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Vision Empowers Local Design Firm to Build for Success.

"We're an 8-year-old architectural design firm whose partners helped to design many high profile structures abroad," says Rommel Regalado, IT manager for Hollywood, Calif.,-based 5+design. "Due to the nature of our business, we use an incredible amount of data storage space and our legacy IBM solution wasn't keeping up with our demand. We needed help."
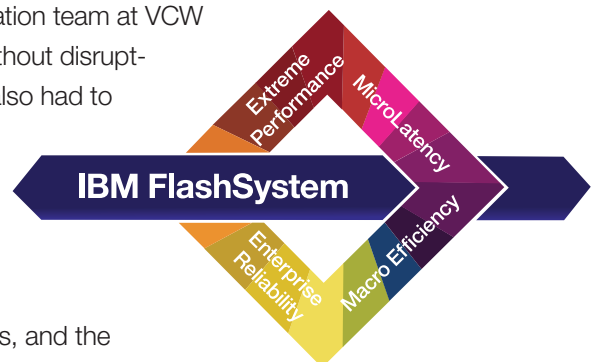
That's when the firm turned to Vision Computer Works (VCW) and its co-founder, Stuart Smith. "Regalado and his team were using an end-of-life IBM SAN and they really needed more storage," says Graham Mannassi, IT consultant for VCW. "They also needed a solution that was compatible with their IBM Blade setup."

Sitting down with IBM representatives, Regalado, Smith and Mannassi worked out a solution that addressed their needs for the next three years.

"Our network had been wired in the past for a 10 Gb backbone so we knew we were already pushing the limits of the data on our pipes," says Regalado. "We decided to go with IBM's Storwize V7000 series with a mixture of 10K and 15K drives."

The process of implementation was especially challenging for the VCW team. "Due to the 24/7 nature of their business, we had our work cut out for us," says Mannassi. "Not only did we need to purchase all of the necessary equipment on time, they have offices in China that needed to be up and running as well."

Over the next month, the implementation team at VCW worked hard to install the solution without disrupting their customer's business. They also had to deal with an initial challenge that took them by surprise. "We ran into some issues with the iSCI connection," says VCW's Mannassi, "getting the new switches to function with their existing switches, and the BladeCenter-E's AMM module was faulty, which caused some problems getting into the BladeCenter's iSCSI

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switches. But thankfully that was something we could do without any significant interruptions to their business."

The results speak for themselves. "Storage operations are being handled much faster than our previous SAN," says Regalado, "and several of our users have commented on the difference since the migration. All-in-all, I really liked the V7000's interface. I enjoyed the ability to increase, decrease and present volumes to a Windows Server 2012 machine on the fly without needing to take down the host."

The challenge to provide the client with a faster SAN solution was met with flying colors, but due to the rapid growth of the company, and the high-end graphics the firm deals with, the time will soon come to add even more storage to their network. "We know we'll need more space eventually," says 5+design's Regalado, "and when that day comes we'll turn to Vision once more. They've always been there to help us with the latest technology solutions available, and their team has always gone the extra mile to make sure the solution is done right the first time."

If you're interested in learning more about how Vision Computer Works can help your business implement a world-class SAN solution, contact them today at www.visioncomputerworks.com.

Storwize V7000 Unified

IBM

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