Panzura Freedom vs. Nasuni for AEC and Revit

Panzura and Nasuni both offer hybrid cloud storage solutions for Revit, Civil 3D, and other design applications that enable users to share files and collaborate on complex projects. While the hybrid cloud storage solutions may seem similar, only Panzura has directly invested in a solution to give Architectural, Engineering, and Construction (AEC) companies the ability to have any number of users in any location work together as if they are in the same room. Since Revit is one of the leading AEC tools, let's look at the difference between Panzura and Nasuni for that application.

FEATURE	PANZURA	NASUNI
Workset Borrowing	Y	Y
Element Borrowing	Y	N
Distributed File Locking	Y	With performance impact
Workshare Monitor	Y	N
SmartSync™	Y	N

Workset vs Element Borrowing

What is it?
Workset Borrowing is a legacy process in Revit that forces users to manually open and checkout portions of a project, allowing multiple people to work on it at once. Workset borrowing requires someone to create the workset, to manually manage it, and to handle requests to borrow elements.

Element Borrowing is the modern, automated method for users to collaborate on projects in Revit. Element Borrowing allows the software to automatically handle borrow requests at a more granular level than Workset Borrowing, which is required for complex projects, making it the preferred method today.

Why is it important?
Element Borrowing is the industry standard for Revit users as it is the only effective way for large numbers of users to collaborate on complex projects. Simply using worksets alone is inadequate for modern AEC companies with distributed teams that work on complex designs.

Panzura provides choice for how you work.
Panzura has invested resources to ensure that you have the freedom to choose and fully supports both transparent Element Borrowing and Worksets. Customers can use whatever workflow is best for their company to enable real time, global collaboration.

Nasuni makes the decision for you.
Nasuni takes your freedom away by only supporting legacy Workset Borrowing. They recommend using worksets only and do not support using element borrowing, severely limiting users' ability to use modern design flows, which prevents users from collaborating effectively.

Distributed File Locking

What is it?
File locking ensures that no two individuals can work on the same data set at the same time. With file locking, when a user checks out a file, only that user can edit it until that person relinquishes control, allowing another user to edit.

Why is it important?
File locking is crucial to Revit as it allows users to work on the same project across geographically distributed sites. Without file locking, users would have to create needless multiple versions of data, which can result in lost time, project delays, and data corruption.

Panzura enables globally distributed teams to work as one.
Panzura supports distributed file locking with no limits, allowing global users to work as if they are in the same office. Only Panzura allows file locking down to the byte-range level, allowing for true collaboration across sites, even with the most complex files, for increased productivity and accelerated project delivery.

Nasuni makes global collaboration difficult.
Using Nasuni with Revit requires configuration changes which may significantly impact performance. Due to limitations of their file locking design, Nasuni has to offer two modes for configuring file locking: Optimized and Advanced.

- Optimized: Recommend for most applications, this option offers better performance but can severely limit protocol compatibility.
- Advanced: Recommended for applications such as Revit, this offers higher global locking capabilities, but may significantly impact performance.

Workshare Monitor

What is it?
Revit Workshare Monitor allows users to see if other users are performing a Sync With Central process.

Why is it important?
With Revit, only one user can perform a Sync With Central process at a time. In collaborative environments, if multiple users perform a sync at the same time, then all of those users will be queued and unable to do other work until the users ahead of them complete the process. Workshare Monitor allows users to be more productive by allowing them to plan their synch times by viewing when others are syncing.

Panzura users are more productive.	Nasuni users can sit idle.
Panzura fully supports Revit's Workshare Monitor, allowing users to sync when appropriate, avoiding delays and improving productivity.	Since Nasuni does not support Revit's Workshare Monitor, users may be forced to sit idle as their sync process is queued, consuming non-billable time that could be better spent on customer projects.

SmartSync™

What is it?
Panzura's patent pending technology that enables users to benefit from the advanced file locking mechanisms in modern applications.

Why is it important?
Keeps files in sync across multiple locations in real time. Many applications use legacy RSync technology, which adds unnecessary network communication and additional calculations to ensure data integrity. For some files this can take longer than just transferring the whole file. This means users spend time waiting rather than working.

Panzura ensures real-time collaboration.	Nasuni technology can lead to data corruption.
Panzura SmartSync technology uniquely ensures real-time collaboration so users don't have to wait for files to sync between sites. Panzura leverages data storage techniques to track changes to files, and only transfers the changes between controllers. This enables all controllers to see all changes to the dataset in real time, without computational or additional network overhead. This means users will always be using the latest version of a file, ensuring data integrity.	Nasuni does not support this technology today and, based upon their architecture, may never be able to do so. In extreme cases, this can lead to versioning issues and ultimately data corruption.