



Big-screen animation made possible

Animal Logic brings animated movies to life through the power of Dell Technologies.



Arts, Entertainment, and Media

Australia

Business needs

When Animal Logic starts production on an animated movie, the studio reviews its technology strategy to ensure it can bring the director's creative vision to life. To achieve the image quality that films such as Peter Rabbit require, Animal Logic looks for technology partners to meet these demands through a range of start-of-the-art solutions.

Solutions at a glance

- [Dell EMC Networking switches](#)
- [Dell EMC Isilon](#)
- [Dell Precision Workstations](#)
- [Dell Monitors](#)
- [Dell EMC VxRail](#)

Business results

- Creates photo-real characters and environments for hybrid and fully animated movies.
- Maintains workflows across physical and virtualized desktop environments.
- Delivers 10 times greater data throughputs with leaf-spine design.
- Doubles storage capacity and speeds.
- Reduces data center footprint, power and cooling demands.
- Improves disaster recovery, separating processing and storage platforms.

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Radu Vintila
Systems Engineering Supervisor, Animal Logic

Animal Logic, headquartered in Australia, is one of the world's leading independent creative digital studios. It has produced award-winning visual effects and animation for almost 30 years. With creative studios in Sydney and Vancouver, Animal Logic has worked on Hollywood blockbusters such as *Captain Marvel*, *Happy Feet* and *Peter Rabbit*.

Bringing Peter Rabbit to life

Animal Logic's first live-action, animated hybrid movie, *Peter Rabbit*, was an achievement in artistry and technology. The company created photo-realistic characters that blended seamlessly with the live-action shoot. This kind of image quality required large amounts of rendering with intensive compute and I/O requirements. What's more, the networks connecting the storage to the render nodes, artists' workstations and transit links had to support high throughputs.

When Animal Logic began production on the Peter Rabbit franchise, the IT team took the opportunity to review the company's technology strategy. After reviewing the tools, techniques and creative vision, Animal Logic estimated the next hybrid movie would require double the data storage and compute capacity of the first movie.

Simplifying upgrades through a one-stop shop

Animal Logic turned to Dell Technologies, which has achieved a true partnership with the leadership team at Animal Logic by understanding the importance of building trust and maintaining collaboration. Radu Vintila, systems engineering supervisor at Animal Logic's Sydney Studio, says, "The fact is Dell Technologies can provide end-to-end solutions and services for all our requirements." As a result, the relationship between stakeholders at Animal Logic and the account team at Dell Technologies has strengthened over the years.

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10 times greater throughput between data centers

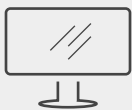
For continued hybrid movie production, Animal Logic saw that it needed to transform its network design. The aim was to move to a modern leaf-spine design for greater performance, scalability and redundancy. Working with Dell Technologies, the company swapped out its legacy architecture's monolithic core switches for Dell EMC Networking Z Series and S Series switches for the leaf-spine configuration. "We gained a tenfold increase in throughput between our two data centers with the Dell EMC Networking switches design," says Vintila. Because Animal Logic no longer has to keep storage alongside data-processing servers for lack of network speed, it can keep them on separate sites for greater data protection.

Doubling IOPs on storage

At the same time, Animal Logic also went ahead with a storage upgrade, growing its use of Dell EMC Isilon—a storage solution widely used by the media and entertainment industry. The Isilon storage system natively tiers data to optimize performance or capacity while at the same time keeping data accessible in one expandable volume. Animal Logic added flash performance for the render farm as well as a cost-effective slower tier for backups and archive. Vintila comments, "We gained both the IOPS and storage capacity we needed for our content to continue to deliver high-quality animated movies by implementing the next generation of Isilon."

Ensuring creativity stays at full throttle

With the network and storage solutions in place, Animal Logic focused on the studio and support for its artists. To help maximize artists' creative performance, the company bought Dell Precision workstations and laptops as well as Dell UltraSharp 27-inch InfinityEdge Monitors. The artists said the monitors were responsive, had excellent color consistency and displayed crisp images. Vintilla says, "When it came to making our artists' workflow efficient, we knew we could rely on a combination of Dell Precision and Dell Monitor technology supported by VMware-based virtual desktops. We couldn't have given our artists the tools and flexible software environment for groundbreaking hybrid-movie animation without the solutions that Dell Technologies has made possible."



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