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Phoenix Printing Plates increases productivity and happiness with **Acronis** Files Connect

UK's leading flexo plate supplier creates a seamless integration of Macs with Windows file servers

BUSINESS BACKGROUND

Formed in 1992, Phoenix Printing Plates Ltd. is one of the UK's leading flexo plate suppliers. The company specializes in the manufacturing of high quality digital HD flexo plates for key players in the industry. The busy origination and repro studio utilizes the latest technology and four ArtPro seats along with Adobe Creative Cloud.

BUSINESS CHALLENGES

Kristian Wells, Repro Account Manager, Phoenix Printing Plates explained that when purchasing a new Windows server for the business, he did not initially look at Acronis Files Connect as a requirement. Despite having used it in the past on a much older Windows 2003 Server, he assumed that Macs and Windows would be able to connect seamlessly using SMB.

Although they could get all the Macs in the studio to connect to the new server, their users experienced many frustrating issues such as:

- Long delays when viewing folder contents

- Inability to rename or move files for a long time after they had been opened due to permissions issues

- Inaccurate, time consuming search results

- Overall slow performance affecting productivity

These issues were very disappointing for the team. "Even though we centralized all of our job data, operators still preferred to work directly on their Macs, as the

INDUSTRY

Flexographic Printing

KEY REQUIREMENTS

- Enable all Macs (regardless of operating system age) to connect to Windows SBS Server 2010 via Apple Filing Protocol (AFP)

PROTECTED ENVIRONMENT

- Windows SBS Server 2010
- 15 Mac workstations
- Three Windows workstations
- Various OS's and versions

KEY BENEFITS

- Seamless integration of Macs with Windows file servers
- Resolved renaming, moving, and file permissions issues
- Fast and accurate search results
- Overall performance and productivity improved

server had so many performance issues," said Wells. "We initially tried to resolve this by upgrading a couple of the studio Macs to run OSX Mavericks (which uses SMB2 as its default network connection). Although this was better, it was far from perfect. Even still, some Macs were too old to upgrade so this would have eventually forced us down the route of costly replacement."

"In addition to providing a high performance AFP connection, Acronis Files Connect also enables us to set up other useful features such as file name policies and limitation to stop operators from using certain characteristics that may cause issues with another machine further down the line. Another feature which we had not used before was the ShadowConnect. This is easily installed on each machine and enables everyone to restore a previous version of a file, or even a deleted file. This is a real life-saving feature."

"Everyone in the studio now works directly from the server, giving us a central repository for all work. We don't even realize that Files Connect is running, as once it's installed on the server you don't ever need to touch it. All operators get seamless connection and everyone is happy. We just wish we had installed it from day one as it would have saved a lot of headaches," said Wells.

WHY ACRONIS

With constantly tight deadlines, each of the company's 10 repro operators need to be able to use their Macs as efficiently as possible. Connectivity issues waste time and reduce efficiency. Within 30 minutes of installing Acronis Files Connect, the entire studio was connected to the Windows Server using the Acronis Files Connect AFP Connection. This has resulted in a happier workplace for their Mac users, improves productivity, and saves hours each day.

> *"Acronis Files Connect has resulted in a happier workplace for Mac users, improved productivity, and saves our team hours each day."*
>
> **Craig Rice,
> Director of IT**

The addition of ShadowConnect software, included for free, also proved extremely useful as it can save the day if a file is accidentally overwritten (or even deleted). Thanks to ShadowConnect, Microsoft Volume Shadow Copy (VSS) versions of these files could be immediately browsed and restored by Mac users.

ACRONIS FILES CONNECT

Acronis Files Connect has been the leader in solving Mac/Windows integration issues for over 15 years. Acronis Files Connect addresses file corruptions, slow searches, and incompatibilities in accessing Windows file and print servers and NAS devices.

At its core, Acronis Files Connect is a Windows-based AFP service that enables Macs to connect to files residing on a Windows server using their native Apple Filing Protocol. Additionally, using optional Network Reshare features, Macs can use AFP to access files on other Windows servers and NAS devices, through a single Acronis Files Connect server.

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.

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