

INSANELY GREAT!

Increasing render speeds three-fold

UNIT Media

When Soho-based post-production house UNIT Media moved into their new Great Marlborough Street facility, they found themselves in need of a dedicated rendering solution that would integrate with their new systems, as well as their existing range of VFX and 3D software applications, including NukeX, GenArts, After Effects and Maya.

A dedicated render farm solution

UNIT's artists previously rendered all their projects locally on individual workstations, meaning valuable working hours were being spent waiting for renders to complete. They saw the move as the perfect time to increase their efficiency by switching over to a centralised render farm.

As speed and flexibility were the major factors for UNIT, Jigsaw24 recommended a dedicated farm consisting of powerful 12-core HP blade servers, managed by PipelineFX's highly scalable Qube!. The servers would provide a three-fold increase in render speeds - although the real benefit was that their workstations were no longer tied up for rendering, so their artists could be much more productive.

Developing a comprehensive storage system

One of the major requirements of any post house is a collaborative storage system, providing fast online and effective nearline storage, all reliably backed up and archived. So, alongside the render farm, we also designed and installed a 120TB mirrored SAN and a 24-slot LTO-5 library.

"We're proud to have been involved with the system design and implementation of one of the leading facilities in the UK", says Jigsaw24 Solutions Architect, Jamie Allan. "Working closely with UNIT, the expertise of our professional services team facilitated the move of key IT infrastructure, as well as the integration of new systems. Despite the project's complexity, we achieved all this without downtime or disruption to UNIT's essential services, and all on schedule."



Working with...



In a nutshell...

Who are UNIT Media?

Soho-based UNIT Media are a leading post-production house comprising three companies – The Cut, The Mix and The Finish – each dedicated to a particular aspect of post.

What did they need?

UNIT needed a dedicated rendering solution that would integrate with their new systems, as well as their existing software applications.

How did Jigsaw24 help?

Alongside a fast render farm, we also designed and installed a 120TB mirrored SAN and a 24-slot LTO-5 library.

What were the benefits?

- A speedy render farm so artists are no longer tied up for rendering, and can be more productive.
- A collaborative storage system, providing fast online and effective nearline storage, all reliably backed up and archived.
- Software licensing that allows UNIT to budget with greater efficiency and predictability.

To find out more about how Jigsaw24 can build a tailored render farm for you, get in touch with us on the details below.



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Expanding their VFX capabilities

Since UNIT moved into their new premises, they've added 17 extra HP Z600 workstations. To help them cope with the increased workload, we've added a further 28 render nodes to their farm using our ultra-efficient blade servers, and switched their render manager from Qube! to Deadline, as this gives their artists a simplified interface for submitting and managing their jobs. They have 54 Deadline licences so they can render on every node and workstation at once.

To simplify things even further, we've synced all of UNIT's software subscriptions so that they expire in the same month, allowing UNIT to budget with greater efficiency and predictability. We're also about to add even more RAID storage to cope with all those new artists' work, so they'll have a 250TB mirrored SAN and half a petabyte of storage overall.

“The real eye-opener was how good Jigsaw24's technical sales staff and consultants were, and its engineers were nothing short of exceptional.”

Unit Media.

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Want to know more?

Call: 03332 409 231 Email: sales@Jigsaw24.com Visit: www.Jigsaw24.com