



leostream

Remote Desktop Access Platform

Case Study

Framestore's Creative Revolution: Enabling 2,500+ Artists with Leostream

Customer Profile



FRAMESTORE

Picture Europe's largest post-production house, Framestore, is renowned for its mastery in crafting high-quality images for animation and visual effects across various mediums. With a history dating back to 1986, Framestore has consistently pushed the boundaries of innovation in film, advertising, television, and immersive experiences, garnering numerous accolades for its exceptional work. The creative studio brings extraordinary ideas to life through the fusion of craftsmanship, imagination, and technology.

Framestore's partnership with Leostream has a long-standing history, and more recently, it expanded its scope to support a global, remote workforce. With over 2,500 artists scattered across multiple locations, Framestore relies on the Leostream™ Platform to centralize the deployment of high-powered workstations.

Architecting a Unified Solution

Christophe Meslin, Global Head of Technical Resources, and Andrea Bonomelli, Systems Administrator, played essential roles in implementing Leostream at scale across the organization. Their decision-making process involved meticulous considerations of security, performance, and pricing. They contemplated the option of building an in-house solution; however, they ultimately realized that the flexibility provided by Leostream was precisely what they needed to simplify administrative efforts and consolidate resources. "We took the opportunity to unify the system across the business and in every location," Meslin explained. "It was preferable to have everyone using one system instead of multiple. We wanted consistency to streamline operations and ensure uniform user experiences."

Customizability and adaptability were paramount in the design of their solution. Bonomelli emphasized the importance of future-proofing, stating, "We did our due diligence by examining the roadmap ahead. The flexibility that Leostream offers doesn't compare to anything else."

Empowering High-Performance, Remote Creativity

At Framestore, a collective of visionaries creates magic in film, advertising, television, and immersive experiences. Their creative work demands high-performance machines. Leostream seamlessly integrates with various display protocols, including Teradici PCoIP, which is known for delivering secure, high-definition, and highly responsive computing experiences for pixel-perfect renderings. Bonomelli highlighted how Leostream has streamlined their workflow, particularly with Teradici enabling secure connections from the public Internet, eliminating the need for VPNs. "Leostream has come into play easily because we have Teradici connecting from the public Internet. There are no more VPNs, and remote users can connect without hassle. Just click and be assigned a workstation through Leostream," he explained.

Supporting a Geographically Dispersed Team

Traditionally reliant on on-premises infrastructure, Framestore's pivot to remote work, accelerated by the pandemic, led to the extension of Leostream to its entire workforce. Meslin recalled the rapid deployment across five locations during the pandemic, saying, "We were under huge pressure to make it happen in so very little time so that the business could continue to operate." Today, Leostream empowers Framestore to deliver workstations to a geographically dispersed team, whether they work from home, at project sites, or in the office. Mandating access via Leostream ensures consistency and centralizes user management.

Optimizing Resource Utilization

Framestore employs Leostream's desktop pooling feature to group workstations, enabling resource sharing and enhancing productivity. Bonomelli explained, "The pooling component is very unique, and we can tailor it to our needs. For example, we have backup pools, so if there's an issue, our users can still grab a workstation from the backup pool." This approach ensures uninterrupted productivity while IT resolves issues. Additionally, Framestore leverages desktop pools to share applications, realizing cost savings on hardware and software.

Prioritizing Security and Audit Compliance

Content security is critical, especially when working with major studios like Warner Bros., Disney, Netflix, and Amazon Prime. Framestore implements a multi-pronged approach to safeguarding intellectual property. Multi-factor authentication (MFA) is utilized for added security when users connect through the Leostream Platform. Meslin emphasized the effectiveness of MFA, stating, "With MFA in place, along with some other measures, we are 100% sure no one can connect unless they are authorized by us." Leostream offers integrations with various MFA providers, ensuring robust security.

Framestore must also comply with annual audits from the Motion Picture Association (MPA) and the Trusted Partner Network (TPN), both governing security for creative studios worldwide. Leostream's logs prove invaluable for auditing purposes and tracking user activity comprehensively. This detailed information on user access and activities facilitates audit preparation and demonstrates compliance.

Simplifying Administrative IT Functions

Efficiency is crucial for Framestore's IT department, which continually explores new technology to reduce administrative tasks and focus on creative support. Leostream's role-based permissions streamline administration, allowing IT personnel to exercise varying levels of control. Both users and IT staff at Framestore have embraced Leostream for its flexibility and efficiency.

The Road Ahead: Hybrid Work and Cloud Workstations

The pandemic reshaped perceptions of remote work for Framestore, demonstrating its feasibility and effectiveness. The organization is now considering cloud-hosted workstations, capitalizing on Leostream's compatibility with platforms like Amazon, Google, and Azure. Cloud adoption offers the advantage of scalability, allowing rapid onboarding of artists and quick resource allocation. This newfound flexibility aligns with Framestore's ethos of embracing evolving technologies and platforms, a key reason behind their partnership with Leostream. Meslin concluded, "It's a true partnership, and they make sure we are using the product to its full potential." Framestore remains confident that Leostream will continue to support future initiatives as they evolve.



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