



Acronis



SECTOR

Retail for Education

KEY CHALLENGES

Enable all Macs in the TTS design team working on heavy files (regardless of operating system) to connect to Windows Server 2012 R2 via Apple Filing Protocol (AFP) and avoid slow and painful search.

ENVIRONMENT

- Nine Windows Servers (mix of Windows server OS's)
- Nine Macs
- One hundred and ninety Windows computers running Windows 7/8.1

SOLUTION

Acronis Access Connect (formerly ExtremeZ-IP)

KEY BENEFITS

- Seamless integration of Mac's with Windows file servers
- Fast and accurate search results; 2-3 seconds vs 10 minutes
- Working directly on the shared drive reduced the risk of lost data
- Overall performance and productivity greatly improved
- Happier working environment for our Mac users

TTS GROUP SOLVES MAC CONNECTIVITY CHALLENGE WITH ACRONIS ACCESS CONNECT

Formed in 1985 and home to innovative educational resources, TTS Group Limited is one of the UK's leading suppliers of high quality educational resources for schools and parents. Its award-winning products are constantly researched and sourced based on ideas and suggestions from advisors, teachers and practitioners and many others, whose number one priority is – children. The result is exceptional, leading the company to win the Queen's Award for outstanding achievement in International trade in 2012. TTS are so passionate about children's well-being that it formed the [TTS Charity Foundation](#) in 2008, to help provide a better education and life for children both in the UK and abroad who may be less fortunate than others.

CHALLENGE

TTS's key challenge was for the Design Team consisting of 9 Mac users, amongst 190 Windows users and 9 servers all running Windows server OS's, to access enormous amounts of data. This data is comprised of many terabytes of photos, icons, Adobe files and TTS product images used for the creation of thousands of catalogue pages, posters and packaging designs. These products and advertisements are aimed at attracting education professionals. All of this mission-critical marketing data is stored on a server running Windows Server 2012. As James Ledger, Support Engineer at TTS Group, says: "Our design team had to constantly search the drives for specific images they were looking for, for the relevant product they were working on. The mounted Windows server shared drives were very poor on performance for the Macs. It took a couple of minutes just to show the folders/files within the drive and sometimes up to 10 minutes to search for specific files within the folders and at times did not bring back any results at all; whereas other Windows users could see/search these files with no trouble. Due to this issue, they would (once they'd suffered the pain of getting the data back from the shared drive) copy the files locally to their Macs, edit them, and copy them back to the shared Drive. They could be working on these images for days at a time so if anything failed locally on their Macs (HDD), a lot of work could be lost which may have impacted deadlines, product delivery and ultimately sales which was simply not acceptable."

WHY ACRONIS

Once Acronis Access Connect was put on the server and mounted as the shared Apple Filing Protocol (AFP) - which was easy - it enabled the simple cataloguing of files and the design team had instant access to their files! Searching for files on the AFP mounts are now practically instant. The team can now also work directly from the AFP share and not have to copy anything to their local Macs. As James Ledger said: "even a few of our Windows users say they wish their folders and search functions worked that quickly!" He added "Acronis Access Connect has allowed our design team to work with greater efficiency and help avert the disastrous consequences of Mac hardware failings, resulting in hours of saved time and happy Mac users!"

ACRONIS ACCESS CONNECT (FORMERLY EXTREMEZ-IP)

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

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

ABOUT ACRONIS®

Acronis sets the standard for New Generation Data Protection through its backup, disaster recovery, and secure access solutions. Powered by the AnyData Engine and set apart by its image technology, Acronis delivers easy, complete and safe backups of all files, applications and OS across any environment—virtual, physical, cloud and mobile.

Founded in 2003, Acronis protects the data of over 5 million consumers and 300,000 businesses in over 130 countries. With its more than 50 patents, Acronis' products have been named best product of the year by Network Computing, TechTarget and IT Professional and cover a range of features, including migration, cloning and replication.

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