

M/A Design Group focuses on design while the IBM Lotus Foundations *Start* software appliance automates system backup

Large AutoCAD files are e-mailed and updated more easily in a security-rich environment

Business challenge:

M/A Design Group (M/A Design) outgrew its Microsoft® Windows® Server 2003 platform. System lag, unreliable file management and inconsistent (or nonexistent) e-mail delivery hurt the firm's productivity and frustrated its customers. A total crash took 20 hours to restore and cost the firm US\$150,000 in lost AutoCAD files.

Solution:

M/A Design chose to implement the IBM Lotus® Foundations *Start* (formerly Nitix Blue) software appliance. The software appliance automatically backs up the company's business-critical information and makes it easier to share large files via FTP or e-mail. The built-in IBM Lotus Notes® and Lotus Domino® platform integrates easily with the company's existing IT systems, making the solution affordable and simple to deploy.

Benefits:

- Automates system backup and restores files with little or no IT support
- Increases system availability and designer productivity, improving customer satisfaction levels with reliable file delivery
- Leverages existing IT investments

“With the IBM Foundations Start software appliance, we shortened our system recovery time, cut the time our designers have to wait on AutoCAD files by two-thirds and now we don't hope our clients receive our files—we know they do.”

— Murrie Alcorn, owner,
M/A Design Group

Solution components:

- IBM Lotus Foundations *Start* (formerly Nitix Blue) software appliance
- IBM Lotus Notes and Domino

