

CITYWIDE SIGNS AND NEON

Their biggest security risk ran the whole business. Retiring it took under an hour of downtime.

A Campbellfield sign manufacturer, moved from one ageing server to cloud sign-ins and fast local CAD storage, with nothing left to be on edge about.



<1 hr

of downtime for the whole cutover

Zero

servers left to worry about

Anywhere

secure remote access to files

Double

protection: duplicate drives + cloud backup

THE CLIENT

Citywide Signs and Neon: sign writers and manufacturers in Campbellfield, in Melbourne's north. 15 staff on a single site.

THE JOB

Retire the ageing server running the whole business (CAD files, sign-ins, the network itself) without disrupting production, and add safe remote access.

THE RESULT

Server decommissioned with **under an hour of downtime**. Faster files, secure work from anywhere, real backups.

THE CHALLENGE

Every sign Citywide makes starts life as a CAD file. And every one of those files, along with staff sign-ins and the plumbing of the network itself, lived on one ageing small-business server in the corner of the office.

That server was past its supported life, which made it a genuine security risk. There was no safe way for anyone to get to their files from outside the building. And it was a single point of failure for the whole company: every time the power went out, or the server needed a reboot, the office held its breath waiting to see if it would come back.

It was a disaster waiting to happen. The question wasn't if, but when.

WHAT WE DID

The fix wasn't a newer server. It was no server at all, with each job moved to the tool built for it:

- **Sign-ins moved to the cloud** (Microsoft Entra ID), so workstations no longer depend on an in-office server to log in and be managed
- **Each person's documents moved to Microsoft 365** (SharePoint and OneDrive), available securely on any device
- **A dedicated Synology NAS now hosts the CAD files:** purpose-built storage that keeps the big production files fast on the local network, with far less to attack than a full ageing server
- **Remote access** through OneDrive and Synology Drive, so staff reach what they need securely from anywhere
- **Then we switched the old server off. For good.**

THE RESULTS

- ✓ The old server is gone: the whole cutover took **under an hour of downtime**
- ✓ **Files are faster**, with heavy CAD work on dedicated local storage
- ✓ A failed drive no longer loses a file or stops production
- ✓ Far less for an attacker to find, and far less to fail
- ✓ Staff can now **work remotely and securely**, which was impossible before
- ✓ CAD files are **double-protected**: duplicate copies across drives on-site, plus cloud backup
- ✓ Sign-ins and workstations managed in the cloud with modern security
- ✓ Nobody holds their breath when the power flickers any more

Every time the power went out, we were on edge wondering if the server would come back. We don't think about it any more.

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THE TAKEAWAY

The answer to an old server isn't always a new server. For Citywide it was no server at all: sign-ins in the cloud, everyday files in Microsoft 365, and purpose-built local storage for the one thing that genuinely needs speed. Less to attack, less to fail, nothing to be on edge about. Got an old server in the corner that everything depends on? Book a free assessment.