Case Study
Biuro Architektoniczne Sirojć i Szkółka (BASIS)

"Time pressure and a complex subject always mean a battle with our own limitations. I always hope that at least the equipment I'm using is reliable."
Dariusz Sirojć, Architect, Biuro Architektoniczne Sirojć i Szkółka (BASIS)

The customer

Country: Poland
Industry: Architecture
Website: www.basis.wroclaw.pl

BASIS

The challenge

To equip the office with hardware to operate the software used to build three-dimensional models of buildings, its analysis and photorealistic visualization. For these purposes the software manufacturer only recommends advanced and powerful graphics workstations equipped with stable components for professionals.

The solution

As a result of decades of experience gained in the Autodesk environment, BASIS made a preliminary selection of hardware platforms. In the final assessment, Fujitsu made it possible to conduct tests on different configurations of its workstations, because of this FUJITSU Workstation CELSIUS W530 equipped with NVIDIA® Quadro® 4 GB K2200 graphics cards were selected.

The customer

Biuro Architektoniczne Sirojć i Szkółka (BASIS) is an architectural office handling a wide range of design tasks – from small private developments such as houses, to large projects of buildings and public spaces. To ensure the highest standards the designs are prepared in the BASIS office in three-dimensional technology with the use of specialized software, such as Autodesk AutoCAD and 3ds Max.

The challenge

Computer graphics and computer-aided design are rapidly developing fields and today it is difficult to imagine the work of architects without it. The rapid development of these areas is possible through increasingly powerful software that requires more and more from its hardware.

"Year by year, the capability of software is increasing, but with many years of experience, we know that a real milestone is reached every three years. It is then that the equipment on which the software is to function undergoes its most important test," explains Dariusz Sirojć, Architect at BASIS. Investment in equipment and software upgrades for several workstations every three years is a serious expense for the office. "Optimizing hardware in terms of its performance as well as its price is essential for maintaining a fluid workflow in developing the office's infrastructure," continues Sirojć.

The solution

The ability to test various equipment configurations prior to implementation is extremely helpful. Workstation tests consisted of actual work on projects that require computing power in AutoCAD and 3ds Max using the V-Ray rendering engine. Working speed, comfort and ergonomics were also tested. A design technical documentation is prepared in AutoCAD as a flat 2D drawing, which eventually will be presented on paper printouts. Architects use this program every day in their work, and despite the frequent complexity of the drawings it needs to work quickly and precisely. A 3D model of a design and an analysis of it are carried out in 3ds Max. Finally, the 3D model is visualized using, for example, a V-Ray rendering engine. In this way, photorealistic visualizations of designed objects are created.

The benefit

- Stable and fast software used in the office, making it possible to design large, complex projects
- Individualized configuration, enabling full use of the selected software technologies improving the comfort of working on projects
- High computing performance of workstations, making it possible to present projects in the form of a photorealistic visualization at any stage of the design, which has a positive effect on relations with customers
- A robust, simple design that has a positive effect on the professional image of the office
- Quiet operation of workstations, increasing the working comfort in a room with several workstations

Products and services

- FUJITSU Workstation CELSIUS W530
- NVIDIA® Quadro® K2200 graphics card

The priority for AutoCAD or 3ds Max is its fluid workflow, so that concentration is not lost and ideas are accurately translated onto a drawing or a model. Due to the frequent switching between programs, frequent backups of designs, quick opening of many demanding programs, saving large files and similar tasks can be a problem for a workstation.

"The FUJITSU CELSIUS solutions used in workstations related to the amount and speed of RAM and SSDs have been satisfactory and have significantly increased productivity compared to the equipment previously used," explains Sirojć.

The benefit

The powerful quad-core processor enabled a faster rendering of test visualizations of a model in 3ds Max, which also largely contributed to an increase in workflow and the accuracy of decisions based on an analysis of the model.

The graphics card used in the configuration proved to be efficient enough even when tested on one of the office's largest designs - previous hardware turned out to be unable to cope with the task.

Conclusion

The stable and effective Fujitsu hardware platform, in conjunction with specialized software, is the main tool in the BASIS architectural office. The selected configuration of Fujitsu workstations met expectations in terms of performance but also in terms of comfort and work culture.

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