

Atlanta Ballet: Technology Life Cycle and Modernization Project



Using the Technology Life Cycle to Modernize

About Atlanta Ballet

Founded in 1929, Atlanta Ballet is one of the premier dance companies in the country and the official state Ballet of Georgia. Atlanta Ballet's eclectic repertoire spans ballet history, highlighted by the beloved classics and inventive originals. After 85 seasons, Atlanta Ballet continues its commitment to share and educate audiences on audiences on the empowering joy of dance.

"Taking on a project of this size and scope would not have been possible without the help of a technology partner like LAN Systems. LAN Systems has found new technology to help update our current systems allowing for flexibility as we continue to evaluate our technology needs.

– Mary French, Operations Director

Executive Summary

Atlanta Ballet's Nutcracker is the largest production in the Southeast and is so because of the beautiful scenes, opulent costumes and beloved dancers. They are devoted to making the Nutcracker and all their productions classical and modern. So it is not surprising that they take the same approach with their technology.

Atlanta Ballet implements technology life cycle management to review their infrastructure and modernize through planned phases. Their technology review process was the perfect time to look at the latest innovations available to improve security, update the computer network and enhance disaster recovery.

As an early adopter of Office 365, their progression into the Cloud through Microsoft Azure workloads was a natural next step. Using the Microsoft Donation Program, they were able to offset some of the cost by using their credits to implement the most modern Cloud technology. In developing their next generation technology life cycle program, they will be prepared to use Cloud resources that provide anywhere-anytime access, improved security and on-demand expansion.



4711 Peachtree Industrial Blvd
Berkeley Lake, GA 30092
770 662-0312
www.lansystems.com

Challenges

Atlanta Ballet wanted to take advantage of their technology life cycle improvement to rebuild the file structure and permissions so that a robust policy for user access could be implemented. Additionally, they wanted a new data backup strategy that would provide ample expansion and disaster recovery. Many of the production videos are quite large and need to be archived indefinitely with minimal risk of data loss.

Staff downtime and interruptions had to be minimized. This included installation of the latest end point protection for anti-virus, heuristic and intruder protection for all devices as well as the new server rollout. Cloud workloads needed to be brought online and verified before integrating with the on-premise environment.

A Hybrid Cloud Environment

Using the Cloud for file backup and disaster recovery while maintaining on-premise resources was on point with their evolving IT strategy. Atlanta Ballet choreographed their computer upgrades just as they would a ballet. They looked at all the modern technology and chose what worked best for today with a clear path to transition and expand their position in the Cloud.

User management and robust backup for their production videos was essential. A hybrid environment allowed them to manage resources locally by revamping Active Directory

(AD) and using Distributed File System (DFS) for data availability. Adding Azure Backup provide superior data protection with automatic storage management, high availability, unlimited scaling and powerful encryption.

The new infrastructure is built on a local physical server running Microsoft Server 2012 R2 and Cloud services by Azure. To assemble the features of Azure workloads with the on-premise structure, we employed Server Essentials, AD Sync and disaster recovery strategies. This arrangement provides integration to easily manage Office 365 and local user accounts. Also it provided a stable remote platform for users and allows for failover capabilities. Reducing and consolidating servers while maintaining the domain with file, print, and application services allows for growth, streamlined maintenance, easy backup and disaster recovery.

Below is a summary of some of the modernization features:

- On-premise server with Microsoft Server 2012 R2 used for AD, file and print, applications, including accounting and shared resource access
- Azure workload that provides seamless failover capability with high availability
- Microsoft Office 365 for email and collaboration
- Simplified backup and disaster recovery that combines local and Cloud solutions

Results, Return on Investment and Future Plans

Atlanta Ballet's IT modernization provided a robust, secure and expandable network. They were able to take advantage of the most modern IT infrastructure, Cloud architecture and security features to satisfy their current and future life cycle requirements. By using the Microsoft donation program, Atlanta Ballet kept costs in-line with their budget and well below a typical IT modernization project of this type.

Life Cycle management is essential to their technology decisions as they continue with a phased approach to update IT resources. As on-premise and Cloud resources evolve, Atlanta Ballet has designed a modern IT infrastructure that is scalable, flexible and well poised for future growth.



4711 Peachtree Industrial Blvd
Berkeley Lake, GA 30092
770 662-0312
www.lansystems.com