



>>> Using collaborative review and authoring technology increases productivity and drives value across the company



PleaseReview is our 'go-to' software whenever we have a critical document to edit - we don't need to think about the process too much anymore!

Business overview

Conatus Pharmaceuticals Inc. is headquartered in San Diego, California and is a privately-held biotechnology company focused on the development of human therapeutics to treat liver disease and cancer. Currently, the company's primary activity is based on the clinical trials for the treatment of Hepatitis C Virus.

Bringing therapeutics to market is a huge endeavour, and therefore implementing improvements to an organization's efficiency is absolutely essential to save both time and money. Founded in 2005, it was only a couple of years later that Conatus decided that, to increase their own productivity and save valuable time, they needed to improve their document review process.

Early in 2007 Conatus were recommended PleaseTech Ltd.'s document review and co-authoring solution, PleaseReview™. Following a thorough appraisal of the product they decided to implement it company-wide based on the premise that PleaseReview provided review and co-authoring software that was both reasonably priced and that could function independently to their DMS process.

The challenge

As document production plays such a major role within pharmaceutical companies, it was particularly important that PleaseReview lived up to its promise. Conatus frequently had to collaboratively author and review large documents including Investigators Brochures, clinical study reports and protocols, business plans, operating plans and more. These often required the input of multiple authors and subject matter experts, as well as their review by many individuals.

Previously, Conatus used the 'track changes' functionality available in Microsoft® Word®. Challenges were experienced by everyone involved as version control was next to impossible and there was no collaboration on the document - the whole process was inefficient, time wasting and stressful.

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We chose to have a hosted solution as it meant we didn't need to worry about supporting the PleaseReview system ourselves. In the four years since making that decision, we haven't experienced any issues—in fact, it has been remarkably stable, with no associated downtime whatsoever.

The solution

Conatus recognized that they needed a solution that provided comprehensive editing functionality and promoted contributor collaboration for both the review and authoring of documents. They had considered alternative solutions prior to implementing PleaseReview, however finding one that offered a truly collaborative experience on the document content, appropriate functionality and control over the whole process proved difficult.

PleaseReview delivered on all counts with its collaborative review and authoring environment and its ability to enable simultaneous review and authoring. By allowing everyone access to the same copy of the document simultaneously the version control nightmare and formatting issues would be avoided.

Conatus opted for a hosted PleaseReview solution which meant the installation process was managed seamlessly by PleaseTech and was almost invisible to the customer. As well as initial set up, all ongoing routine maintenance, security and administration are managed by PleaseTech and users simply log onto the PleaseReview system through a dedicated and secure URL.

As PleaseReview is so simple and intuitive to use, training requirements were minimal with no formal training required. All users were soon proficient on the system and this mix of simplicity, reviewer collaboration and unique functionality meant rapid company-wide adoption.

Conatus Pharmaceuticals have been using PleaseReview for four years and continue to enjoy its benefits. Communication regarding key documents has been facilitated, the collaborative editing functionality saves time for everyone involved and life is now far easier for the review owner. Karen Valentino, Vice President of Program Management for Conatus remarks “It is much easier to incorporate everyone's comments (or let them know why they aren't being incorporated) to produce the final version. And, it helps keep me sane. The importance of the latter cannot be overstated!”

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