BUILDING A MOBILE WORKFORCE TO ACCELERATE PRODUCTIVITY

Acronis

CLIENT:

Parrish Construction Group is a privately-owned, full-service construction firm headquartered in Perry, Georgia with offices in Roswell and Warner Robins, GA. The mid-sized, full-service builder specializes in academic projects for the public and private sectors. From 2009 to 2014, Parrish constructed more than two million square feet of academic facilities across Georgia. The company, founded in 1995, has grown to three offices with over $100 million in contracted work per year.

CHALLENGE:

Construction demands a high-level of coordination and efficiency to ensure projects are completed on time. Superintendents overseeing projects often work at the construction site and need to collaborate with their team, the client and a multitude of subcontractors. They share schedules and drafts, receive feedback, and must quickly implement changes.

Parrish Construction Group sends their team into the field, sometimes with projects up to 275 miles apart. Previously, before leaving for on-site work or meetings, team members would often spend an entire day gathering all the documents, files and drafts they needed. To help employees focus on meeting their deadlines, Parrish Construction Group needed a solution that would allow its team to access files for the job from their mobile devices, so the company provided iPad® devices for all their employees and turned to Dropbox.

The company would create a folder for each client and share PDFs of blueprints and other documents in that folder. This worked fine, however, when documents were updated on the server, staff had to redundantly upload them into the corresponding Dropbox folders. Each day, the superintendents would file daily reports to track project information: weather, which subcontractors were present on which days and the number of workers to identify any issues. This created a large number of documents constantly updating, and added additional cycles for the team. Plus project managers would often need to be at the jobsite before they were able to upload the necessary files to Dropbox.

"Everyone looked at Dropbox as being a great thing. But from an IT perspective, there had to be a better way. Files are only current if you make them current. And then you needed to copy those files to and from our servers. Plus we had a number of sensitive, confidential documents, such as pay requests, that we didn't want to just give anyone access to."

Craig Rice
Director of Information Technology, Parrish Construction Group

ORGANIZATION:

Parrish Construction Group

ENVIRONMENT:

80 employees mobilized for iOS devices, tablets and smartphones

KEY CHALLENGES:

- Providing access to data on corporate servers from any mobile device
- Eliminating redundancies and chances for error in synchronizing files
- Creating an organized central repository of working and archived documents
- Integrating with Microsoft® Active Directory®
- Eliminating the need to use VPN
- Provisioning file access for better security

SOLUTION:

Acronis® Access

BENEFITS:

- Access to the most recent documents on file servers from any mobile device, from anywhere
- Single solution for both iOS and Android™
- Simplicity of use, requiring minimal training to use proficiently
- Easy integration with other work-related programs and applications

SOLUTION:

> Acronis Access has **changed the way we communicate**. Our field staff saves at least an hour a day with Acronis Access. Instead of running back and forth to the job trailer, they **gain 1/8 of their workweek back**. No matter where we are, all the information necessary for the job is at our fingertips.

Craig Rice

Craig Rice researched mobile productivity products and learned about Acronis Access, a secure access, syncing and sharing solution for the enterprise. He also considered Dropbox and Citrix® solutions. Acronis Access more than met his requirements for seamless syncing of files and Active Directory integration, which enabled setting folder permissions and user access provisioning. It also integrated into their blueprint editing application Bluebeam and their third-party daily reporting app. More importantly though, it was extremely simple to implement for Parrish's non-technical users – namely, the contract superintendents and project managers.

 "I needed buy-in from the team in the field. If the team didn't think it was easy to use and easily helped them share files, then there wouldn't have been any point in implementing the project and trying to improve their productivity," said Mr. Rice.

Mr. Rice took a unique approach to introducing Acronis Access. He identified an employee who was a leader and respected by his colleagues, and trained him how to use Acronis Access himself. Once this person had a good understanding of this new way of sharing and securing daily information, he created a mentor system. The trainee then taught two people and they taught two people each, and so on. Quickly construction and some administrative support employees began using the application as their main data repository, sharing drafts with clients and allowing them to upload edits that were automatically synced and immediately available to all. All daily reports are catalogued and accessible from any device directly from their on-premise servers, and an integrated Active Directory meant only users with permission gained access to files. Now the team at Parrish Construction Group is truly connected and mobile; they have access to any file, anywhere at any time.

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 50 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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