



TLC Engineering Case Study

TLC Engineering for Architecture is a dynamic engineering firm with a diversity of talent, expertise, and skill to deliver design projects that span the major markets and around the world. With more than 60 years of experience, multiple offices, a commitment to sustainable design, and an enthusiastic embrace of leading-edge technology, TLC ranks among the largest and most respected engineering firms in the nation.

Customer Challenge

With numerous offices throughout the US, TLC needed to be able to share Revit models and other large files across offices quickly and efficiently. The goal was to virtually share staff and other resources among offices to meet their aggressive delivery schedules, while managing increasingly large and complex customer projects and Revit models. To accomplish this, they needed to utilize the talent of staff members who were located in one office, on projects that were led by another office.

They had been using the corporate WAN to move files between locations, but the amount of time required to open models was slowing production to unacceptable levels. Further impacting users was the time needed to save files across sites. The result was that users in multiple offices and disciplines could not work on projects or save their work simultaneously.

The collaboration problem was about to become amplified because they were also launching new offices to support their expansion into specific geographic markets. Those new offices would also rely on staff in other offices for production assistance. In addition, there was a need to enhance their data backup and disaster recovery (DR) processes to a solution that would not only protect their data, but also provide greater availability across sites.

They realized they should take advantage of recent technology advances, including cloud storage, to maximize their workforce and provide a solution for their backup and DR concerns.

Chosen Solution

After evaluating potential solutions, including Nasuni, TLC selected Panzura Freedom Collaboration™ to meet their collaboration, consolidation, and disaster recovery needs. The key to this selection was the depth of experience that Panzura has in the design and construction market. TLC had confidence that Panzura had a complete understanding of the architecture, engineering, and construction (AEC) process, workflow, and optimization strategies.

TLC installed a total of 11 Freedom Collaboration Filers in various offices, migrating more than 14 TB of data to the cloud.

Customer Challenge

- Challenged to meet delivery schedules
- Large Revit files were difficult to share
- Could not share employee resources across offices
- New offices could not leverage existing staff
- High availability and disaster recover plans needed updating
- Wanted to move to cloud storage

Solution

- Panzura Freedom Collaboration

Results

- Migrated 14 TB to the cloud
- Eliminated the need for Riverbed WAN accelerators
- Average employee time savings of 4-5 hours per week per designer
- Improved Revit 'sync to central' performance and faster opening of models
- The ability to synchronize multiple disciplines simultaneously across offices
- Encryption and DR protect critical customer data and design files

Vertical

- AEC



“Revamping our network to use the power of Panzura has resulted in a more satisfied workforce, client expectations being met through cooperative efforts, and an overall faster network.”

Brett McKinstry, PE, LEED AP BD+C, TLC's COO

Results

By moving to Panzura, TLC was able to achieve significant productivity gains, accelerated delivery of customer projects, greater utilization of resources, and enhanced employee morale. Some of the benefits include:

- Average employee time savings of four to five hours per week per designer
- Improved Revit 'sync to central' performance and faster opening of models
- The ability to synchronize multiple disciplines simultaneously
- Eliminated the need for WAN acceleration

Brett McKinstry, PE, LEED AP BD+C, TLC's COO stated, “Revamping our network to use the power of Panzura, as well as steps taken by our IT Manager Scott Ashton, have resulted in a more satisfied workforce, client expectations being met through cooperative efforts, and an overall faster network.”

Concurrent with installing Freedom Collaboration, all projects were moved to a common drive. This eliminated the need for remapping data when switching between projects, connecting one office to another, and also improved productivity.

Additionally, when staff members are traveling, they can readily work from any TLC location without any special arrangements or data mapping. Staff resources are shared more easily across offices and productivity has increased across the firm. TLC employees are pleased to be working more efficiently and productively, enhancing morale.

Perhaps the words of a senior designer and Revit certified professional on the day following the migration said it best. “I have noticed the speed has increased tremendously!!! Even faster than our old L: drive...!!!”

Protecting valuable customer and design data is critical to TLC. The high level of encryption provided by Freedom Collaboration to data at rest and in-flight was seen as an additional benefit. High availability and DR were enhanced by installing Freedom Filer pairs in the TLC Orlando and Dallas locations. The DR requirement is met through snapshots, which allows users to roll back to a known good point in time quickly and easily. Their IT staff is no longer called upon to restore files and no longer has to invest hours in tape backup or searching tapes for older file versions. Off-site storage expenses will reduce over time.

The commitment of TLC to state-of-the-art technology supports their client-centric focus and helps the firm maintain a competitive edge. Moving to Panzura Freedom Collaboration enabled TLC to completely eliminate the use of Riverbed WAN accelerators. This provided significant cost savings as they were able to avoid the expense of renewing that technology.

As TLC's Orlando office approaches a significant remodeling, the size of their server room will be reduced, along with the associated expense for dedicated air conditioning. Additionally, maintenance on these services is reduced.



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