



Company Size: About \$800 mil

Industry: Construction

IT Users: 800+

www.enerfab.com

Enerfab leads the way in providing construction management, capital equipment, maintenance services, and technology solutions to the energy industry and other industrial markets around the globe.

Solutions & Services:

- Office 365
- Azure - Nasuni
- Hosted DC
- Skype for Business
- Enterprise Mobility Suite



Construction Company Turns a Taxing Situation Around With a Hybrid Cloud Strategy

Running out of bandwidth and actual space, this construction powerhouse transitions to the cloud, eliminating downtime and capital expenses, while gaining flexibility and scalability along the way.

SITUATION:

Enerfab completed a refresh of their IT infrastructure in 2010 and maintained a data center in their Cincinnati office that provided cutting edge IT services at the time. The data center was built on a platform of HP Servers, HP storage, and VMware virtualization.

This platform allowed for deployment of business services such as SAP, Microsoft Exchange email, CAD technologies and corporate file sharing in a highly resilient manner. Over time, Enerfab found that maintaining those systems required a number of dedicated staff and with all equipment purchased on the same cycle, a large capital outlay would be needed to replace those systems. Dave Lutz, Director of IT Infrastructure, explains, "Our setup was quickly becoming outdated and we needed to either replace all our equipment while also expanding our data center, or we needed to consider a cloud option."

Their Cincinnati facility had also dealt with some challenges to the power grid that reduced confidence in their ability to maintain the required uptime for the business while hosting these systems internally. "We dealt with power outages after hours twice where the whole system went down due to generator failures. Coming into the office in fire-drill mode is no way to do business." Lutz recalls.





Not only were the systems no longer meeting their bandwidth needs, Enerfab was undergoing a large shift in staffing and was challenged to keep a highly trained and technically skilled resource in-house. Lutz says, “We knew there had to be a more effective way to access the expertise needed to run our equipment without undergoing weeks of training only to lose our internal resources soon after.”

As a result, Enerfab looked to transition their IT operations into the cloud in order to achieve the following:

- Operationalize what was traditionally capital expenditures
- Gain additional resiliency and uptime
- Gain expert support from a managed services provider
- Repurpose IT resources towards a greater business focus
- More quickly deploy helpful business applications when needed



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DAVE LUTZ

DIRECTOR OF IT INFRASTRUCTURE | ENERFAB

THE HYBRID SOLUTION:

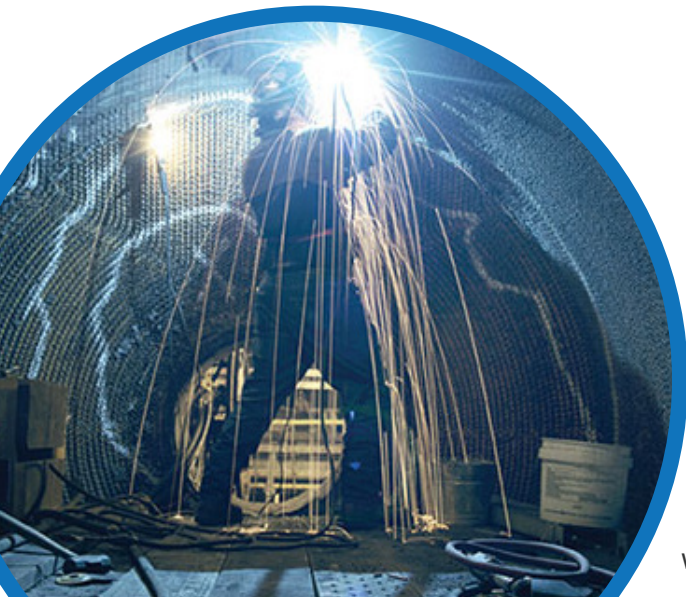
Having worked with Interlink before, Enerfab selected them as their partner to execute a cloud migration as part of a cloud hybrid strategy. Interlink first worked with Enerfab to move email and collaboration services to Microsoft Office 365, migrating their exchange server and integrating Skype for Business. “We knew Interlink was capable of doing the work and doing the work well.” Lutz adds, “Interlink was immediately aligned with our cloud vision and trust is a major factor when you’re outsourcing. We developed that trust right away with them.”

Interlink next began to migrate physical and virtual machines onto Peak 10’s cloud services platform with their monitoring and support services overlaid onto these systems. The last component of Enerfab’s cloud hybrid solution was to move corporate file services onto the Nasuni platform that stores a master file system in Microsoft Azure while providing local access to files through physical or virtual filers at corporate offices and provides integrated backup, versioning, and security.

Mike Wilson, Vice President and Managing Consultant at Interlink shares, “We work hard to recommend solutions that make sense for our customers. We looked at the whole picture for Enerfab and designed a custom hybrid cloud that works for them. One size doesn’t fit all and we knew that was the case for Enerfab.”

BENEFITS: COST SAVINGS

In addition to being an all-around cheaper option, the cloud helped Enerfab avoid adding physical space to their data center. “We were simply running out of space and would have had to expand the data center to make room for an additional air conditioner and racks of servers, which all would be a major cost.” Lutz explains.





Enerfab runs enterprise-class solutions like SAP that requires a robust platform. They have big company needs in terms of infrastructure, but not a big enough IT team to support and maintain it on premise. Working with Interlink has added highly technical people to Enerfab's staff without the need to hire and train them in. Lutz explains, "It's much more cost-effective to have resources available on an as-needed basis and with our newer equipment, we have much fewer issues as it is!"

PROACTIVITY

Enerfab feels more confident in proactively addressing IT situations versus being in reactive mode and putting out fires. For example, they experienced some drive space issues recently and Interlink notified them of the problem before it became a big issue that would affect their system performance. "It brings us a peace of mind to know Interlink is monitoring our issues without us having to dedicate staff solely to that purpose." Lutz shares. Adding to that peace of mind, Interlink also helps Enerfab conduct their data protection backups in the cloud.

The Enerfab team can now repurpose staff to focus on all-around better alignment, such as business intelligence (BI) and the possible expansion into other areas working with more Partners. Lutz shares, "The day to day operations are handled by Interlink and now we can continue to develop and expand our business."

MOBILITY

With multiple locations and 800+ users in the field at various offices, Enerfab can share data using Nasuni and can connect virtually using Skype for Business. Nasuni stores large project documents in the cloud to ensure everyone is working on the same version, whether they're at the office or on a job site. Construction documents require a lot of bandwidth and Nasuni gives Enerfab access to a global file system that everyone can share and keep a local document set for fast performance.



IT'S NICE TO KNOW THAT YOU CAN SEND AN EMAIL TO THE INTERLINK TEAM AND GET A FAST RESPONSE WITH AN ACTUAL SOLUTION TO OUR PROBLEM. INTERLINK IS A PARTNER WE CAN TRUST AND DEPEND ON WHEN WE NEED THEM."

DAVE LUTZ, DIRECTOR OF IT INFRASTRUCTURE | ENERFAB

Skype for Business conferencing is another huge win for Enerfab. In addition to consolidating their communications on a single platform that cuts out other costs like GoToMeeting, they can access online project management tools to simplify and streamline their construction plans.

SCALABILITY

The flexibility of the cloud is helping Enerfab scale to their growing business needs. For example, they needed a new application set up that required a new server and Interlink was able to get that spun up for them within an hour. "The availability of critical functionality at a drop of a hat is so beneficial to our business." Lutz shares, "And we know Interlink cares about our best interests and will continue to work with us on our specific needs."

Enerfab is saving money, taking a proactive approach to business, and becoming a more mobile and scalable operation thanks to their hybrid cloud solution and a partner they can trust.

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