

## CASE STUDY

# LIFTRA

GLOBAL SOLUTIONS PROVIDER  
WITHIN THE WIND ENERGY INDUSTRY

## The Company

Headquartered in Denmark, Liftra is an engineering company specialising in innovative lifting, installation and transport solutions for the global wind energy industry. With more than 20 years' experience, it designs and manufactures advanced equipment for safer, more efficient wind turbine installation and maintenance both on- and offshore.

The company operates a distributed workforce across Europe, the Americas and Asia-Pacific. Its engineers and technical specialists work extensively with large-scale CAD and design data, collaborating across regions to deliver complex engineering projects. This operating model depends on consistent, high-performance access to shared files.

## The Challenge

Liftra's existing file replication and storage environment was struggling to keep pace with the company's global engineering demands. At the remote sites storage was under pressure, with 8TB total capacity and typically only around 1TB free. But the IT team was keen to avoid a complete infrastructure overhaul before hardware reached end-of-life.

Meanwhile, the existing DFS Replication (DFS-R) model was no longer well-suited to the environment with slow synchronisation between sites and delayed cross-location collaboration. This was also contributing to challenges in maintaining file consistency and visibility across locations.

This was starting to create inefficiencies and bottlenecks, with teams often logging into remote systems just to check they were working on the right file version. Plus limited visibility made it difficult to track file movement, status and storage usage across the environment.

Liftra needed a solution that could improve replication performance, support distributed engineering workloads and reduce storage pressure at edge locations - without replacing its infrastructure.



## Project Profile

### PEER SOFTWARE SOLUTION

- ▶ PeerGFS™

### CUSTOMER PLATFORM(S)

- ▶ NetApp Storage
- ▶ Dell PowerEdge

### LOCATIONS

- ▶ 8 global locations in total
- ▶ Solution deployed across 5 sites: Denmark, Spain, Poland, United States, China and additional supporting site architecture

### INDUSTRIES

- ▶ AEC

### APPLICATIONS

- ▶ General Office
- ▶ CAD Software





## Setup, Configuration & Solution

Liftra introduced PeerGFS across its global file environment on Windows-based file servers at 7 edge locations. Each site's local storage gave engineering teams fast, low-latency access to large design files.

To enable high availability across key locations, a Linux-based quorum node was implemented while core services continued to run within the existing Windows environment.

PeerGFS was integrated alongside existing infrastructure and aligned with DFS-R naming conventions to save time and reduce disruption.

The Liftra and Peer Software teams worked closely during the implementation, which went live with zero downtime, allowing a smooth transition from DFS-R without impacting engineering activity.

## Results & Benefits

The PeerGFS deployment delivered improvements across performance, infrastructure efficiency and day-to-day productivity.

DFS Replication delays were eliminated, allowing faster access to large engineering files, including SolidWorks CAD data, across all locations and improving team collaboration.

With Edge Caching and pinning policies in place, frequently used project data was kept locally available and hydrated at the edge as needed, supporting more efficient engineering workflows while reducing their storage footprint at remote locations. This also helped avoid a full infrastructure refresh.

## Benefits



### FILE LOCKING

Enable fast, local access to shared file data without the risk of version conflicts.



### FAST FILE ACCESS

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



### EDGE CACHING

Enable high availability and load balancing of end user and department data.

*„We went live with no downtime at all - in fact the only reason our teams knew there had been a change was because it was now quicker to download files, easier to collaborate and version control was more certain. After implementation, support from the Peer Software team has been spot on too, with great coverage and responsiveness.“*

Daren Husk, Group IT Manager

### ABOUT US

Since 1993, Peer Software has developed data management solutions that address unique challenges related to data synchronization, backup, and file collaboration in multi-site (WAN) environments.

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