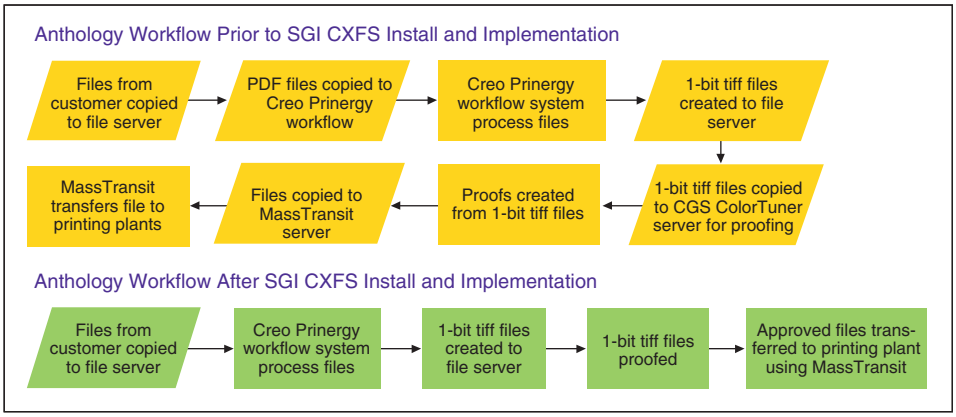
Solutions Brief

SGI® InfiniteStorage Solutions



Meet the Challenge of Digital Publishing's Data Explosion

SGI System Benefits

- Reduced files transfers accelerates workflows 20-80%
- Server speed saves operators time
- System reliability and uptime minimizes costly delays

Features

- Ability to share files faster than any other product in the marketplace
- Unparalleled rock solid operating system
- Comprehensive data management configurations, including NAS-SAN hybrid
- Multiple operating system support, including Mac OS® X
- Turn-key installation and outstanding post sale support

Control the Data Explosion

Digital publishing companies that have implemented SGI InfiniteStorage solutions have experienced significant increases in processing capability enabling them to improve productivity by improving workflows, meet tighter production deadlines, and reduce overall operating expenses. SGI has helped many organizations faced with overwhelming demands for speed and storage, who were losing time and money due to bottlenecks and had overworked systems that repeatedly crashed. SGI delivers the infrastructure, easily scalable storage subsystems, and high-performance, shared access file serving that allows state-of-the-art asset management and access to images on a worldwide 7x24 basis.

Accelerate workflow 20-80%

SGI InfiniteStorage Shared Filesystem CXFS provides instant data access and true file sharing within the digital publishing workflow. It allows workstation users with multiple operating systems to share their data in one centralized storage platform, allowing instant access and eliminating the need for copy transfer. CXFS enables the typical data-intensive workflow to complete 20 to 80% faster.

CXFS

- Reduces administration overhead
- Speeds backups
- Reduces storage requirements

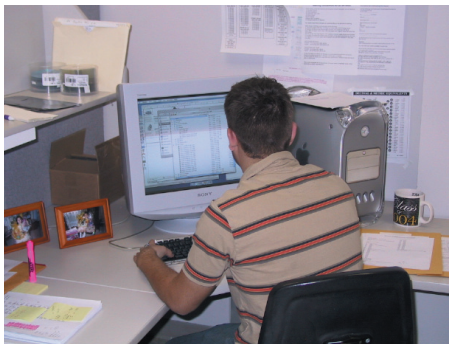
SGI SAN systems with CXFS support all popular operating systems including IRIX®, Windows® XP, Windows® 2000, 32-bit Linux® and 64-bit Linux, Sun Solaris, IBM® AIX®, and Mac OS X.

Increase productivity

When SGI InfiniteStorage systems control the workflow, customers experience robust and sustained I/O, resulting in productivity gains.

Meet the Challenge of Digital Publishing's Data Explosion

When faced with the challenge of an ever growing digital database, Digital Color Imaging ("DCI"), Akron, OH looked to a solution from SGI. "Files are getting bigger and bigger, especially with fine art clients, where a scan can be over a gig..." explains Angela Schluneker, DCI Systems Administrator & Database Administrator. "We were looking for better input and output times and with SGI our operators are blown away by the speed increase, we definitely get more done during the day and it gets done a lot faster."



DCI's serves prepress, printing and digital archiving clients. Their network consists of a variety of PCs and Macintosh systems. This prompted the company to select an SGI® InfiniteStorage NAS 2000 comprised of an SGI® Origin® 350 server and 2TB of SGI® TP9300. "Our prepress team is impressed with the SGI NAS 2000 and I'm thrilled with SGI", adds Schluneker.

Eliminate Islands, Eliminate Bottlenecks

Anthology, a division of print giant Von Hoffmann, provides digital prepress and pre-media services for the educational publishing industry. According to Systems Administrator Andrew Giovanni, Anthology previously worked with eight servers, processing 5 to 6 terabytes of data. "With the environment we had, our main problems were bottlenecks and time spent moving files," says Giovanni. "When you have many independent, heterogeneous servers and storage systems, it's hard to build an efficient workflow. For the operators, it becomes a nightmare of how a job is divided amongst the servers. We also need to consolidate and eliminate all the islands of storage."

Painless Growth

Anthology contacted their trusted reseller, Oldham Graphics Supply, to discuss an upgrade. Oldham quickly suggested the shared central storage SGI could offer. "The features of CXFS and scalability of the SAN 2000 were the main reasons we ultimately chose SGI," said Giovanni. "CXFS offered the ability to grow what we have. I now have one shared 13TB volume with a change rate of about 3/4 to 1 TB a day. When it's time to add storage, I'm simply going to add disks and grow the volume available to operators and end users. It will be seamless and painless."

SGI vs. Other Systems

Service and support are key components of SGI's cost-effectiveness, designed to optimize the return on your technology investment.

"I didn't look at Windows because I'd never consider a white box for a server: I hear the horror stories," says Schluneker. "We did look at Linux and Solaris for pricing but we felt we wouldn't have the kind of support we need. We've been with SGI for so long and feel really comfortable with them. I can guarantee the SGI NAS 2000 will be up and running with very few problems for a long time."

Schluneker has even recommended SGI equipment to DCI's clients. "They say it's a little on the expensive side, and I say, 'Yes, but our older Origin server was up for eight years and we very rarely had to reboot – usually just for small upgrades.' We couldn't say that about a Windows NT box or other cheaper systems. If you constantly have to reboot your server, that takes away from production time and risks data loss. With our new SGI Origin 350 server, I have seen greatly improved workflow." The cost savings and workflow efficiencies Anthology realized with SGI SAN and CXFS have been "phenomenal," says Giovanni. "What this means for us is: we can take in more jobs, get the jobs done faster, and expand our business. I've been very happy with the product, support and SGI as a company," concludes Giovanni. "I'm not even touching near the capacity of the speed of the storage. Our corporate will be investing more with SGI as we grow over the next two years and beyond."

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