



Implement an IMPEX SANStor Solution, Increasing Processing Speed by 20 Times.

CASE STUDY

BUSINESS GOAL

To speed up backup time, streamline administrative time, and centralize storage resources.

SOLUTION

Implement IMPEX' SANStor solution, increasing processing speed by 20 times

“The system integrated flawlessly with our existing computers. It was just what we had hoped for. It will allow us to expand, and its capacity will grow as our demand for speed and storage grows.”

— Benoit Girard, founder
Digital Dimension, Inc.

Digital Dimensions

Creating magic—the special effects that delight television and movie audiences worldwide—takes more than artistry and creativity. It takes a phenomenal amount of computer storage and bandwidth. The high-definition special effects and computer-generated graphics that stun and captivate audiences require storage capacity that pushes most computer networks beyond their limits.

IMPEX Technologies designed and implemented a fibre channel networking solution that has enabled Digital Dimension, Inc., a successful visual effects and animation studio, to increase its data transfer speed by 20 times, greatly increasing the efficiency and stability of its work.

FACING THE CHALLENGES

Digital Dimension is a production studio that specializes in high-definition computer imagery for television, films, and interactive media. It is a four-time Emmy winner, and with such films and television shows as Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, Final Destination II, Halloween: Resurrection, Alias, and FOX Sports among its clientele, the studio is at the forefront of visual effects for the entertainment industry. Whether the artists create an outer space environment for aliens, an exploding building, or even make a person magically disappear and reappear, those processes take a great amount of storage.

Company founder Benoit Girard says, “We were limited with our old system. Computer-generated images for film take a huge amount of bandwidth, and we found that our storage solution could just not handle our needs.”



HARDWARE

- IMPEX SANStor FC RAID Array
- QLogic switch
- QLogic HBAs

SOFTWARE

- QLogic SanBox Manager

Sharing files was slow, and another concern was redundancy. Digital Dimension wanted to make their system bulletproof. Last but certainly not least, they wanted more speed – the company was growing, the artists were creating more and more complex visual effects, but the storage system slowed the entire process.

IMPEX SOLUTION

Benoit says Digital Dimension initially tried a company's solution that clearly didn't meet their needs. It was not a fibre channel system. "It wasn't working," he says, "speed was still a problem, and we still lacked the stability and the redundancy we wanted." In frustration, the team contacted IMPEX Technologies.

With over 12 years experience, IMPEX was uniquely qualified to deliver a customized solution to meet Digital Dimensions' needs. After reviewing different storage solutions, Digital Dimension invested in IMPEX SANStor hardware for its highly reliable and cost-effective performance. All storage was consolidated, and all of the artists could share the same storage space and gain a major speed boost in the process.

INSTANT BENEFITS

"The system integrated flawlessly with our existing computers," says Girard. "It was just what we had hoped for. It allows us to expand, and its capacity will grow as our demand for speed and storage grows."

In fact, the new system allows the artists and designers the freedom and capacity to do what they do best, designing visually stunning effects to entertain millions of viewers.

The two greatest benefits to the IMPEX system are speed and redundancy. "We had a huge boost in speed, at least 20 times faster than we had before," says Girard. "Also, if one hard drive fails, we don't lose any data."

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