Advance2000
Your productivity. Optimized.

FKP Architects partners with Advance2000 to implement a robust Cloud solution.

FKP Architects
Transforming business by design®

> " By moving to a Cloud solution, the ROI is increased productivity. With this solution, FKP's clients benefit with faster response times and we increased our employee morale. "
>
> *Bruce Houck, CIO, FKP Architects*

Challenges

With traditional IT structure supporting offices located in Texas and Ohio, FKP anticipated collaboration and performance issues with the adoption of the premiere Building Information software, Autodesk Revit. The firm's leadership wanted to improve communication between offices and design partners while providing employees with work flexibility.

Solution

Advance2000's Cloud Computing solution provides FKP Architects an environment that improves collaboration, is secure and accessible from anywhere on any device at any time. This solution provides the required flexibility to the FKP employees.

Results

- Retired thousands of dollars in computer equipment.
- The solution provided work flexibility.
- Employee efficiency, productivity and morale has increased.
- Improved regional computer support.
- Lowered energy footprint in line with AIA 2030 challenge.
- Meets business continuity goals.

Company

FKP Architects is a 100+ person architectural firm headquartered in Houston, with offices in Dallas, Texas and Columbus, Ohio. The firm is dedicated to the design, planning and operational improvement of complex healthcare facilities. Founded in 1937, FKP is one of the nation's strongest architectural firms specializing in planning and design of pediatric, healthcare and health science facilities.

Business Challenges

With offices located in Ohio and Texas, FKP Architects realized that there would be serious collaboration and performance issues when using state-of-the-art BIM software in a traditional IT infrastructure. The demands on the computer hardware from the software required a continual investment in the best equipment. Additionally, FKP Architects wanted to improve inter-office communication, increase efficiency and productivity while providing a better work/life balance for the firm's employees. Collaboration with design partners was also suffering with the more stringent requirements of BIM software.

The Solution

Bruce Houck, CIO at FKP Architects was tasked to research an alternative to their current Information Technology infrastructure. Mr. Houck wanted to find a solution that would meet his company's AEC requirements without adversely affecting the employee's other productivity needs. In researching virtualization, Mr. Houck quickly realized that there were a limited number of viable options suited to the technological demands of a cutting edge design firm that could deliver a solution within a reasonable budget.

Mr. Houck connected with Randall Schultz, Advance2000 Cloud Solution Partner and Chris France, Advance2000 President of the Carolinas to discuss his firm's challenges. They provided valuable insight which convinced him that going to the cloud was the right thing to do to meet the company's strategic goals and initiatives.

Mr. Houck selected Advance2000 because of their knowledge of the IT requirements for the AEC industry. According to Mr. Houck, Advance2000 has the expertise in management structure and "*understands what I'm talking about*". At first, the location of Advance2000's data center was a concern because of possible latency issues (not being located in Texas or Ohio). Since implementation, the firm has not experienced any latency contributed to the long distances and has been very robust regardless of where employees may be accessing the cloud. Mr. Houck states that "*he's not regretted his decision in selecting Advance2000*". The solution is better than anything that could have been hosted internally.

Employees can now access their environment from anywhere which improves the design process on projects. When an architect meets with a client, a change can be immediately implemented through the cloud. There is no need to wait until returning to the office to post client edits. Additionally, the solution permits employees a more flexible schedule where they can work from home in a more relaxed atmosphere.

By selecting Advance2000's solution, Mr. Houck states that "*FKP's Information Technology group showed that they could be a strategic partner in managing the leadership's future goals and growth expectations for the firm*".

Advance2000 provided to FKP Architects:

- ✓ 105 Virtual desktops including extreme graphics cards
- ✓ 25 Standard administrative virtual desktops
- ✓ File Servers, email servers, application servers for SharePoint, Newforma and Deltek Vision
- ✓ Switches, firewalls, routers and support
- ✓ 24/7/365 intimate customer service

The Future

With the AIA 2030 Challenge on the horizon, by going to the cloud, FKP Architects' energy costs have decreased. Mr. Houck and FKP Architects will grow their footprint with Advance2000, entrusting their infrastructure and support to us for the next five years.

Why Advance2000 ?

FKP Architects selected Advance2000 for the following reasons:

They explored other options and Advance2000 is able to meet and deliver the firm's technology requirements within budget.

Advance2000 is very familiar with the AEC industry's demand on hardware performance for specialized software.

Expertise in AEC management structure.

Ability to virtualize out of state; latency has not been an issue on the infrastructure.

Personal customer relationship with sales representative.

Advance2000 provided a compelling, viable cloud solution easily explained during the sales process.

" Advance2000 cloud service and support is helping us manage an increasingly complex environment. It is a place where FKP can grow and prosper. "

Bruce Houck, CIO

A.I. duPont Hospital for Children Patient Pavilion
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