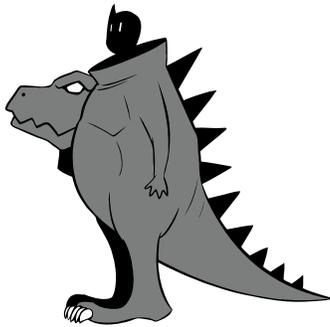


Filmworks/FX Inc.

Case Study



FILMWORKS/FX INC.

Company

Filmworks/FX Inc.

Location

Los Angeles & Brooklyn

Contact

Owen Holdren

Industry

Film

Filmworks/FX Expands Their Reach with NAS

Filmworks/FX is a full-service visual effects company that provides high-end production and complete post-production services. Their portfolio of work includes The Matrix, Fight Club, House of Cards, Blue Bloods, Gone Girl, Date Night and many more.

To meet the growing performance demands of their California and New York locations, Filmworks/FX sought a centralized storage solution that could be accessed remotely by all employees.

Extensive Demand Requires Reliable Storage and Data Transfer

“Filmworks/FX maintains a full digital lab with software tools from a range of providers,” says Director of Special Projects, Ed Heede. “But as important as software has become, hardware is at the cusp of the new cinema watershed.”

The Filmworks/FX network includes a film and digital camera capture department, shooting stages with services, high-end CGI, a DI color correction theater (with 10-bit digital and 35mm projection), telecine, design production, and scanning-recording capabilities. That’s a lot of data being captured, transferred, and transformed!

With their previous server, FilmworksFX experienced performance issues, lagging data transfers, and limited capacity. But the biggest problem turned out to be insurmountable: the server was proprietary. This meant that FilmworksFX had to jump on a service call every time a problem occurred.

Understandably, FilmworksFX wanted more control over their closed server network. They wanted more ownership over its security and maintenance. But the tedious back-and-forth became too costly and distracting for their fast-paced, multi-location teams.

Filmworks/FX Expands Their Reach with NAS



Fast, Reliable Storage Fit for High-Producing Creatives

They tried various Windows servers with infiniband, SAS Direct Attached Storage (DAS) solutions, and a number of Network Attached Storage (NAS) devices—private clouds where data can be accessed remotely by employees anytime, anywhere.

“Seagate was one of many brands of drives we bought off the shelf whenever we would either rebuild a computer or need storage for archival purposes,” says Heede. “We kept coming back to Seagate due to their reliability.”

Eventually, Filmworks/FX found a powerful solution for their performance, capacity, and reliability needs: a QNAP Thunderbolt NAS system equipped with IronWolf Pro hard drives.

Heede has found the UI to be more intuitive than many other NAS systems he’s used in the past. “And the drives have been fast and reliable,” remarks Heede. “Overall boosts for productivity have been in the 10-15% range, which is significant given the work volume we do.”

Heede uses the QNAP Thunderbolt NAS system for capturing and editing 4k files directly in the QNAP TVS-871T, which has both DAS and NAS capabilities. Both the QNAP and BlackMagic Cintel Scanner connect to the same host machine (with BlackMagic Resolve running on it) via Thunderbolt connections. This setup allows Heede to capture and store 4K footage onto the QNAP NAS with Seagate IronWolf Pro drives in real-time, which significantly speeds up the entire workflow.

With the new storage setup, everyone at Filmworks/FX is able to remotely upload, download, and access their centralized data from multiple locations. This makes it easy for employees to collaborate, quickly respond to customers, and promptly follow up on sales or other time-sensitive issues.

Heede explains that the addition of the drives has been entirely transparent. “There were no hitches or problems, and we were able to integrate the drives without needing to stop our work in any way.”

And since Filmworks/FX maintains IronWolf Health Management with their IronWolf drives, employees can actively monitor the health of the drives and prevent issues before they even arise.

Deeper Support Experience For Production

It took “about an hour” for Filmworks/FX to get their QNAP NAS system with IronWolf Pro hard drives up and running with the help of the online setup manual.

“QNAP NAS with Seagate IronWolf Pro drives are as close to the often cited ‘plug and play solution’ as any tool we have used for production,” explains Heede.

Now, their storage consistently meets the heavy workload environment and performance needs of the entire FilmworksFX team.

No follow up IT has been required.

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Ed Heede
Director of Special Projects
Filmworks/FX Inc.

Learn More

For more information on Seagate IronWolf HDDs, visit www.seagate.com/ironwolf

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