VDIPOD

SHEPPARD ROBSON IMPROVES THE CLIENT EXPERIENCE BY WORKING MORE COLLABORATIVELY EVERYWHERE

Creative ITC

vmware PARTNER
ENTERPRISE
SOLUTION PROVIDER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SHEPPARD ROBSON | **Award-winning architecture practice with offices in London, Manchester and Glasgow and a portfolio of projects worldwide**

> When our architects and designers visit clients, they can quickly pull up project plans and work-in-progress models, resolving issues on the spot instead of coming away with a list of action points.
>
> *Simon Johns*
> *IT Director, Sheppard Robson*

CHALLENGE

Empower professionals with collaborative tools in the office, at home or on the move, while improving business continuity

SOLUTION

VDIPOD low-cost, light-touch model designed for handling big data and AEC applications, securely delivered as a fully managed service from Creative ITC data centres

RESULTS

Increased staff productivity and IT cost savings

IT provisioning times cut from weeks to minutes

Rapid scaling with flexible per-seat payments

CHALLENGE

One of the longest-established UK architectural practices for occupants and developers alike, Sheppard Robson offers a full range of services including building selection, space analysis and due diligence. Founding principles of innovation and sustainability continue to shape the practice's vision to design today's creative, desirable places.

Collaboration is central to success. People need to work together on client projects – securely and effectively – whether they're in the office, at home or on the move. With a small IT team, Sheppard Robson was an early cloud adopter some four years ago. The choice of VDIPOD from Creative ITC was therefore a natural progression.

Simon Johns, IT Director, explains: "We could have had an on-premise solution, but with VDIPOD if we lose a site our people can still use VDI-as-a-service to work remotely. Not having to buy servers or expensive laptops that might get lost or damaged offered significant CapEx savings too."

SOLUTION

Hosted from two Creative data centres, the VDIPOD solution is delivered as a fully managed service. It combines VMware Horizon VDI, Dell PowerEdge servers and Nvidia GRID graphics cards with Cisco networking, NetApp storage and a virtualised Panzura cloud file server.

"We have an excellent relationship with Creative and I regularly network with fellow IT directors among their customers," continues Simon. "That's how I knew VDIPOD would handle big data and resource-hungry applications like Revit and Adobe."

Currently, the VDI platform enables 30 architects and designers to freely share data using iPhones, iPads, laptops and Chromebooks, instead of being office-bound generating long email chains and wasting time waiting for files to upload and download.

RESULTS

Professionals work and collaborate more effectively. "When our architects and designers visit clients, they can quickly pull up project plans and work-in-progress models, resolving issues on the spot instead of coming away with a list of action points," says Simon.
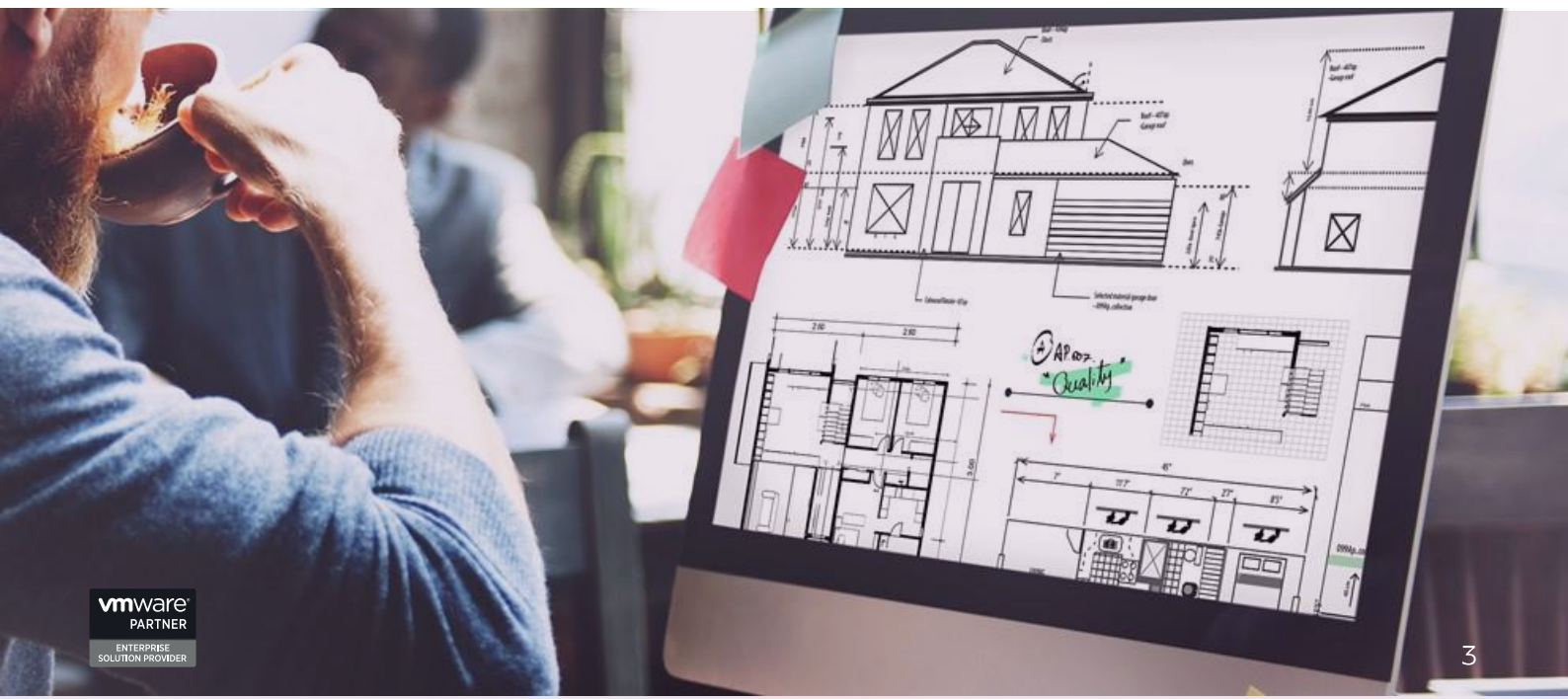
Data is replicated in near real-time and stored centrally, greatly improving security and reducing the risk of data loss. It also saves time spent on version control and rework. And, because there's no need to move large files back and forth across the network, completion times for tasks and projects have shrunk dramatically.

"What we've got is a cost-effectively delivered, enterprise-class solution. It's paid for per seat, per quarter, rather than a large upfront capital expense," says Simon.

Changing IT delivery has accelerated project lead times too. The IT team no longer wastes time and money kitting-out site offices and managing a pool of expensive loan-out laptops. Software updates can be centrally pushed out faster in a controlled fashion. Members of the IT team spend less time dealing with desktop issues, devoting themselves to business transformation instead.

Simon adds: "We've cut IT provisioning times from weeks to minutes. Now, we don't have to spin-up a network or firewall, storage and other infrastructure devices. Tethering a mobile phone to a Chromebook our staff can work as if they were in the office."

The practice is also better placed to meet emerging AEC industry standards. "We're able to achieve BIM Level 2 adoption now and have a ready-made roadmap to BIM Level 3 in the future," concludes Simon.

With VDIPOD, 30 architects
and designers **freely share data** using iPhones,
iPads, laptops and Chromebooks

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