

CalArts

COVERING THE CAMPUS WITH SHARED STORAGE

Supporting a wide range of student interests, CalArts is delivering multiple assets of production to their students via OpenDrives shared storage solutions. Everything from Adobe Premiere editing suites to multiple Wacom Cintiq computer graphic & 3D labs to graphic design labs are being shared and accelerated with OpenDrives.

“We run all creative applications on OpenDrives shared storage experience ultra-fast project load times and reliability like no other systems. OpenDrives allows CalArts students to collaborate in real-time and have access to their projects when they need them.”

Nathan Crow
Director of Technology,
CalArts School of Film and Video

CalArts Fosters A Collaborative, Creative, And Ultra-fast Workflow.

The Challenge

CalArts is fulfilling one of the deepest held dreams of its famous founder, Walt Disney. Along with brother Roy, Walt imagined an Institute dedicated to the arts, with working, functional artists rather than a school secluded behind ivy walls and steeped in academic theory. This new institution, for them, would be a huge advance in education for the arts, the creation of a community of artists in which the traditional boundaries between artistic disciplines would be torn down. What would emerge would be a highly collaborative, cross-discipline digital laboratory where cutting-edge artistic visions would be conceived and nurtured.

In the intervening years, CalArts has grown into much more than even this famous dreamer could have anticipated. At the bleeding edge of contemporary artistic thought and practice, CalArts has evolved to encompass not only the traditional arts but also emerging disciplines such as film, video, computer animation, and digital design.

The CalArts film school in particular has grown to have a significant influence on the industry, educating many of the emerging production and postproduction talent helping to fuel the current boom in media and entertainment. CalArts is well-positioned to make lasting contributions to the film and entertainment arts for generations to come. The students at CalArts are constantly pushing the envelope of artistic innovation, and this demanding environment requires a storage infrastructure geared toward speed, performance, bandwidth, and scalability. With over 400 film students leveraging the CalArts shared storage infrastructure for their many projects, nothing less than OpenDrives would do.

The Solution

CalArts students can rest assured that the OpenDrives solution underpinning the entire campus will meet their needs for capacity and speed every single time, without performance-related issues impeding their educational pursuits in film, video, and entertainment. In this highly dynamic environment that sees complete re-provisioning of student storage accounts each semester, OpenDrives grows and adapts with the school.

OpenDrives Summit solution is our powerful hybrid flash storage solution that combines efficient and cost-effective HDD technology. Summit is designed with flexibility in mind, a true “production studio in a box” that can accommodate concurrent workflows including video editing, VFX, and color grading. CalArts uses the OmniDrive media accelerator in the Summit system to deliver superior cache management specifically designed to optimize high-throughput workflow. OpenDrives creates storage solutions intended to support the most challenging and technologically advanced workflows for high resolution video and images.

The Value

OpenDrives is the perfect partner for CalArts as they pursue the dream of excellence in artistic education in a true shared environment. We have a deep commitment to all our customers. However, to be a part of the next generation’s formative artistic development is a very meaningful charter for us. We’ll keep designing and creating the robust storage solutions that these artists will need be successful at CalArts and throughout their professional careers, too.

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