Entertaining movie audiences

Leading animation studio

By refreshing the storage environment underpinning critical creative and business applications—as well as its digital film archive—with Lenovo ThinkSystem storage solutions, this animation studio boosted performance, availability, and capacity.
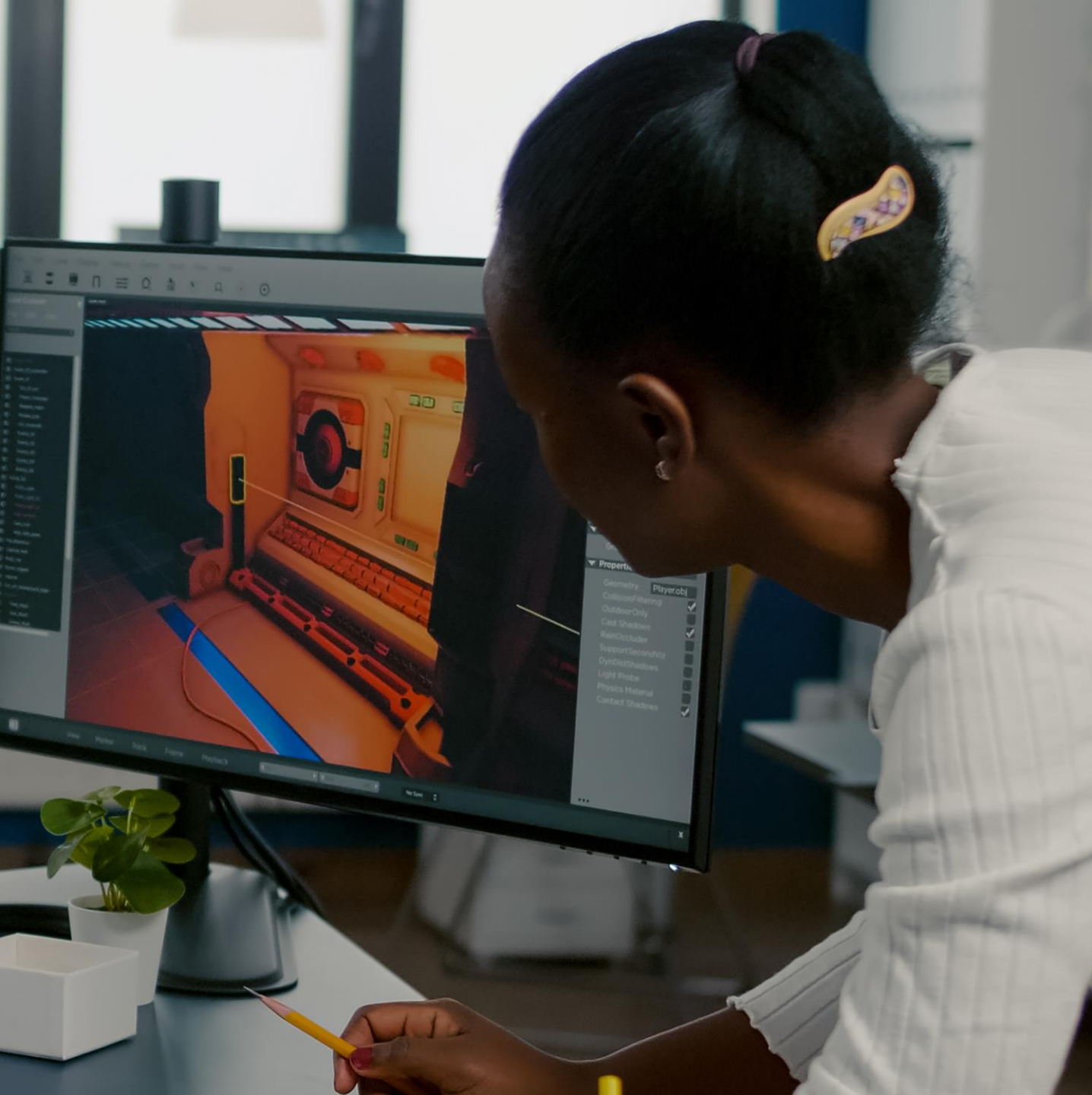
Lenovo

1

Who is this animation studio?

This animation studio produces feature films, TV series, advertising, and digital entertainment for audiences around the world.

2

The challenge

To move productions from the storyboard to the big screen, the animation studio must ensure that employees in both the creative and commercial sides of its business have the tools they need to work productively.

