

## Overview

Every day, every Imagine employee uses about 12 types of software and hardware to get their job done. That doesn't include the countless emails about weekly schedules, company events and office reminders. What if there was a way to drop the number down to two three items? With Jive-n, it's possible.

[Jive-n](#) is a real time, collaborative workspace that is a repository for almost all the programs and interfaces listed above. Billed as an interactive intranet, Jive-n offers so much more than a communication space. It's THE communication space and could streamline our company in ways we haven't imagined yet. Jive-n is a one-stop shop that will eliminate most, if not all, of the jumping around we currently do on a daily basis.

## Background

Jive-n is an interactive intranet where employers can post announcements, upload policies and interact with employees through discussions. Beyond the initial uses, you can upgrade to a premiere package that allows you to integrate your current email, video conferencing, document sharing (i.e. DropBox), and project management systems. Using one platform instead of five can lead to an increase of productivity and communication across the company.

For example, writing a press release for a client means emails, phones calls, follow up meetings to discuss the phone calls, reviewing drafts, editing drafts, getting approval on the draft, distributing the press release and then following up with media. Instead of bouncing around between programs, Jive would allow us to house all the communication and drafts in one central location that is accessible anywhere we have an internet connection. Our productivity could increase because we have everything we need in one spot and are no longer reliant on being in the office or on spotty VPN access.

Jive-n could replace our internal network, which has no structure. There are duplicate or incorrectly named folders and important company information, like holiday calendars or client information sheets, are hidden in folders and sub-folders that can only be navigated if you know exactly what you're looking for. Switching to Jive would allow us to house all these files within their platform and improve the flow of information.

## Discussion

I signed up for the free trial to get a feel for Jive-n. I watched the promotional videos and read the case studies to get an idea of how to use the platform. The sign-up process was quick and I was bouncing around a customized group within 5 minutes.

Any user will recognize Jive-n's layout when they log in. It's as if a social media outlet and a good website had a baby. There are areas to access more information, similar to how you would have links on a website. There is a section to post news or photos, as you would on social media. This familiar layout could reduce the learning curve. The platform is also accessible from any device with an internet connection. This is extremely helpful for remote or travelling employees. Never again will we have to worry about accessing files that are on the server when we can simply log into Jive-n.

The platform is reasonably priced. If we were to purchase the premier package, the annual fee would be just over \$2,300. While not a large amount, it is still a significant cost for a small business. I do believe we will be able to make up the cost of the software in productivity.

The downside to Jive-n is that if I found it overwhelming. Even though everything we need could be housed within in one platform, there are still several places within Jive-n that you have to navigate to accomplish your task at hand. It can also be overwhelming because of all the possible features and functionality it allows.

### **Conclusion**

I would not recommend Jive-n for Imagine. We would need to dedicate internal resources to learning the platform, modifying our current processes to fit the new platform and getting all employees trained and on board with a new system without compromising our current workload or clients. We would have to do a lot of work up-front to get employee buy-in, especially from those who are not technically-savvy or fear change. Jive-n could be a great tool for Imagine but tools are only worth having if they are being used.