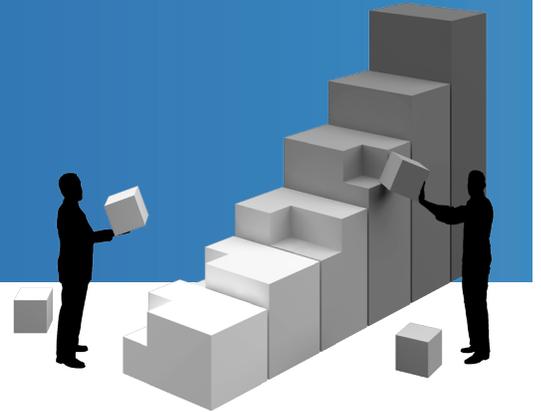# PeerLink

Success Story

POPULOUS®

Peer Software Powers Partner Collaboration
for the Redevelopment of Melbourne and Olympic Parks

PROJECT PROFILE

Product:
PeerLink

Platform:
Windows Server,
multiple domains

Locations:
Nine locations in Europe,
North America and Asia

Industry:
Architecture and Engineering

Special Notes:
Because of the high
visibility of the Melbourne
and Olympic Parks project
through-out Australia,
Populous was partnered with
another local architecture
firm. This in turn created
some unique challenges
related to designing and
implementing a dedicated,
secure project collaboration
environment for the two firms
to share.

NetApp®

Advantage Alliance Partner

Introduction

With more than 1,000 projects delivered over three decades, the architects, designers, technical experts and industry veterans of Populous create the places where millions unite around the world. Some recent examples include Marlins Park, Yankee Stadium, Amway Center and the London 2012 Summer Olympic & Paralympic Games.

Given their reputation, and the company's significant presence in Australia, it was natural that Populous was commissioned by the Victorian Government to develop the strategic master plan of Melbourne and Olympic Parks for the Australian Open. The project features the conversion of an existing open air tennis venue into a totally new experience for over 600,000 patrons attending the Australian Open who inject over $160 million into the local economy each year.

Challenges

Because of the high visibility of the Melbourne and Olympic Parks project through-out Australia, Populous was partnered with another local architecture firm. This in turn created some unique challenges related to designing and implementing a dedicated, secure project collaboration environment for the two firms to share.

"For security reasons we wanted to avoid sharing each other's networks, we didn't want to create a lot of new shared network infrastructure for the project, and ultimately, we needed a high performance solution that would enable us to securely share and update project files across corporate domains, regions and teams," stated Carl Turner, IT manager for Populous in Brisbane. "And we had one more interesting challenge; we had a very short time period in which to setup the project office in Melbourne," continued Turner.

After some quick research, Turner discovered PeerLink, an enterprise-class business file sharing and collaboration solution from Peer Software that met his initial requirements. Soon enough, Turner had PeerLink implemented on servers at Populous and their partner's domain, all connected by a secure VPN. Thanks to PeerLink's centralized management console, he was able to easily optimize performance and configure jobs to manage the sharing and replication of files from applications like Rhino, AutoCAD, Revit, Adobe, Microsoft Office and more.

"We didn't have time to implement and manage a complex solution to meet our requirements," concluded Turner.

Results

"We concluded early on that a cloud-based solution would not have the performance that we wanted," added Turner. "Because PeerLink enables our designers and engineers to work with locally-based file replicas we have saved quite a bit of money on travel and time as well."

Other notable results include:

- Fast setup with little to no advance solution knowledge required

- System performance and simplicity enabled Populous to virtually utilize specialists in Brisbane, London and the United States without requiring them to travel to Melbourne

- Built-in disaster recovery thanks to PeerLink replicating files across multiple servers as soon as changes are made

- Minimal impact on WAN resources

- Responsive, friendly support that included timely updates to meet the needs of Populous and its partner

"We had a couple of teething problems, but Peer's support was very good and they were fast with turning around updates and requests from our team," said Turner.

About Peer Software

Peer Software develops data management solutions addressing the unique challenges related to backup, replication and collaboration in a WAN environment. Since 1993, Peer solutions are in use globally by over 10,000 corporate, government and education customers including half of the US Fortune 100.

More information