

ÅF Drives Global Team Collaboration to Boost Productivity, Reduce Costs and Speed Profitability with Panzura

Since 1895, ÅF has connected technologies to provide profitable, innovative, and sustainable solutions for energy, industrial, and infrastructure markets. With almost 16,000+ highly qualified engineers and 28,000 partners, ÅF has assignments spanning across 100 offices and just as many countries. As a global operation, ÅF needed to ensure that their global team was connected and working together to drive higher productivity and results.

Challenge: Distributed workforce creates inefficiencies and lower productivity

ÅF's workforce operated from a variety of geographic locations and were unable to collaborate and leverage their team expertise on large scale Revit based projects. ÅF found it difficult for their teams to collaborate at different locations with different applications at each site. With different solutions at each site, the company had created islands of storage. These data islands made it virtually impossible for their 16,000+ employees to properly collaborate on projects across the globe and work as a single team. Each site had their own storage and backup procedures. They had different Revit models making it impossible to collaborate in real-time on existing projects as well as new ones. Productivity was challenged as open times for the models was inherently slow in Revit Server and made it impossible to tap into unused design capacity in other locations. This led to a lack of efficiency, effectiveness, and a waste of funds. The company desired an IT infrastructure that would enable their talented teams to come together on mega projects in real-time and move with speed to deliver projects on-time and on-budget.

Solution: ONE Global Cloud Filesystem with Panzura Freedom Collaboration

ÅF decided to implement Panzura Freedom Collaboration to empower its teams across multiple locations and time zones. Working on Revit, one of the most demanding applications in a world that is not designed for use across distributed teams was made possible by Freedom Collaboration. ÅF's dispersed teams can now get full cross-site collaboration with complete Revit support to boost productivity significantly. They do this by consolidating data into a single source of truth and using Panzura's global namespace and distributed global file locking, with which they can insure that designers can work on the "same" golden copy without worrying about overwriting with another designer. Additionally, using byte range locking they can work on sub-elements of the projects.

The business benefits for ÅF were significant:

- Become an attractive employer and gain strong productivity gains amongst its global designers
- Streamline process, accelerate delivery time on projects, lower its storage and infrastructure costs
- Add projects without hiring additional manpower
- Safeguard intellectual property (IP)
- Automated back-up and DR



Panzura Freedom Collaboration is the only solution that enables full use of Revit distributed over teams including use of workshare monitor. Now, not only are they able to leverage talent spread in different geo-locations but ÅF gained the ability to shift resources immediately to give the right project to the right designer. Any office that had excess capacity of manpower could be channelized to an appropriate project or any project that needed a specialist from their team could contribute in real-time irrespective of the location. The ability to divert its workforce became a major advantage to their business.



“As a multi-billion-dollar global engineering and design firm with over 30,000 employees and partners worldwide, speed and team productivity are critical to delivering world-class billion-dollar designs for our customers. With Panzura Freedom, we deployed ONE global cloud file system across all global sites, enabling engineers and designers to collaborate as ONE global team, dramatically increasing productivity and improving our bottom line.”

Henrik Carlberg, Business CIO, ÅF

Benefits: Real-time collaboration with increased efficiency, reduced latency

ÅF team members working on a project in Sweden can easily collaborate with engineers in China who have the same project data cached locally at their site. This real-time collaboration reduced the latency associated with remote file access and increased efficiency so ÅF can readily work to make a difference for their clients.

Having consolidated data into a single version of truth, ÅF's design teams get One Global Experience accessing files irrespective of their location. They enjoy One Vizion of Data and no longer struggle with data sprawl and versioning issues.

In addition to empowering the organization via global collaboration, ÅF's IT team can also sleep soundly knowing that the company's data is properly backed up.

Summary

Since ÅF fully deployed Panzura Freedom Collaboration in September 2018, teams now enjoy greater productivity and collaboration across the company. Employees can work simultaneously on projects without risking overwriting data, experiencing latency, or having to fear that their data is not backed up properly. Thanks to Panzura Freedom Collaboration, ÅF can continue to efficiently create progress in the energy, industrial, and infrastructure space by providing sustainable solutions for tomorrow.

Discover how Panzura can benefit your design teams working on Revit and help you manage your data with ease.

“Working alongside Panzura was as easy as it gets. It didn't take long for the Panzura team to demonstrate the value they can bring to a customer, especially with a cloud-strategy and a data-driven culture. Panzura's distributed file storage is a game-changer for any enterprise.”

Filip Åkesson, Principal Solution Specialist, Microsoft



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