

CASE STUDY

Dant Clayton

Design & Manufacturing

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Client: Dant Clayton

Headquartered in Louisville, KY, Dant Clayton is a leading designer and manufacturer of aluminum bleachers, grandstands, stadium structures, and accessory products. The company has provided aluminum bleachers for the stadiums of leading sports programs like the New York Yankees, San Francisco Giants, St. Louis Cardinals, the University of Oklahoma, and Ohio State.

The Challenge

High cost of CAD workstations, decentralized IT, reliability, and security

Dant Clayton felt it was spending too much on purchasing and maintaining expensive local hardware. Its high-powered CAD workstations cost an average of \$3,000+/unit, for example, and needed to be replaced every 3-5 years.

The firm also wanted to improve its disaster recovery setup. They wanted to be able to quickly and fully recover their systems and data in the event of a disaster. Their need to store a lot of CAD data locally, as well as workers only being able to access their CAD applications from workstations at the office, made this difficult.

The company also desired anywhere, any device CAD access, which would allow it to attract and retain engineering talent with a work-from-home option, and to maintain a consolidated IT between its two locations. This capability would also make it easier for them to share their CAD assets with remote contractors and project stakeholders.

In addition, Dant Clayton needed the solution to be reliable and secure enough for their needs as a manufacturer, since any downtime could severely impact their operations, and they had to worry about intellectual property (IP) theft and sabotage. They also had to maintain consistent records for legal and compliance reasons.

The Solution

INFINITY cloud-based CAD workstations

A cloud-based CAD infrastructure would reduce Dant Clayton's local hardware costs and provide it with a robust, multi-site disaster recovery setup.

Setting up a cloud-based CAD infrastructure can be extremely difficult, however, due to the power and complexity of the applications and the sizes of the files involved (often 100 MB+). Only a small number of cloud providers offered the service at the time, including IronOrbit.

Reliability, security, and compliant data storage would not be such a challenge, since these features come standard with all IronOrbit solutions.

In the end, IronOrbit provided Dant Clayton with a 114-user cloud-based CAD infrastructure that supported all its applications, including AutoCAD, SolidWorks, and Bluebeam.

IronOrbit's cloud CAD solution helped Dant Clayton lower its costs, enhance its disaster recovery setup with multi-site replication, consolidate its IT across multiple locations, and maintain its records.

It helped them avoid spending tens of thousands on new onsite hardware, reducing their future hardware costs as well.

IronOrbit INFINITY Features & Benefits

Providing Dant Clayton with protection from disasters by:

- Hosting their business-critical IT assets at a secure, highly-resilient data center in Virginia
- Replicating their data locally at this facility to enable quick restores (minimum RTO & RPO of 4 hours)
- Backing up their systems and data to another facility in Dallas, TX, to guarantee against data loss and ensure full restoration

IronOrbit INFINITY helped Dant Clayton enhance IT reliability and security by:

- Providing a highly-resilient infrastructure backed by a 99.999% uptime guarantee
- Including 24/7/365 monitoring and maintenance by a 22-person Network Operations Center (NOC)
- Including security measures such as antivirus, firewall, IDS/IPS, anti-DDoS, content filter, DNS filter, and data-at-rest encryption

“With IronOrbit’s GPU Cloud desktops, every user now has the power and functionality of a high end CAD station while taking advantage of the latest in Cloud security, accessibility and cost-efficiency. The customizability & scalability of the platform have made it easy for us to add employees & expand as needed, as well as attract & retain the best engineering talent with a work-from-home option.”

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Matthew Harper, VP of Technology Dant Clayton

About Us

IronOrbit is part of the SACA Technologies group of companies, a family of IT businesses specializing in cloud computing, networking, virtualization and managed IT.

In 2003, SACA's leadership noticed an increase in demand for cloud-hosted desktops, servers and applications. Recognizing the importance that cloud computing would play in the future, our leadership founded a new enterprise dedicated exclusively to cloud services. That enterprise was IronOrbit, one of the world's premier suppliers of cloud-hosted IT infrastructure.

At IronOrbit, we're committed to delivering cloud services that go above and beyond. We aim to take your IT beyond the cloud and into orbit, with the most powerful, comprehensive and flexible services in the industry. This ethos is reflected in our business name, which was inspired by our commitment to truly "out of this world" service. From services to support, everything we do revolves around you, the client.

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