Boardvantage

Boardvantage leads the market in delivering paperless process for board and leadership communication. Trusted by enterprises worldwide, including half of the Fortune 500, Boardvantage sets the bar for a secure and mobile executive experience

A TRULY MOBILE EXPERIENCE

In today's environment, directors are constantly faced with time constraints, as many of them have to fulfill their obligations to the board in addition to full-time company commitments. Often their board work is done on the go and between board meetings. As a result, they need a mobile solution that allows them to share documents confidentially, conduct secure meetings, drive initiatives, and annotate documents.
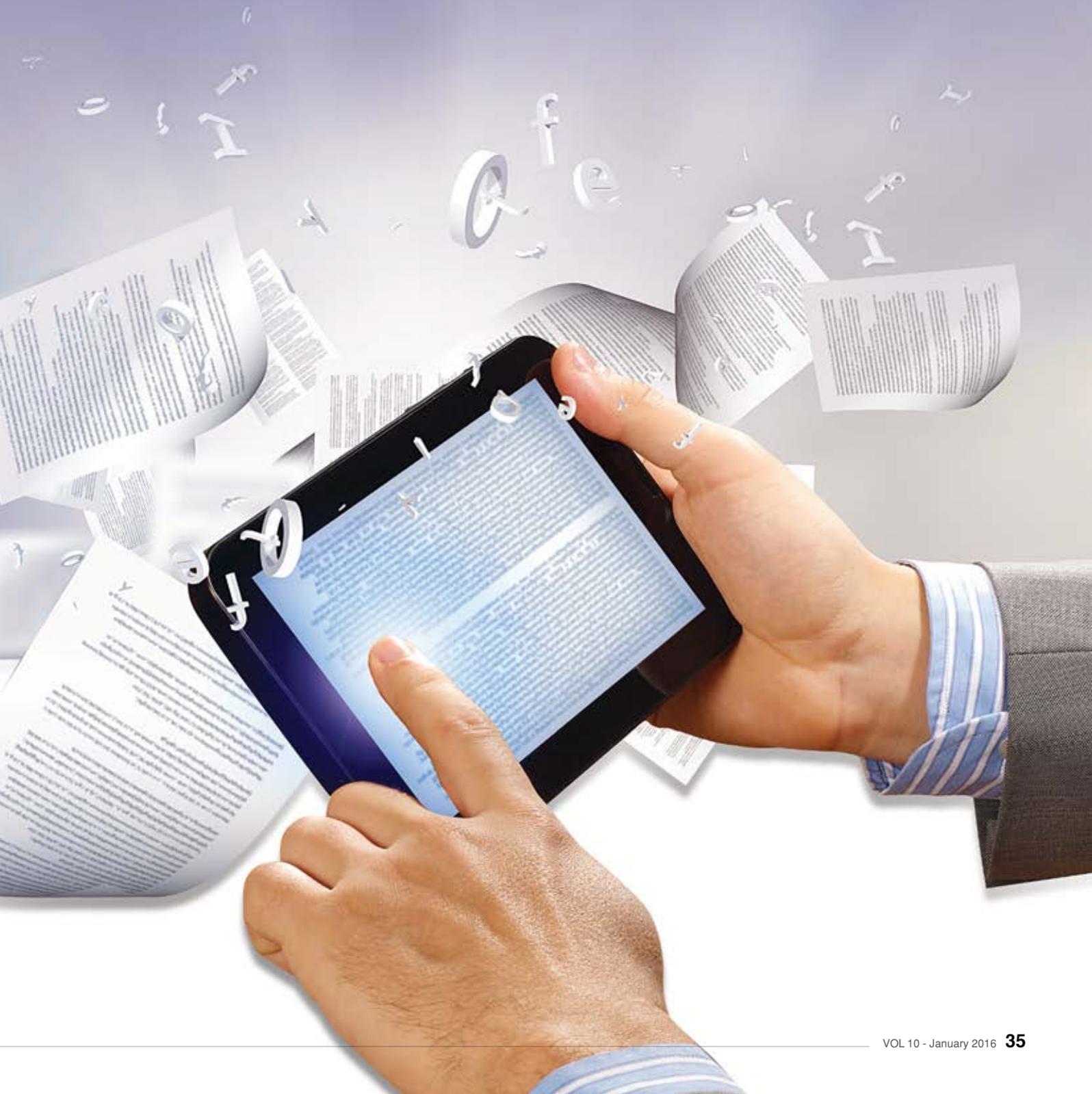
A board portal is the ideal solution. A board portal is a secure app or website designed explicitly for the purpose of facilitating information between directors and the company.

As we move into the future, we'll see board portals and other software solutions become more pervasive, as more companies strive towards software solutions that save time and make process outcomes more timely and predictable.

Today we have identified four focal points for creating a truly mobile experience:

OFFLINE
Geographic dispersion and the ascent of the iPad have convinced directors to rethink long-standing email and paper process with initiatives such as "leave the laptop behind" or "go paperless". Underneath these efforts lies a common theme: the need to go mobile.
It's common to think of mobility as synonymous with being online, but as business travelers know, network access is spotty on the road, and often unavailable in conference settings. Delivering a good user experience means creating an offline capability, but that capability needs to be designed around a seamless online/offline experience. Without that capability, the system will not find acceptance among directors.

