

Creating a company-wide IT standard to streamline hybrid working solutions



Framestore is a multi-award-winning creative studio working across film, episodic, commercials, theme park attractions and immersive entertainment. 2022 saw a period of ambitious growth for the company as it integrated Method Studios' film and episodic teams in Vancouver, Melbourne and Montreal and bought these talented artists into Framestore's established pipeline, while it opened new offices at these locations. At the same time, the company doubled the size of its newest studio in Mumbai, while expanding its successful pre-production services division.



INDUSTRY:
M&E



COUNTRY:
Global

“We went with HP Anyware because it will significantly reduce our support burden as we automate the allocation of workstations.”

Beren Lewis,
Framestore



50-130 employees

in each US office

3000

Global employees

HP Z4

rack-mounted
workstations

Objectives

- To seamlessly prepare employees and contractors for remote work and hybrid workflows
- To meet rigorous security and graphics requirements
- To ensure no delay in client deliverables and deadlines

Approach

- Using thin clients with HP Anyware
- Setting up rack-mounted HP Z4 Workstations
- Securing everything under one PCoIP protocol

Business Outcomes

- Significantly reduced support burden with automation and centralization of resources
- Onboarding of new hires is done digitally, rather than securing and allocating physical workstations
- New IT standards are repeatable and scalable



“We quickly identified the goal of replacing all remote solutions with HP Anyware so that we had one product that ticked all the boxes and was easy to manage and maintain.”

Beren Lewis, Global Director of Systems and Infrastructure Technology,
Framestore

Software

- HP Anyware, powered by PCoIP technology

Hardware

- Laptops
- PCoIP-enabled Thin Clients

Cloud Service Providers

- Google Cloud
- AWS

Objectives

Making remote work, work for new employees brought into global offices during the pandemic

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a mad dash for businesses to enable their teams to work remotely. For the US-based workforce of Framestore, this transition was made easier thanks to the infrastructure already in place to support this new workflow. This accelerated their transition to enable the rest of their global workforce of artists for remote work.

In the US, Framestore has offices in New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles, each with between 50 to 130 employees. Before the pandemic, the company was already slowly testing and migrating its US employees to HP solutions.

When the pandemic hit in March 2020, these teams quickly transitioned to remote work, with only a few configurations in HP Anyware (and its remote connection manager) to account for variations in-home internet connections.

Transitioning Framestore's larger offices in London and Montreal to remote working with HP migrations had been planned for later in 2020, but was brought forward with the onset of the pandemic.

In the past, with other protocols and connection managers, IT had to secure a physical computer for each employee and set up the workstation. With HP Anyware, it's now a quick digital process, rather than a physical infrastructure configuration. It doesn't matter where the physical workstation is - as long as a laptop or computer is connected via the connection manager, it can connect to systems and software as if it were on-site.

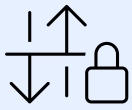
Approach

Creating global IT standards in their workplace

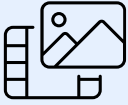
Global Director of Systems and Infrastructure Technology at Framestore, Beren Lewis, led the team to choose HP Anyware and HP workstations as they met all of the company's key requirements.

Anyware had everything the team needed when it came to performance, manageability, security, and flexibility. It also has better adaptability (including support for multi-codecs), high-resolution graphics, high frame rates, and color accuracy. This allowed the Framestore creatives and employees to remain productive and achieve the same rich graphics and performance experience as working directly on the computer at an office.

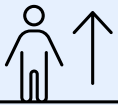
Framestore is digitally equipped to grow their cloud workstation environment seamlessly, without relying on securing and moving physical hardware, especially in the face of a global chip shortage and significant supply chain delays.



Standardized IT infrastructure mitigating security breaches



Set-up enables use of graphics-intensive software



Digitally onboarding new hires

Framestore chose Anyware to automate their IT configurations and processes because it met all of their performance and security requirements. With Anyware, they can configure and manage resources digitally, which has proven to reduce their support burden significantly.

In the office, they had dual screens, Wacom tablets, PCoIP Zero Clients, thin clients, and HP Z4 workstations. The office has a combination of tower workstations and rack-mounted machines in server rooms enabled for 1:1 connections (with plans to create 1-to-many in the future). At home, they use their thin clients, zero clients, desktop computers, or laptops.

Business Outcomes

The future of hybrid workflows

Today, most of their 3000 global active employees use Anyware and have hybrid workflows that are very similar to their existing in-office computing experience. This setup enables them to use all software required to do their graphics-intensive work, including Maya (Autodesk), Houdini (SideFX), Nuke (Foundry), and Unreal Engine (Epic Games).

By implementing Anyware and Leostream (connection broker) at all its office sites globally, Framestore has been able to standardize their IT infrastructure across the company, helping to mitigate security breaches and malicious behavior. They are also able to allocate and manage resources digitally in a scalable process as the company grows, and have seen a noticeable drop in workstation-related support issues and requests.

Beren foresees IT leaders migrating towards automation of workflows and technology management. For companies like Framestore who have seen tremendous growth, scaling will now be easier and more efficient.

These optimized workflows also set the framework for a seamless, gradual return-to-work environment in the future. Framestore is now ready to create any combination of remote, in-house, and hybrid working arrangements, depending on their needs.

Framestore is dedicated to facilitating a balanced work life for employees, and now that they are equipped for productive work-from-home infrastructure and IT systems, they are ready for whatever “unknowns” the future may hold.

Learn more at hp.com/anyware

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