D&LL Technologies

Driving collaboration on the big screen

Locus Studio in Korea creates 3D animation blockbuster Red Shoes and the Seven Dwarfs, providing artists with fast access to 1.3 petabytes of data with Isilon OneFS

LOCUS   Arts, Entertainment and Media | Korea

Business needs

When Locus Studio embarked on the 3D animation blockbuster Red Shoes and the Seven Dwarfs, the company wanted to safely store 1.3 petabytes' worth of animation data while making it instantly available at all times to its 200-plus artists as they created what would be the studio's biggest theatrical release to date.

Solutions at a glance

- Dell EMC Isilon OneFS

Business results

- Stores and processes 1.3 petabytes' worth of 3D animation data for visual details

- Helps 200-plus artists collaborate with uninterrupted access to data at speed

- Makes data available from all applications by removing data siloes

- Simplifies management and reduces IT admin time during production

- Delivers scale-out linear performance with online option for added capacity

"Dell EMC Isilon OneFS not only improved speed and capacity, but also reduced time and effort around IT management during the production period."

Cho Yong-sang, IT Team Leader,
Management Support Headquarters, Locus Studio

Animated movies are as popular as ever. Our love affair with cartoon characters and our willingness to spend our dollars at the box office don't seem likely to end soon. As a result, studios are as keen as ever to deliver these cinematic entertainments to an adoring public.

The petabytes problem

Petabytes (PB) of data are needed to create these movies, and finding ways to efficiently store that data while making it highly accessible at the same time is a hurdle that needs to be cleared. When Locus Studio, in Korea, began work on Red Shoes and the Seven Dwarfs—a 3D animated movie inspired by the classic Snow White fairy tale—the company needed to store the largest volume of data ever seen in the history of Korean animated movies. It was going to be Locus Studio's largest investment in an animated movie to date. Public attention in Korea would be massive, with the movie developed locally before being exported for viewing to 123 countries.

A scale-out storage solution

Locus Studio turned to Dell Technologies to help make Red Shoes and the Seven Dwarfs a success. Dell Technologies provided a scale-out network attached storage (NAS) solution, so when data started piling up, the 200 artists working on the movie wouldn't see any slowdowns in performance and could stay focused on their work.

To meet their needs, Locus Studio installed a Dell EMC Isilon OneFS with 1.3 PB of capacity. It offered scalability without capacity restrictions, the convenience of managing many systems as a single file system, and the ability to push out data to hundreds of workstations and servers at every moment.

A 13-terabyte battle scene? Easy

From day one of production, artists could create and share vast amounts of graphic content. In just one 15-minute battle scene, for example, they created around 13 terabytes of animation data, which needed to be stored and made accessible immediately. The artists then added more terabytes as they developed subsequent scenes and added details like character skin tones, wind-blown hair, pleats in the character's skirt and moving grass.

Simplified data access

No matter which applications the artists were using, they could access data because Isilon OneFS prevented the formation of siloes and supported multiple protocols. There was no way Locus Studio could know with precision the amount of data capacity it would need. However, thanks to the Isilon OneFS scale-out architecture, the company could linearly expand capacity and performance—adding online capacity if required.

Competing with Hollywood studios

Locus Studio enhanced the entire production process by working with Dell Technologies. Cho Yong-sang, IT team leader at the management support headquarters of Locus Studio, says, "As Red Shoes and the Seven Dwarfs pursued visuals at the level of top global studios like Pixar and DreamWorks, we were fully invested in finding the right data storage solution. Dell EMC Isilon OneFS not only improved speed and capacity, but also reduced time and effort, simplifying IT management during the production period."

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