



GlobalSCAPE® WAFS™ Facilitates Dynamic, Coherent, and Timely File Sharing Over WANS



As users become more knowledgeable about their needs for near real-time access to critical, dynamic files, GlobalSCAPE Wide

Area File Services (WAFS) proves that it can boost file sharing effectiveness and productivity in the work place. With GlobalSCAPE WAFS, customers gain immediate access to remote files with minimal network bandwidth consumption.

Like many firms its size, McKinley & Associates, a full-service architectural and engineering firm known for designing impressive commercial, warehouse, governmental, and institutional buildings, looks for every opportunity to improve its growing business and compete with larger competitors.

For example, the firm uses the latest 3D modeling software from Autodesk® to give its staff the best tools available. They also leverage talent from across multiple offices to maximize their investment in skilled staff. While collaborating among offices has many benefits, it also posed new challenges for the IT department. For McKinley & Associates in particular, the combination of large 3D CAD models, wide-area project access, and network collaboration led to major file delays, costing the firm precious time and money.

Paul Howard, IT manager at McKinley & Associates, identified a growing need to maintain file coherence as more and more work was being shared among staff. McKinley had housed all project files on a central server with various remote branch offices accessing the files across the WAN. As the firm's shared documents grew in size and complexity, accessing files across the network became slow, inefficient, and costly. "We were paying a very high price in time and inefficiency sharing and exchanging information that was accessed from our server over a WAN," said Howard. A better solution was needed.

The firm hired an outside IT consulting firm to evaluate the situation. The recommendation was frightening. In order to solve the problem, T1 connections would be required at all locations. Unwilling to invest in costly bandwidth, Howard started to research solutions and contacted other leading AEC firms in the country to see how they handled document and file sharing within their firms. He quickly learned that others were leveraging tools based on a new concept called intelligent reduction. Rather than accelerating the transfer of large files, Howard learned that he could reduce the total amount of data being transferred to lower the demand for bandwidth. GlobalSCAPE WAFS was the preferred solution.

GlobalSCAPE WAFS allows users from diverse locations to access and share files over a WAN at much quicker LAN speeds. File replication ensures the same files exist at all locations, while real-time file locking keeps users from overwriting files in use. As files are modified, changes are mirrored immediately among offices using innovative byte-level differencing.

With GlobalSCAPE WAFS, each McKinley & Associates office has its own server where engineers can access files at LAN speeds. Since installing GlobalSCAPE, overall WAN traffic has been greatly reduced, eliminating the need for costly T1 lines. Although the files are copied in triplicate, file locking ensures coherence across the network and prevents any simultaneous edits. Critically important is that upon a file save or close, only the file changes, compressed and encrypted, are transmitted across the WAN to other locations—a process known as byte-level differencing—and the file is once again unlocked, further reducing network traffic and the need for costly T1 lines.

When important files are changing dynamically every day across multiple branch offices, GlobalSCAPE WAFS enables the real-time access and collaboration that other solutions cannot match. “With GlobalSCAPE WAFS,” Howard said, “our performance has climbed 10x.” For McKinley & Associates, GlobalSCAPE WAFS intelligent reduction provided the right solution for success.

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GlobalSCAPE, Inc. (NYSE Amex: GSB), headquartered in San Antonio, TX, is a global provider of managed file transfer (MFT) solutions for securely exchanging critical information over the Internet, within an enterprise or to business partners. Since the release of CuteFTP in 1996, GlobalSCAPE's solutions have continued to evolve to meet the business and technology needs of an increasingly interconnected global marketplace.



For more information about GlobalSCAPE, visit globalscape.com.