



OpenDrives Product | Summit & Ridgeview

Corgan MediaLab builds real-time workflows with OpenDrives.

“ We use a mixed bag of applications and we wear many hats at the intersection of workflows and technology. I was looking to solve specific workflow issues for multiple applications and workstations. No one can even come close to what OpenDrives does for the speed and reliability. We have seen our project load times go from 1:45 hours to 11 minutes with OpenDrives. ”

Ludovick Michaud
VFX Creative Director, VP

Corgan MediaLab is the media wing of the Corgan architectural and design firm. The MediaLab engages in many different forms of video production and post-production, from animation and motion graphics to VFX and 3-D architectural renderings. The goal of Corgan MediaLab is to bring together creative artists who can develop video narratives for many different industries in a collaborative environment. Their focus and expertise centers on the implementation of technology and sophisticated video techniques to tell stories more effectively for their myriad clients.



The Challenge

Five years ago, Corgan MediaLab was experiencing several difficulties with their creative workflow and pinpointed the storage infrastructure as the bottleneck. In addition to a non-linear workflow, versioning was non-existent at the time. Despite a very robust fiber-optic based internal network, data transfer speeds were extremely slow. This caused incredible delays and was a usability issue on top of the performance issue. Playing video, too, was a suboptimal experience and indicated the file server as the primary bottleneck. All in all, the environment was ripe for a redesigned storage infrastructure which could leverage functioning aspects of the overall network.

The team started researching and benchmarking several storage systems to streamline and accelerate their workflow. While cloud-based solutions offered relief from a capacity perspective, it did not help the performance problem which was a major usability factor. From their due diligence, they were able to shortlist OpenDrives as a viable solution candidate. With OpenDrives, it became apparent to them that not only would capacity no longer be

an issue, but also performance and throughput would increase significantly as well. Putting OpenDrives through its paces by way of solution testing, they observed some remarkable improvements in speed. For example, what was taking nearly two hours to transfer 100 GB of data across the internal network was dramatically reduced with OpenDrives to eleven minutes. No other changes to the environment contributed to this vast reduction in transfer time—it was the OpenDrives storage solution alone that made the difference.

The Solution

OpenDrives took a consultative approach with the professionals at Corgan MediaLab to support their varied production workflows, comprising 3D, VFX, film services and a host of other high-intensity workflows. The OpenDrives production solution was augmented with a backup and archiving solution to replace a tape-based workflow and to help facilitate reuse of footage. In their own words, “we can now do everything.”

The Experience

OpenDrives was committed to customer satisfaction from the beginning. From helping to overcome other infrastructure issues to finding just the right deployment scenario, OpenDrives partnered with Corgan and never disengaged. OpenDrives was committed to making everything work just right, to providing the highest level of customer support, and to being responsive 24/7, whenever Corgan reached out. OpenDrives support staff were responsive on calls and in person, never letting requests for assistance sit in a queue unanswered. OpenDrives delivers high-performance storage technology, and we do it with an eye toward complete customer satisfaction right from the beginning.

The Value

By selecting OpenDrives, Corgan MediaLab was able to build a real-time workflow for their mixed media environment providing the team members a shared environment for collaboration across multiple applications and workstations. OpenDrives delivered a solid technology solution and support resulting in the highest level of customer satisfaction.



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