



Company

Adam And Scott CPAs

Industry

Accounting and Tax
Preparation Services

How Denver-based CPAs Benefitted from Cloud Desktops in a Crunch Tax Season

Background:

Adam and Scott, Denver-based CPAs, had to manage peak resources under tight deadlines during the crunch tax season. They needed the flexibility for their permanent and temp staff to work on tax and accounting software from anywhere during all hours.

Apps4Rent's Solution:

Transfer all essential Windows-based accounting software and data files to a Cloud Desktop and allow multi-user secure access from anywhere.

Results:

The accounting staff could do practically everything from their virtual desktops as on a physical desktop. This offered them flexibility to take on more projects as they were able to access their accounting software such as QuickBooks, Sage 50, Drake, and ProSeries online.

Background:

Adam and Scott are Denver-based CPAs that provide accounting and tax preparation services to small and medium businesses in areas such as tourism, retail, MICE events, and beverage distribution. They handle book keeping and tax preparation for 82 companies and around 540 individuals; their full-time staff consists of two junior accountants, while the bookkeepers work from home. Adam and Scott also hire short term staff for about 6 weeks – for data entry and form filling – during the tax season.



The setup of the CPA firm was as below:

- Software – QuickBooks, Drake, Sage 50 and ProSeries; MS Office Suite; Browsers with add-ons
- Hardware – 2 PCs with Core i5 processors and dual monitors (for the firm partners)
- 2 PCs with Core 2 Duo processors and 17-inch single screens (for junior accountants)
- 8-10 older Pentium home PCs used by the bookkeepers

Challenges Faced:

Adam and Scott had a small team and limited number of resources. Software keeps becoming more powerful and therefore resource-hungry. The OS of the hardware needing frequent updates, service packs, and patches. The tax season resource spike – additional PCs/laptops needed for two months. The additional office space, along with all the logistics for the seasonal staff. Reliability of the hardware and licensing of the OS software for short term. Data security and meeting the compliance standards of the industry. The data backups to mitigate hard-disk crash and loss of data/man-hours of work.

Having a full-fledged internal IT team to handle the updates, patches, regular data backups, and disaster recovery meant spending considerable sums of money. And even to think of things like multiple redundancy was a luxury for them.



The Solution:

Adam and Scott were referred by one of their customers to Apps4Rent and signing up for a few virtual desktops was their turning point. After they chose Apps4Rent, they discovered that RAM (Burstable to 20 GB) and vCPU (2.2 GHz) is more than enough. All OS service packs, updates, and patches taken care of automatically. They had no long-term contract, pay-as-you-go basis, which is ideal for tax season. As they could work from anywhere on the same desktop software, no office space was needed which saved a lot of their productive time. Moreover, Apps4Rent guaranteed 99.9% uptime, housed in SSAE16 Type II datacenters in New Jersey and New York. They were AICPA compliant, infrastructure secured by CISCO ASAs with IPS enablement. The data was backed up automatically and available on-demand for recovery.

“Working on a Cloud Desktop is just like working on your main computer. All the features of the software are accessible which makes our lives, as CPAs, so easy. Earlier, we used to have last-minute problems due to deadlines. But with Cloud Desktops, you can manage everything so easily. Wish we had done this earlier.”

- Adam

Results:

The CPAs discovered that they could practically do everything on the virtual desktops from wherever they were, using a PC, Laptop, Tablet, or even a smartphone. The virtual desktops made all their accounting/tax software like QuickBooks, Drake, Sage 50 and Intuit ProSeries available online. Besides they could also access all their documents, time and billing system, and everything else from anywhere. Residing on the cloud, the virtual desktops worked perfectly fine and turned out to be robust, secure, and extremely easy to use via a browser. They had the highest productivity in years after they opted to go with Apps4Rent services.