashion, fitness, beauty and lifestyle news and product curation. The Google for Work platform is a key enabling technology for us, as collaboration, innovation and reliability are essential to support our vision for the future.



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