

CASE STUDY

Brown & Weinstein Tax and Financial Group

Financial Services Company/CPA

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Client: Brown & Weinstein Tax and Financial Group

Brown & Weinstein Tax and Financial Group is a financial services firm with several Southern California locations. The services that it offers include tax preparation, small business accounting, part-time CFO services, strategic business planning, financial planning, and QuickBooks setup and training. One of the partners at the firm, Christine E. Brown, is a licensed Certified Public Accountant (CPA) with 25 years' experience. Brown is also a Certified QuickBooks Professional Advisor, and specializes in tax preparation and tax planning for "individuals, same sex couples, partnerships, corporations, not-for-profit entities, estates, and trusts," according to the firm's website. The other partner at the firm, Ellen D. Weinstein, is a certified Enrolled Agent (EA), and also has a certification in Human Resources Management.

The Challenge

Brown & Weinstein was unsatisfied with the decentralization of its current IT infrastructure. Each of its offices had its own onsite IT infrastructure, which made it so that workers at one office couldn't directly access the files stored on another office's servers. It was possible to transfer files between locations manually or with automated software, but the firm considered transferring files like this to be inefficient and likely to result in inconsistent versioning. Brown & Weinstein wanted to switch from having multiple onsite IT infrastructures to a single, centralized, and anywhere-accessible IT infrastructure that would be used by everyone at the firm—which would then provide everyone at the firm with direct access to all of the firm's files, as well as ensure that everyone at the firm was working from the correct and most up-to-date version of each file.

However, because Brown & Weinstein didn't have the internal IT expertise or resources to be able to build and maintain a centralized, anywhere-accessible IT infrastructure, the firm would have to sign up for a hosted IT infrastructure from an IT hosting company.

“We have multiple offices and were maintaining our own servers and doing file transfers between locations. Since we have switched to IronOrbit, we have not had any problems with downtime and also all of our files are in one location so never a question about which file to use. So thanks for the increase in speed and efficiency!”

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Christine Brown, Managing Partner of Brown & Weinstein

The Solution

Brown & Weinstein ended up selecting IronOrbit hosted desktops, which are web-based IT solutions that appear and perform the same as locally-installed Windows desktop operating systems, as its new IT infrastructure. The firm selected IronOrbit hosted desktops because the solution met or exceeded all of its IT requirements for an IT infrastructure that was centralized, anywhere-accessible, and fully-managed and -supported.

IronOrbit hosted desktops are kept permanently on servers in the hosting company's datacenters. Users can access them from anywhere with any Internet-connected computer, tablet, or smartphone, but the only data actually transferred from IronOrbit's servers to the users' devices are the video and audio of the desktops—the hosted desktops themselves, and all of their applications and files, are completely stored and processed on IronOrbit's hardware. In addition, each deployment of IronOrbit hosted desktops is centralized onto a small number of interconnected servers. Businesses can establish a centralized file storage platform within these deployments by setting up shared folders or by deploying a collaboration solution like Microsoft SharePoint separately.

Also, while it might be expected for a web-based desktop to be somewhat slower and less responsive than a Windows OS installed on a local PC, IronOrbit hosted desktops are actually faster and more responsive than the average local desktop. They are custom-designed to perform as well as possible even on slow or low bandwidth networks. With IronOrbit hosted desktops, there's no tradeoff between performance and accessibility; though they can be accessed from anywhere with any device, they also have all of the same features as a local Windows desktop OS (applications, file storage, email, printing, scanning, Internet browsing, etc.) and perform like a high-end local PC.

Finally, 24/7/365 monitoring; patch management; an advanced IT security system (which includes firewalls, antivirus, IDS/IPS, and content filtering); and 24/7/365 US-based technical support are included at no extra cost with all IronOrbit hosted desktops. IronOrbit will also take care of the setup and migration processes (designing, building, and implementing the hosted desktop infrastructure, and transferring everything from the client's existing infrastructure, including files, settings, applications, and software licenses, to the new deployment) for a small fee. Businesses that sign up for IronOrbit hosted desktops therefore don't have to hire any onsite IT personnel (or any additional onsite IT personnel, if they have some already) or assign non-technical employees to IT management tasks, since IronOrbit monitors, manages, maintains, secures, and supports its hosted desktops from start to end.

The Result

IronOrbit hosted desktops established a centralized, anywhere-accessible IT infrastructure for Brown & Weinstein Tax and Financial Group, which the firm was able to use as a consolidated file storage platform for all of its locations. By switching to IronOrbit hosted desktops, Brown & Weinstein has increased its efficiency and productivity and eliminated all of the errors, inconsistencies, delays, and hassles that went along with having a decentralized IT infrastructure with multiple, unsynchronized databases.

"I admit I was a little unsure when we started as we are not technology savvy," said Christine Brown, Managing Partner of Brown & Weinstein. "We have multiple offices and were maintaining our own servers and doing file transfers between locations. Since we have switched to IronOrbit, we have not had any problems with downtime and also all of our files are in one location so never a question about which file to use. So thanks for the increase in speed and efficiency!"

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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