

CCG Success Story ▶ Elcon Associates

Security Breach Drives Engineering Firm to More Secure Cloud-based Deltek Vision

Elcon Associates nearly lost all its Deltek Vision® ERP data as the result of a security breach. “Luckily, our IT manager discovered the breach and shut the system down before the hacker got past our first accounting server,” said Dennise Kunkel, Accounting and Office Manager at the engineering firm. “Our backup data was on our second accounting server, so we could have had an issue with that, too.”

The security scare was what finally motivated Elcon to switch from on-premise Deltek Vision to cloud-based Deltek First Vision Essentials. “We had been considering moving to the cloud for a while, but were busy and didn’t realize our on-premise system was that vulnerable,” she explained.

INCREASED SECURITY AND RELIABILITY

Now Elcon has the peace of mind that comes with using the Cloud Service Provider that’s ranked highest in security and uptime: Amazon Web Services (AWS). “Our data is backed up and watched over, so we don’t have to worry about it,” Kunkel said.

AWS came out on top in a 2014 Forrester study that evaluated Cloud Service Providers against 15 key security criteria. The study found that “AWS demonstrated not only a broad set of security capabilities in data center security, certifications and network security, but also excelled in customer satisfaction, security services partnerships and a large installed base. AWS led with the size of its development and technical support staff, as well.”

When it comes to reliability, AWS was just a few seconds shy of achieving the holy grail of availability — five nines, or 99.999% uptime — with 99.9974%, according to tracking firm CloudHarmony

NO UPDATE HASSLES

“Another great benefit of the cloud is that we don’t have to deal with Vision updates; they’re done automatically,” Kunkel noted. “There can be two to three Vision updates in a month. Trying to keep up with that ourselves was a nightmare. It seemed like we were always behind.” Likewise, the firm no longer has to maintain the servers associated with on-premise Deltek Vision.

EASIER TO SUBMIT TIME REMOTELY

“We have a lot of employees in the field and they love how easy it is to submit timesheets with cloud-based Vision,” Kunkel said. “They don’t have to go through a desktop VPN. And most have home Wi-Fi that’s faster than our work connection, so submitting time is quicker.”



About Elcon Associates

Elcon is an electrical and systems engineering firm that specializes in power, lighting, communications, instrumentation & control systems, and rail systems engineering — including traction power, OCS, signals, corrosion control and systems integration.

Employees: 40

Headquarters: Portland, Oregon

Locations: 2

Installed on-premise Deltek Vision: 2010

Switched to cloud-based Deltek First: 2016

www.elcon.com



After Elcon Associates' on-premise server was breached, the engineering firm switched to cloud-based Deltek First Vision Essentials. Now the firm knows its ERP data is safe — including project data related to the Portland Streetcar Loop Project, shown here. Elcon provided system design, traction power, signal engineering and inspection for the project, which received the Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Excellence.

CCG MADE THE TRANSITION SEAMLESS

"We couldn't have made the switch without CCG," Kunkel explained. "They were there for us 24/7. They handled all the paperwork, downloaded all our data, and upgraded our invoices and checks to be compatible, since we had to switch from Vision 7.4 to 7.5. CCG even showed us how to set up workflows and custom reports ourselves," she added.

Elcon's only regret with the switch? "We won't see our CCG technical consultant much anymore," Kunkel said. "We're going to miss him."

To learn more about CCG's Cloud Solutions for Deltek Vision, contact us at 866-511-5710 or visit www.centralconsultinggroup.com.



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About CCG

Central Consulting Group (CCG) helps leading architecture, engineering and professional services firms across North America get more out of their Deltek Vision software. We're a Deltek Premier Partner, with business and technology consultants who specialize in tailoring and customization, effectiveness reviews, cloud migration, integration with key business applications, and training.