

dreamworks + hp



Linux in the limelight

Caught between moviegoers' ever-rising expectations and movie studios' ever-shrinking budgets, the world-renowned animation team at DreamWorks had long had its eye on Linux®. And for good reason. DreamWorks' legacy systems could no longer handle graphics-intensive, proprietary applications like Toonshooter™, and the company needed a flexible, scalable and less expensive platform that could.

a perfect opportunity

The time was right for a switch. Linux® solutions had already been adopted for most of the PDI/DreamWorks data center servers used to render images for Shrek®, one of the highest grossing films of 2001. DreamWorks' next project, Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron™, presented an even greater opportunity. The creative goals for the film were high, and DreamWorks wanted to extend its success with Linux® by moving it directly into the realm of traditional animation. There was, however, one tiny problem: A Linux®-based workstation capable of delivering the high-end performance that DreamWorks needed did not yet exist.

hp's Hollywood debut

HP was already hard at work developing a Linux-based high-performance workstation when it received DreamWorks' call. An HP X-Class Visualize PC was brought on site, and HP engineers began working with the DreamWorks team to enhance the

workstation's ability to run an application as powerful as ToonShooter™. Within days, the HP machine met —and exceeded— DreamWorks' rigorous performance specifications. By the time production of Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron™ was completed a year later, more than 500 Linux®-based HP workstations and servers formed an integral part of DreamWorks' graphics environment.

a spirit soars

The results of Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron™ were impressive by any measure. The film was the first full-length feature to place Linux® directly in the hands of traditional animators. It also happens to be widely considered DreamWorks' most technically accomplished film to date, setting new benchmarks for the integration of hand-drawn and computer animation.

dreamworks + hp: the sequel

More than 700 HP workstations and 500 HP servers now comprise the core of DreamWorks' graphics platform. And that's just the beginning. As part of a recently announced three-year multimillion dollar technology alliance aimed at revolutionizing animation production, HP and DreamWorks will continue to work together to discover the groundbreaking technologies that continually reshape the way films are created.

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