

PHOENIX PRINTING PLATES LTD

Acronis



SECTOR:

Flexographic Printing Industry.

KEY CHALLENGES:

Enable all Macs (regardless of operating system age) to connect to Windows SBS Server 2010 via Apple Filing Protocol (AFP).

ENVIRONMENT:

Windows SBS Server 2010, 15 Mac and 3 Windows computers, various OS's and versions.

SOLUTION:

Acronis Access Connect (formerly ExtremeZ-IP).

KEY BENEFITS:

- Seamless integration of Macs with Windows file servers
- Resolved renaming, moving and file permissions issues
- Fast and accurate search results
- Overall performance and productivity improved

PHOENIX PRINTING PLATES LTD

Formed in 1992, the company is one of the UK's leading Flexo Plate suppliers. Phoenix Printing Plates specialize in the manufacturing of high quality digital HD Flexo Plates to key players in the industry. The busy origination and repro studio utilizes the latest technology and has four ArtPro seats along with Adobe Creative Cloud.

CHALLENGE

Kristian Wells, Repro Account Manager, Phoenix Printing Plates explained that when recently purchasing a new Windows server for the business, he did not initially look at Acronis Access Connect as a requirement. Despite having used it in the past on a much older Windows 2003 Server, he assumed that Macs and Windows must be able to connect seamlessly using SMB by now.

Although we could get all Macs in the studio to connect to the new server our users experienced many frustrating issues such as:

- Long delays when viewing folder contents
- Inability to rename or move files for a long time after they had been opened due to permission issues
- Very time consuming/inaccurate search results
- Overall slow performance affecting productivity

These new issues were very disappointing. Installing our new server was supposed to provide big improvements. Even though we centralized all of our job data, operators still preferred to work directly on their Macs as the server had too many performance issues. We initially tried to resolve this by upgrading a couple of the studio Macs to run OSX Mavericks (this uses SMB2 as its default network connection). Although better, it was far from perfect. Even still, some Macs were too old to upgrade so this would have eventually forced us down the route of costly replacement.

As well as giving a high performance AFP connection, Acronis Access Connect also enabled us to set up other useful features such as file name policies and limitations to stop operators from using certain characters that may cause issues with another machine further down the line. Another feature which we had not used before was the ShadowConnect. This is easily installed on each machine and enables everyone to restore a previous version of a file, or even a deleted file. This is a real life-saving feature.

"Everyone in the studio now works directly from the server giving us a central repository for all work. We don't even realize that Access Connect is running as once it is installed on the server you don't ever need to touch it. All operators get seamless connection and everyone is happy. We just wish we had installed it from day one as it would have saved a lot headaches," said Wells.

WHY ACRONIS

With constant tight deadlines, each of the company's 10 repro operators need to be able to use their Macs as efficiently as possible. Connectivity issues waste time and reduce efficiency. Prior to Access Connect, Mac users were just not able to connect efficiently to their Windows SBS 2010 Server. Folders were very slow to display contents, users could not rename folders which had recently been opened, searching was impossible and reading and writing a file was sluggish. Within 30 minutes of installing Access Connect, the entire studio was connected to the Windows Server using the Acronis Access Connect AFP Connection. This has resulted in a happier workplace for our Mac users and improved productivity since we are saving hours per day.

The additional ShadowConnect software, which is included for free, also proved extremely useful as it can save the day if a file is accidentally overwritten (or even deleted). Thanks to ShadowConnect, Microsoft Volume Shadow Copy (VSS) versions of these files could be immediately browsed and restored by Mac users.

ACRONIS ACCESS CONNECT (FORMERLY EXTREMEZ-IP)

Acronis Access Connect has been the leader in solving Mac / Windows integration issues for over 15 years. Acronis Access Connect addresses file corruptions, slow searches and other incompatibilities when accessing Windows file and print servers, and NAS devices, from a Mac.

At its core, Acronis Access Connect is a Windows-based AFP service. It enables Macs to connect using their native Apple Filing Protocol to files residing on a Windows server running Acronis Access Connect. In addition, using the Access Connect optional Network Reshare features, Macs can use AFP to access files on other Windows servers and NAS devices, through a single Access Connect server.

ABOUT ACRONIS

Acronis sets the standard for New Generation Data Protection through its backup, disaster recovery, and secure access solutions. Powered by the AnyData Engine and set apart by its image technology, Acronis delivers easy, complete and safe backups of all files, applications and OS across any environment — virtual, physical, cloud and mobile.

Founded in 2002, Acronis protects the data of over 5 million consumers and 300,000 businesses in over 130 countries. With its more than 100 patents, Acronis' products have been named best product of the year by Network Computing, TechTarget and IT Professional and cover a range of features, including migration, cloning and replication.

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