

HELIOS SUCCESS STORY

Toei Animation Co., Ltd.

- HELIOS EtherShare
- HELIOS PCShare
- HELIOS WebShare
(2 server installations)

Storing/sharing cel images of TV cartoons, theater cartoons by HELIOS servers



**Production Studio
Tokyo, Japan**

Japanese cartoon or animation now become famous and they are sometimes called "Manga". Tokyo is a center of such culture, for example Akihabara area. HELIOS servers are running as a part of such creative environment.

Toei Animation Co., Ltd. (Tokyo, Japan) introduced HELIOS servers in its production environment in 2006. The company stores cel images and background images for TV cartoons and theater cartoons and shares them with outside production studios.

"Our production environment has lots of Macintosh

Therefore, the company decided to introduce large storage such as 12TB, 15TB.

Good point is easy to setup

Mr. Katada answered our question about the impression of using HELIOS products, "Setup for sharing is very easy by HELIOS Admin. We can manage the access from Mac and Win and the share point." HELIOS Admin is powerful tool which is included HELIOS package and has simple user interface to make file sharing easy.

When we visited the company (August 2008), the file servers has data (cel and background images) for 20 TV programs and theater cartoon movies under production, including "One Piece" and "Pretty Cure 5 GoGo".

HELIOS servers are built into two 19" racks and each rack has one server and its storage at the production department. Each server is assigned to the stage of production workflow. In general, animators, photographers, painters and other members access folders which are assigned to their stage and move the files to the next folder after completing the task.

Outside studios access these file servers directly via optical fiber in the case of short distance. Studios far from here can access only via the Internet and they upload/download by WebShare.

Stable environment for 24/7

Regarding the question about operational time, "Basically 24/7 operation because there is not strict working hour in this world and we don't restrict working hour in outside studios.", Mr. Katada answered (When visited the



Mr. Katada, Manager of Production Dept.

computers, and some people use Windows. So, we need file servers which can be accessed from both platforms. After researching, we couldn't find out many solutions and there was no choice not to select HELIOS product line." Mr. Katada, Manager of Production Dept., said. "We exchange image files with about 20 outside production studios by using WebShare. We can use optical fiber connection between these companies if they reside near our production office, but some companies are far away and we have to use the Internet access."

The company expect the data will increase dramatically because TV programs become digital and high resolution.



Production office
(Japanese cartoons are born here)



Capturing cel image and background
(Moving to full digital flow currently)

company in the morning, not many people worked in the office, actually.). He was satisfied the stability of HELIOS products. There is no full time system administrator to maintain HELIOS servers, but the servers runs perfectly since Toei introduced.

cel images for movies are created on computers these days, stored in HELIOS server directly, and moved forward to the next steps. Mr. Katada continued, "Some background images are still pinte by paper and brush. We scan them and finalize on Computers.

Capturing is done on computers by overlaying characters and background.

CG (Computer Graphics) data is also increasing these days."

Toei Animation, which has been controbuting to Japanese Animation culture, utilizes the power of digital and keeps generating very attractive contents for people over the world.

System information

Servers:

- IBM X3850 x 1
(RAID storage : 15TB)
- IBM X3650 x 1
(RAID storage : 12TB)
- OS : Red Hat Linux 3/4

Clients:

- Macintosh x approx. 70
- Windows x approx. 50
- (In addition to LAN access, Web access from outside companies)

HELIOS Reseller:



Each rack has one HELIOS Server and attached RAID system.



About the customer:

Name: Toei Anomation Co., Ltd.
(<http://corp.toei-anim.co.jp/english/>)

Founded: 1956
Employees: 538
One of major Japanese cartoon movie productions in Japan.

Example: One Piece, Salor Moon
Yu-Gi-Oh!, Dragon Ball
Dr. Slump, Pretty Cure, etc.



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