

ECG

ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS GROUP S.A.

جماعة المهندسين الاستشاريين
ECG
ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS GROUP S.A.

The Company

With a history that dates back to before the Roman Empire, Egyptian architects and engineers pioneered techniques, technology and processes that enabled the construction of some of the world's most famous structures including iconic pyramids, temples, tombs, lighthouses and dams.

Continuing in that tradition today is Engineering Consultants Group S.A. (ECG), a multi-disciplinary engineering and architecture firm that is headquartered in Cairo, Egypt. Ranked #123 in the Top International Design Firms list published by Engineering News Record, ECG has a prestigious 46 year track record of over 1800 projects in 28 countries; many are mega-scale in size and complexity. The growing firm has over 2,000 full-time professionals based in 16 locations throughout Africa, the Middle East and Europe.

The Challenge

As with many large engineering firms, projects tend to be located near branch offices, a long distance away from the IT infrastructure and key personnel at a headquarters facility. "It is not unusual for us to have project teams working in multiple locations," stated Mostafa Saeed, IT Systems Engineer, ECG. "We could have architects at headquarters, a civil engineer in a branch office, and construction managers located at another branch office close to the project site. To do their jobs, all of these people need to share project files with each other."

To support file sharing and collaboration between headquarters and branch offices, ECG initially established a system of shared folders on a headquarters server that could be accessed from branch offices, but this proved to be impractical because of limited and unpredictable wide area network (WAN) performance. "CAD and engineering related files can be very large, and took a lot of time to transfer with this approach," said Saeed.

In an attempt to improve WAN performance, the IT team installed WAN optimizer systems between their locations.

Project Profile

PEER SOFTWARE SOLUTION

- ▶ PeerGFS™

CUSTOMER'S PLATFORM(S)

- ▶ Windows Server

LOCATIONS

- ▶ 16 locations in the Middle East, Africa and Europe

INDUSTRY

- ▶ Architecture, Engineering and Construction





The Challenge

According to Saeed, “Unfortunately, the WAN optimizers were not able to make an improvement in connection speeds and reliability; we have a challenging environment.”

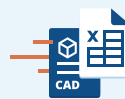
Next Saeed and his team evaluated file synchronization solutions, including Microsoft DFSR. “We tested many scenarios including continuous and timed sync, but we would encounter conflicts and determined that just syncing the files was not reliable,” said Saeed. “We continued to research additional solutions and discovered PeerGFS from Peer Software.”

Results

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 for fast local access while automatically managing file version integrity. Powered by DFSR+® technology, PeerGFS’s key features include real-time sync, byte-level replication of file changes to minimize WAN utilization, and distributed file locking to control file versioning.

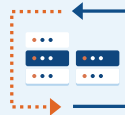
After downloading PeerGFS and working with Peer Software’s support team located near Munich, Germany, ECG was able to complete a brief proof-of-concept project before fully implementing. “PeerGFS was easy to install and the Peer Software team provided very good advice and support. We were able to solve over 90% of our problems very quickly,” added Saeed.

Benefits



FAST FILE ACCESS

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



CROSS PLATFORM

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



FILE LOCKING

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



NO VENDOR LOCK-IN

Non-proprietary, software-based solution supports native file and object formats.

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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