

When Glasstire’s website was severely hacked into, this Texas Arts nonprofit organization turned to iland in search of a safer and more secure way in which to promote art related activities to its members. Find out how Glasstire achieved that and other benefits by moving its website to iland’s cloud environment.

Company	Glasstire
Size	SMB
Type	Nonprofit
Industry	Entertainment/Arts
Cloud Application	Texas Art Community Website
Location	Houston, TX



Business Profile

Glasstire is a small, not-for-profit company offering information, services and social media to the art community. Its website supplies information and logistics about art shows, artists, collections and other art related activities. It is a well trafficked site serving up thousands of pages and hundreds of visitors each day. It was already outsourcing development, system administration and operation of its website, so the use of a hosted cloud infrastructure was not a foreign business concept.

The Challenge

While the nonprofit organization’s website had been hosted for years by a small provider, Glasstire had seen a number of performance issues that had caused the site to go down in addition to other ongoing availability issues. Security was totally inadequate because the site was hacked into and infused with a Trojan spam generator and numerous illicit redirects. The organization decided it was time to seek a solution that provided more security, with better uptime and improved customer service.

As Chris Olbekson commented, “Our hosting provider turned out to be a nightmare; we experienced multiple site crashes, being hacked and poor customer service.”

The hacking was so invasive that the entire site had to be rebuilt and the new website developer wanted to run the new site on a Debian (Linux OS). The company also wanted the ability to grow over time and handle increasing traffic as well as add new services such as a dedicated email service. Finally, as a result of the company's previous issues, it wanted a vendor that would provide remote management capabilities and have a local datacenter so that support and dialog could be done live if needed.

“We really felt the move to a cloud provider gave us increased security options; redundancy, uptime and the ability to grow without hiring our own IT team,” said Olbekson.

The Solution

The company has migrated and rebuilt its website at iland. It is currently running on a single machine but working towards multiple VMs including load balancing and redundant data backup. With VMware vCloud™ it is able to create and upload server images whenever it needs to. This allows it more flexibility to react to new art information and make both structure and content changes to the website.

“Even though we are a small shop, we get big shop service and are running on the same technology as the largest enterprises without the expense,” commented Olbekson.

The Benefits/ROI

As a result of moving its website to iland's cloud based solution, the company has seen some significant benefits – the most important being peace of mind and access to top technology without major expenses.

Other benefits include:

- > Top notch security
- > Painless growth options
- > Increased flexibility to update or change the website



Olbekson added, “The biggest benefit to us was the ability to focus on our service and what we love: art. That is a big change from a state of constant worry when our site crashed and was hacked, and we couldn’t get a live person on the phone.”

The Future

The company’s next project is dynamic VMs for load-balancing and an email service for its members.

About iland

iland Internet Solutions, VMware’s Service Provider Partner of the Year for the Americas, provides hosted cloud infrastructure services in North America and Europe that enable customers to leverage enterprise class infrastructure in the form of virtual datacenters with flexible billing and capacity models. Solutions include secure hosted environments for virtual servers and desktops, test and development, cloud-based disaster recovery, and hybrid cloud services to maximize the value of existing VMware based environments.

For more information, visit www.iland.com.

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