CASE STUDY

AGi

AGI ARCHITECTS
PEERGFS FOR ENTERPRISE FILE COLLABORATION

INTRODUCTION

Since it was founded over a decade ago by two Harvard alumni, AGi architects has evolved into an award-winning international boutique design firm that provides comprehensive services in architecture, planning, urban design, interior design, design research, and consulting across Europe and the Middle East.

Even though growth and an ever-expanding project portfolio came naturally to the professionals at AGi architects, the firm's technology was under pressure to keep pace with the requirements of project teams spread out over vast distances.

PROJECT PROFILE

PEER SOFTWARE SOLUTION
» PeerGFS for file sharing and collaboration

CUSTOMER'S PLATFORM
» Windows Server

LOCATIONS
» 2 primary locations in Madrid and Kuwait
» 4 satellite offices

INDUSTRY
Architecture, Planning, Urban Design, Interior Design, Design Research, and Consulting
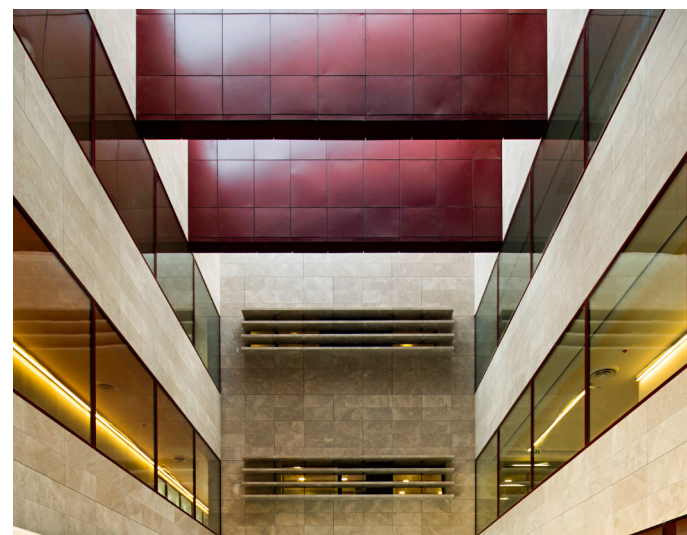
APPLICATIONS
Various 2D and 3D CAD and BIM software, Adobe Creative Suite

THE CHALLENGE

In the early days after the firm was founded, it was relatively easy to manage shared AutoCAD and other project related files by maintaining them on a central server in their Madrid office. Project team members would share files by email attachment or upload and download them over a secure VPN that connected the Madrid and Kuwait offices. Additionally, small team sizes made file versioning a reasonable process without too many hiccups.

"Over time, growth of the number of users, offices, applications and file sizes began to negatively impact VPN speed and local workflows," stated Aisha Alsager, Managing Director, AGi architects. "In response, we began to research other solutions for managing our project files and to properly support our collaboration needs." The firm evaluated a number of solutions including faster wide area network connections, cloud-based storage, and content management systems that offered file version management capabilities. "In the end, we determined that all centralized solutions, including those that are cloud-based, would experience performance limitations because of local connection speeds," said Alsager. "The best way to overcome this was to maintain project file replicas on servers at each office location instead of storing them centrally. This would provide users with fast local access instead of having to go through our VPN."

PEER™

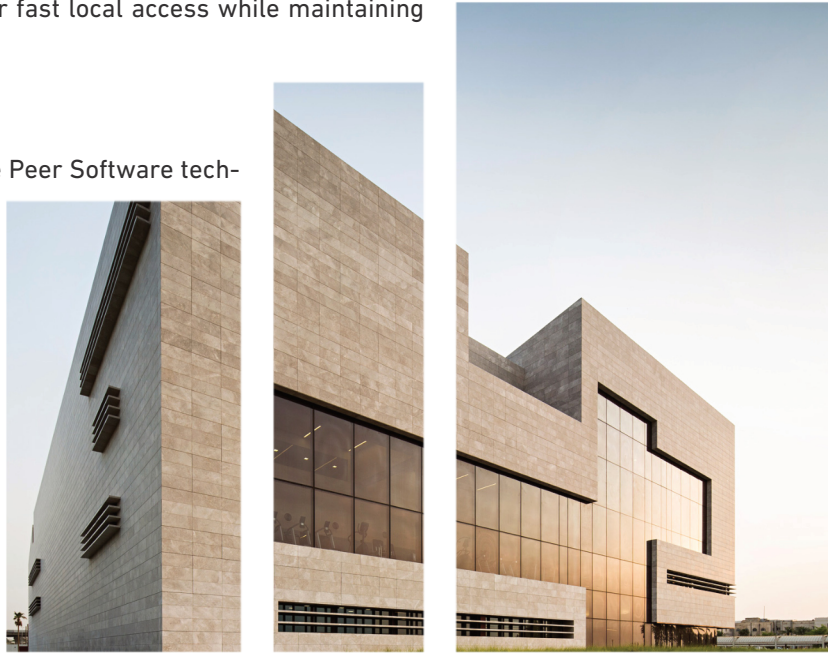# CASE STUDY - AGI ARCHITECTS

SOLUTION

After additional research, the IT department found PeerGFS from Peer Software. PeerGFS is a software-based file sharing and collaboration solution that maintains shared project file replicas in real-time on servers at each branch office location for fast local access while maintaining file version integrity.

RESULTS

After a brief trial period supported by the Peer Software technical team in EMEA, the firm committed to implementing PeerGFS, and proceeded to organize and sync their shared files and begin production use. According to Alsager, "It was fun to see a file that used to take an hour to download open in one minute. With higher productivity levels, we can do presentations and projects in the same day which lowers team stress levels."

Alsager concluded, "PeerGFS did not require us to upgrade infrastructure or purchase new hardware, which allowed us to leverage existing servers, storage and Internet connections, many of which were already at maximum speed. With PeerGFS we have a collaboration system that is working for us the way we thought it should."

BENEFITS

FAST FILE ACCESS
Improve Productivity for distributed teams by enabling fast local access to shared project files.

CROSS PLATFORM INTEGRATION
Replicate Data between the Storage Systems which best meet specific application / business requirements.

CENTRALIZED BACKUP
Reduce your backup cost by centralizing your Backup with Real-Time Replication (CDP) from the Edge to your Data Center.

HIGH AVAILABILITY
Enable high availability and load balancing of end user and department data with real-time delta-level replication.