VISUAL
A thorny challenge in software development is screen-size limitations of mobile devices. It is doubly difficult to convey complex information so common in the boardroom. What further compounds the challenge is that directors usually are not open to spending time learning new tools. Yet, when they access the system, they still expect to locate what they need — promptly and efficiently. The best way to bridge that gap is to make their experience visual. A visual presentation lets the user absorb information quicker and makes complex information actionable even from something as diminutive as a smart phone. On mobile devices, graphics and animation are the key to overcoming screen size limitations.
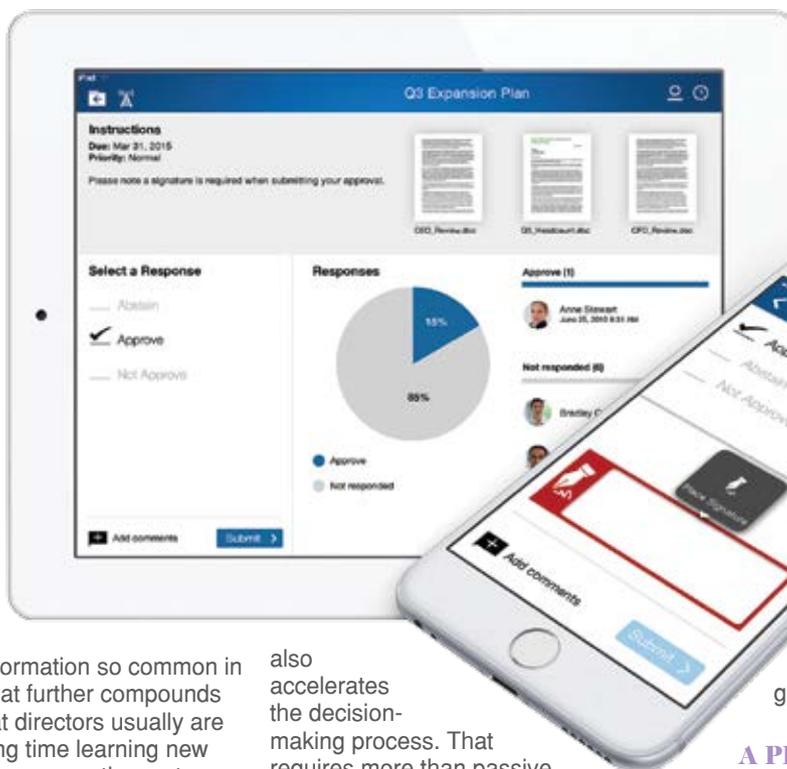
CONTEXT
A rich interface goes hand-in-hand with a good experience, but before directors will relinquish long-standing process, they require productivity improvements in their day-to-day activities. For board members, that means introducing context along with content throughout their environment. Individual documents can be presented in the context of an agenda.

A current meeting can be presented in the context of a timeline of previous meetings and events can be presented in the context of a calendar. For directors who are often overloaded with information, contextualizing will provide the productivity increase that many look for today.

PROCESS
The 24x7 business environment has reset expectations for executive communication. Always on the go, they need process continuity, whether in meetings or in between, in the office or on the road. The fact is that it is continuity that drives efficiency, but more importantly, continuity also accelerates the decision-making process. That requires more than passive document sharing. What's important is to offer a range of productivity tools that can capture the typical process execs are involved in: web conferencing to let them present at remote meetings, approvals for green-lighting initiatives or eSigning agreements, and secure email to support the need for one-on-one communication. They all share the same objective — driving process while on the go.

Additional benefits using a board portal
PROTECTION AGAINST THEFT AND DISCOVERABILITY
Having the board book on a director's iPad creates a potential risk because directors may forget to purge this information, or the device may be lost or stolen. This risk is addressed with a central control system that can purge content remotely.

ONLINE EQUIVALENT TO PAPER PROCESS
A big part of board communication is about who sees what and when they see it. For example, what members of the audit committee see is often different than what members of the governance committee see. Many board portals have a control matrix and content segregation, which make it easy to control user access.

AN EXPERIENCE THAT IS BETTER THAN PAPER
The rich graphics and animation of a board portal improve a director's entire boardroom experience, when compared to paper. It's more engaging, more satisfying, and ultimately more efficient.

TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION
For years, the board portal was a one-way communication tool. The company secretaries distributed materials and directors retrieved it online. Today, portals are shifting to two-way interactive capabilities, which improve decision-making by allowing directors to communicate back to the company secretaries in real time on the substantive issues, thus providing greater efficiency.

A PLATFORM FOR GROWTH
As the use of mobile devices among board members has increased, the paper board book has become a relic of the past. As a result, board members are completing their board work more efficiently, since they are able to work away from the home or office using an electronic solution that is purpose-built for their needs.

But board portals aren't just for board members. Executive leaders can also adopt this technology. Many board portal companies, such as Boardvantage, offer a SaaS solution for executives and senior leadership that allows them to increase meeting productivity and process visibility. As we move into the future, we'll see board portals and other software solutions become more pervasive, as more companies strive towards software solutions that save time and make process outcomes more timely and predictable.