Writing, storyboarding, designing, and animating productions and handling the associated administrative, merchandising, licensing, marketing, and financial processes means that the company generates and stores huge amounts of data. The storage devices underpinning critical operational systems, including creative software, finance tools, and web applications, had reached end-of-warranty and were struggling to cope.

"Our previous storage environment could no longer provide enough capacity or performance to support increasing workloads. We also had concerns about storage connectivity, as we had struggled to connect a previous SAN system to our 10 GbE network in the past."

Spokesperson
Leading animation studio

Why Lenovo?

After discussing its technical and operational requirements with Lenovo, the animation studio selected a proposal based on a Lenovo ThinkSystem DM3000H Unified Hybrid Storage Array.

The spokesperson comments: "Of all the solutions we considered, only the Lenovo ThinkSystem DM3000H array was able to connect directly to our Cisco 10 GbE network without the need for any additional switches, making it much more cost-effective than competitors' offerings. We were also very impressed with Lenovo's RAID technology. In particular, we appreciated the range of RAID levels available, which allow us to customize our configuration to enhance performance, availability, and data protection."

"The Lenovo ThinkSystem DM3000H Unified Hybrid Storage Array offered excellent value for money, enabling us to get more capacity and performance for our budget."

Spokesperson
Leading animation studio

Out with the old,
in with the new

The animation studio worked with Lenovo engineers to install the Lenovo ThinkSystem DM3000H Unified Hybrid Storage Array at its main site. "The installation went very smoothly," recalls the spokesperson. "The ThinkSystem DM3000H array connected seamlessly to our existing network right out of the box."

With a total capacity of 60 TB, the Lenovo ThinkSystem DM3000H replaces the company's existing four-headed storage area network (SAN) with just a single array, significantly increasing storage capacity and performance while at the same time reducing floorspace requirements, and power and cooling costs.

The spokesperson adds: "The Lenovo team carried out the installation in a very professional way, and were on hand to guide us through the process and answer our questions."

Hardware
Lenovo ThinkSystem DE4000H
Hybrid Storage Array
Lenovo ThinkSystem DM3000H
Unified Hybrid Storage Array

Software
Lenovo ThinkSystem DE Series
Data Management Software
Lenovo ThinkSystem DM Series
Data Management Software

Services
Lenovo On-Site Services – Deployment
Lenovo Post Warranty Services

Tried-and-tested technology

Based on the success of its storage environment refresh, the animation studio was eager to work with Lenovo technology again when its archive infrastructure approached capacity. The company engaged Lenovo to design a high-availability archive solution for the long-term storage of production content, based on Lenovo ThinkSystem DE Series storage.

"Based on our positive experience with Lenovo technology, they were the clear choice for our archive infrastructure refresh," says the spokesperson. "Again, we worked very closely with the Lenovo team to ensure that the proposed solution met all our technical requirements."

The company installed two Lenovo ThinkSystem DE4000H Hybrid Storage Arrays at geographically dispersed sites with a total capacity of 400 TB. The arrays are connected with 10 GB dark fiber for data replication, and the company uses Lenovo ThinkSystem DE Series Data Management Software to access and manage the files.

The spokesperson comments: "We use the Lenovo ThinkSystem DE Series archive solution to store the graphics for all our productions, which can range from 15 to 20 TB per film. We operate a live archive, which means that people access and work with the content all the time. As a result, high performance and availability are both important. And because we are starting new productions all the time, scalability is also a key consideration."

3

Results

With the Lenovo ThinkSystem DM3000H Unified Hybrid Storage Array, the animation studio significantly boosted storage performance and availability, delivering improvements in application performance and response times—helping creative and commercial operations run smoothly.

"We're delighted with our new Lenovo storage environment," says the spokesperson. "We've had positive feedback from end users about applications running faster. The IT team is happy too, as the Lenovo ThinkSystem DM3000H is simple to manage. The interface is very intuitive and gives a clear overview of storage levels, bandwidth, and more."

With Lenovo ThinkSystem DE Series technology underpinning its production archive, the company can protect its ever-growing volumes of creative content, with the peace of mind that it can scale up to meet future storage requirements. Employees, meanwhile, benefit from rapid access to archive content, helping them to work more productively.

- ✓ Boosted storage performance and availability
- ✓ Increased production archive capacity
- ✓ Accelerated access to archive content
- ✓ Enhanced data protection with advanced RAID capabilities

"Lenovo delivered not one but two excellent storage solutions, putting us in a strong position for the years to come."

Spokesperson
Leading animation studio

How do you enable employees to work productively?

Lifting productions off the storyboard onto the screen, backed by state-of-the-art data storage.

Explore Lenovo Storage Solutions

Lenovo