

CASE STUDY: ST. LOUIS-BASED AEC FIRM

Simple, Scalable IT for an AEC Firm Frustrated by Large Files

How we gave a growing AEC firm scalable IT that freed its teams from frustrating bottlenecks and kept pace with its growth.

ANDERSON TECHNOLOGIES

Brief Summary
A Specialist Fix That Generic IT Couldn't Deliver

The challenge: A growing AEC firm's design teams were losing time to a constant download-edit-reupload cycle because traditional cloud offerings couldn't handle large, multi-part engineering files.

The solution: We assessed how the firm's teams worked, implemented an internal cache server running Egnyte large-file software, and took on the firm's wider IT across its offices.

The result: The download-reupload cycle is gone, work moves faster, two offices run on a reliable standard, and the firm reports that most support requests are resolved the same day.

Background

For an architecture, engineering, and construction firm, the files are the work. Every project a team touches takes shape inside a large, intricate file. When those files move easily, the work moves with them. When they don't, everything slows down.

A St. Louis-based firm in the AEC space was growing steadily. Two of the firm's departments build and collaborate in multi-part engineering files from software like Revit and AutoCAD, where a single project is made up of many interdependent parts that all have to stay in sync.

When the firm first engaged us, those teams were relying on SharePoint to store and share those large design files. That approach, though it works for many organizations, was never built for the size and structure of engineering design files. As the firm grew, opened a new office, and asked more of its design teams, the limits of that setup became harder to work around.

The Challenge

For the two departments that work in large design files all day, the strain showed up in the smallest moments. Before anyone could start designing, they had to pull a file down from SharePoint, work on it locally, then push the whole thing back up when they were done. With files this size, it cost the teams a lot of time. People waited to open a file, then waited again to save it, and the momentum they lost never quite came back. As the firm's Operations Manager said, "They had big delays just opening the files." For teams whose entire job lives inside those files, it was a daily source of frustration.