

# Eppstein Uhen Architects (EUA)

## Cross-Office BIM Collaboration through Storage Consolidation

Eppstein Uhen Architects (EUA), a 145 person architectural design firm with offices in Milwaukee, Madison, and Des Moines, was tired of cross-site collaboration issues, disaster recovery (DR)/back-up challenges, and being on a primary storage treadmill. The Company decided it was time for a change. It was crucial for EUA to be able to collaborate in real-time across offices, and not run into issues such as duplicating files, overwriting files, or experiencing delays for files to open or sync across offices. EUA tried to collaborate on large Revit models across offices using WAN acceleration, but performance was poor.

EUA needed a solution that would improve BIM performance at remote offices, keep its data consolidated, provide high availability, and offer DR and back up of essential data in order to continue achieving business goals. The company also needed a solution that wouldn't constantly require IT to add additional storage, as their current SAN risked reaching capacity. Searching for a better system, EUA heard early on about the benefits of Panzura's technology from their AEC peers, and as a forward-thinking company became an early adopter of the technology. Since then, EUA has experienced both application performance and infrastructure consolidation benefits, the greatest being their ability to seamlessly collaborate on large Revit models across their multiple offices thanks to Panzura's Distributed File Locking technology.

## Infrastructure Consolidation Was Job One

"While many other Panzura customers that I've spoken with based their decision on BIM collaboration across distributed offices, the need to consolidate our storage and WAN opt infrastructure was our main goal," said Ken Seelow, Director of Information Technology at EUA. "We absolutely require the cross-site BIM collaboration

### Situation Snapshot:

Three offices nationwide, 145 project team members distributed across offices in Milwaukee, Madison and Des Moines leveraging a diverse library of applications including SketchUp, Revit, AutoCAD, other Autodesk applications.

- **Challenge 1:** Eliminate Latency — Remote office performance was a constant battle; the company experienced significant latency despite using WAN Accelerators and Revit Server.
- **Challenge 2:** Backup Retention of Essential Data – EUA needed to ensure all of the data in the Milwaukee office was backed up, but had challenges sending this data to the Madison office for DR and backup.
- **Challenge 3:** Storage Scalability – Reaching storage capacity was a constant challenge and required considerable archiving attention.

from Panzura and now could not live without it, but infrastructure consolidation drove the initial need."

EUA has been able to eliminate the purchase of more SAN equipment for file storage. EUA no longer needs to utilize VEEAM for its file storage backup – all of its data resides in cloud storage with the ability to recover snapshots at a moment's notice. Additionally, EUA eliminated the need for WAN Optimization, going from 88 percent of traffic being accelerated before Panzura to zero percent after Panzura. Finally, EUA will be able to replace its dedicated site-to-site links with Internet connections.

## Collaborating Like Never Before

Large Revit models were unusable with WAN Accelerators so Seelow attempted Revit servers in each location for a project.



The Revit servers were better than WAN Acceleration but still did not provide the performance that Seelow was looking for. After installing Panzura, Seelow compared the performance of WAN Acceleration and Revit Server solutions to Panzura. Models that took several minutes to open were opening in seconds using Panzura.

"I talked with our users, both those that pilot tested and those that had not used Panzura before, to elicit feedback on Panzura," said Seelow. "Across the board, everyone was thrilled with the experience and said that the performance actually increased after we rolled into production."

## Element-Locking for Speedier Performance

On top of the aforementioned benefits, EUA also experienced zero conflicts with file locking once the Panzura was installed.

"It was really important for me to hear that Panzura had the element-locking benefit, which sets this solution apart from the competition. Infrastructure simplification is a goal of mine as well – the more we can streamline and simplify infrastructure the better. It's about reducing overhead costs and spending less time managing equipment, which in turn allows us to focus more on improving business process."

## A Job Done Right

"I had the privilege of going to our leadership and saying this project was a complete success," said Seelow. "We received great feedback from our satellite office staff, solved several infrastructure challenges, and we're beginning to receive a good return on investment."

## About EUA

**COMPANY:** Eppstein Uhen Architects (EUA)

**HEADQUARTERS:** Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**OFFICES NATIONWIDE:** 3 **EMPLOYEES WORLDWIDE:** Approximately 145

**BACKGROUND:** Eppstein Uhen Architects (EUA) is a Wisconsin architectural design firm best known for their fierce focus on customer needs to ensure the environments they design elevate people's potential. A firm where employees show unparalleled commitment to the markets, community, and clients they serve. The award-winning architecture firm offers a complete range of services throughout the Midwest and the US and specializes in several distinct markets:

- Workplace: Office, Manufacturing, Data Centers, Distribution Centers (corporations, developers, industrial clients)
- Education: K-12 & Higher Education (elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, colleges/higher education, churches), Nonprofit Organizations, Religious Education
- Healthcare: Clinics, Medical Offices, Hospitals, Outpatient Centers (hospital environments, outpatient environments, medical office buildings)
- Living Environments: Apartments (apartments, hotels/hospitality, student housing), Senior Living (active adult, assisted living, independent living, skilled care), Mixed-Use (retail, entertainment)

## About Panzura

Panzura is the catalyst in the transformation of cloud storage into high-performance enterprise file systems. Panzura's revolutionary distributed locking file system seamlessly combines the flexibility, performance and productivity benefits of distributed storage with the manageability, security and economics of centralized storage.

With Panzura, the cloud – public or private – not only serves as every tier of storage, it becomes the fabric that enables globally distributed teams rapid file access and easy collaboration. Panzura delivers one file system across hundreds of offices that allows users to work together as if they were in the same room. For more information, visit [www.panzura.com](http://www.panzura.com).



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## With Panzura, EUA saw immediate results:

- **File integrity through file locking:** EUA experienced zero file conflicts, overwrites, or duplication after implementing global file locking.
- **Cross-site Revit collaboration:** Models that previously took nearly five minutes to open without Panzura now opened in seconds with Panzura.
- **Elimination of need for WAN Optimization:** WAN Accelerators were optimizing 88 percent of traffic before, which was brought down to zero with the user of Panzura.
- **Consolidated and scalable storage:** 100 percent of EUA's file storage is Amazon S3 cloud storage via Panzura. Map drives, file storage, and archives are in the cloud. In fact, projects dating back to 1985 are all stored in the cloud.
- **Improved disaster recovery:** Due to utilizing Amazon S3 cloud storage, EUA no longer required additional disaster recovery tools.
- **Major savings:** Panzura will save EUA tens of thousands of dollars over a five year period; the need for a new high capacity SAN and WAN Accelerators Riverbed Steelheads were completely eliminated.