

Parrish Construction Group Builds a Mobile Workforce to Accelerate Productivity

Acronis Files Advanced Delivers Seamless Mobile File Sync and Share to Improve Construction Group Productivity

BUSINESS BACKGROUND

Parrish Construction Group is a privately-owned, full-service construction firm headquartered in Perry, Georgia with offices in Roswell and Warner Robins, GA. The mid-sized, full-service builder specializes in academic projects for the public and private sectors. From 2009 to 2014, Parrish constructed more than two million square feet of academic facilities across Georgia. The company, founded in 1995, has grown to three offices with over \$100 million in contracted work per year.

BUSINESS CHALLENGES

Construction demands a high-level of coordination and efficiency to ensure projects are completed on time. Superintendents overseeing projects often work at the construction site and need to collaborate with their team, the client, and a multitude of subcontractors. They share schedules and drafts, receive feedback, and must quickly implement changes.

Parrish Construction Group sends their team into the field, sometimes with projects up to 275 miles apart. Previously, before leaving for on-site work or meetings, team members would often spend an entire day gathering all the documents, files, and drafts they needed. To help employees focus on meeting their deadlines, Parrish Construction Group needed a solution that would allow its team to access files for the job from their mobile devices, so the company provided iPad® devices for all their employees and turned to Dropbox.

INDUSTRY

Construction

KEY CHALLENGES

- Providing access to data on corporate servers from any mobile device
- Eliminating redundancies and chances for error in synchronizing files
- Creating an organized central repository of working and archived documents
- Integrating with Microsoft Active Directory
- Eliminating the need to use VPN
- Provisioning file access for better security

ENVIRONMENT

- 80 employees mobilized for iOS devices, tablets, and smartphones

KEY BENEFITS

- Access to the most recent documents on file servers from any mobile device
- Single solution for both iOS and Android
- Simplicity of use, requiring minimal training to use proficiently
- Easy integration with other work-related programs and applications

The company would create a folder for each client and share PDFs of blueprints and other documents in that folder. This worked fine, however, when documents were updated on the server, staff had to redundantly upload them into the corresponding Dropbox folders. Each day, the superintendents would file daily reports to track project information: weather, subcontractor attendance, and the number of workers, to identify any issues. This created a large number of documents constantly updating, and added additional cycles for the team. Plus, project managers would often need to be at the jobsite before they were able to upload the necessary files to Dropbox. "Everyone looked at Dropbox as being a great thing. But from an IT perspective, there had to be a better way. Files are only current if you make them current. And then you needed to copy those files to and from our servers. Plus we had a number of sensitive, confidential documents, such as pay requests, that we didn't want to just give anyone access to," said Craig Rice, Director of Information Technology.

"Acronis has changed the way we communicate. Our field staff gain 1/8 of their workweek back. All the info needed is at our fingertips."

Craig Rice,
Director of IT

them share," Rice continued, "then there wouldn't have been any point in implementing the project and trying to improve their productivity."

Mr. Rice took a unique approach to introducing Acronis Files Advanced. He identified an employee who was a leader and respected by his colleagues, and trained him how to use Acronis himself. Once this person had a good understanding of this new way of sharing and securing daily information, he created a mentor system. The trainee then taught two people and they taught two people each, and so on. Quickly construction and some administrative support employees began using the application as their main data repository, sharing drafts with clients and allowing them to upload edits that were automatically synced and immediately available to all. All daily reports are catalogued and accessible from any device directly from their on-premise servers, and an integrated Active Directory meant only users with permission gained access to files. Now the team at Parrish Construction Group is truly connected and mobile; they have access to any file, anywhere at any time.

THE ACRONIS SOLUTION

Rice researched mobile productivity products and learned about Acronis Files Advanced, a secure access, syncing, and sharing solution for the enterprise. He also considered Dropbox and Citrix solutions. Acronis more than met his requirements for seamless file syncing and Active Directory integration, which enabled setting folder permissions and user access provisioning. It also integrated into their blueprint editing application Bluebeam and their third-party daily reporting app. More importantly though, it was extremely simple to implement for Parrish's non-technical users – contract superintendents and project managers.

"I needed buy-in from the team in the field," said Rice. "If the team didn't think it was easy to use or helped

ABOUT ACRONIS

Acronis sets the standard for [cyber protection](#) and [hybrid cloud storage](#) through its innovative [backup](#), [anti-ransomware](#), [disaster recovery](#), [storage](#), and [enterprise file sync and share solutions](#). Enhanced by [AI-based Active Protection technology](#), [blockchain-based authentication](#) and a unique [hybrid-cloud architecture](#), Acronis protects all data in any environment, including physical, virtual, cloud, mobile workloads and applications.

[Founded in Singapore in 2003](#), today the company is trusted by more than 5 million consumers and 500,000 businesses worldwide, including [79 of the top 100 most valuable brands](#).