

CASE STUDY

FREENAS® AND TRUENAS® BEHIND THE SCENES ON THE PGA TOUR

Denver, Colorado
www.firstlink.com
High-tech



FirstLink Requirements

- Flexible storage in a portable form factor that can be quickly deployed
- Easily sync with backend to protect against data loss
- System needs to meet a limited budget

Benefits

- FreeNAS Mini XL offers powerful file sharing with auto-caching in a small form factor
- Onsite data can be archived to FirstLink's TrueNAS to protect against data loss
- 18TB of redundant storage in a convenient form factor at a reasonable price via the FreeNAS Mini XL

“I’m just very happy with the architecture, flexibility, price point, and overall performance of the product.”

- Jeff Luinstra, CEO Firstlink Technology

THE STORAGE CHALLENGE

Firstlink Technology is an IT service company specializing in creating web-based services for clients with diverse needs. Able to handle everything from search engine optimization (SEO) to website development and cloud hosting, the company offers online application development and infrastructure recommendations to their diverse clientele. Firstlink can also host its customers’ websites and online services in its own cloud-based infrastructure.

As a hosting company, data uptime and storage availability are essential for normal business operation. Several years ago the company began working with the ZFS file system and building out their own storage using commodity hardware. Through customer references, they learned that they could get the same scalable, secure ZFS file system from iXsystems in a pre-tested, proven platform that was feature-rich

and simple to use. The company has since purchased two TrueNAS systems with over 200 TB of storage capacity.

FIRSTLINK TECHNOLOGY

Firstlink was tasked with building out an inexpensive content management system for the Sanford International Golf Tournament PGA Tour. The system needed to easily share, protect, and sync media from the event without breaking the bank. Already familiar with iXsystems and their world-class level of support and flexibility, CEO Jeff Luinstra reached out to iXsystems to help set up a solution that met their customer’s needs and seamlessly synchronized with his existing TrueNAS infrastructure to guarantee against data loss or corruption.

The golf tournament used two workstations and a series of Chromebooks to capture and edit media, and then organize it for broadcast and archiving. Firstlink chose to use a FreeNAS Mini XL with 18TB of usable capacity that supported the SMB and NFS protocols to store and share data between the various clients accessing the system. Firstlink created a custom script to automatically backup photos and videos to the FreeNAS Mini XL. The backup data was then replicated to Firstlink’s TrueNAS infrastructure,

creating a robust data redundancy system across multiple locations at a fraction of the cost of a 100% cloud-based storage solution.

The Sanford International Golf Tournament plans to continue to use the FreeNAS Mini XL and the replication architecture mapped out by Firstlink for the next five years. Due to its portability, the system can be deployed along with the other laptops and equipment when needed, allowing every team member to browse and sort content based on their needs.

Mr. Luinstra is getting good mileage out of both his TrueNAS system and the FreeNAS Mini XL used at the golf tournament. He is considering the purchase of a few more systems to act as office file sharing and backups around his own office. The flexible architecture, performance, ability to sync with TrueNAS, and entry-level price points make the FreeNAS Mini product line a perfect small-office NAS that can do it all.



ABOUT IXSYSTEMS

Through decades of expertise in system design and development of Open Source software (FreeNAS, FreeBSD, OpenZFS, and TrueOS), iXsystems has become an innovative leader in a global marketplace that relies on Open Source solutions, high availability storage and servers, technology partnerships, and expert support.

Since its founding in 2002, thousands of companies, universities, and government organizations have come to rely on iXsystems for its enterprise servers, TrueNAS Unified Storage, and consultative approach to building IT infrastructure and private clouds with Open Source economics. Millions of tech-savvy users download and deploy our Open Source software each year. More information can be found at www.iXsystems.com.

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