

Animal Logic: A balancing act between client needs and the constraints of reality

Animal Logic is one of the world's leading independent animation and visual effects studios, with studios in Sydney and Vancouver and a development office in Los Angeles. The studio is known for its work on animated films such as "Happy Feet," "The Lego Movie," "The Lego Batman Movie," and "Peter Rabbit."

One of the biggest challenges studios face is prioritizing creativity and meeting client expectations, all the while considering budgetary and timeline constraints. As productions become more complex, managing large datasets and information is critical to operating nimbly as a studio and making confident creative and technical decisions to move projects forward. A solid production tracking system is the backbone of an efficient post-production workflow and Animal Logic recognized that its previous system was in need of an overhaul to maintain agility in operations.

The results



The ability to expand to 500+ user accounts



Remote teams have cloud-based access



A fully-customizable experience

"ShotGrid is an essential production tracking system that keeps track of large amounts of data and highlights key information our leadership teams need to make critical decisions faster and more confidently during production."

Sean McAlear, Production Manager, Animal Logic

[Read full case study >](#)

How they did it

A customized approach

Integrating production management tasks

In 2019, Animal Logic tapped a small R&D team to integrate ShotGrid into the pipeline as seamlessly as possible. Due to looming production deadlines, the team developed a custom solution that would sync information from its in-house system to ShotGrid in real time.

To integrate everything into ShotGrid at the same time, Animal Logic mapped out its pipeline, detailing how each piece of data was being tracked. The original system was managing shot and asset creation, edit publishing and almost anything else that generated files in the pipeline. To integrate ShotGrid, Animal Logic developed a robust communication script that would sync the two platforms whenever a new version was checked in and rendered. In our updated workflow, all new versions are input into the proprietary system first, and then simultaneously uploaded into ShotGrid, which now drives production management, including scheduling, tasks, review, versioning and data analysis.

Solutions for a global workforce

Remote, cloud-based access

Integration took eight months. Because Animal Logic's pipeline is built around taking processes out of artist hands and putting them onto machines wherever possible, introducing ShotGrid was integral to managing the influx of data generated by complex productions.

Providing its full team with remote cloud-based access is now a critical piece of the puzzle, but the Animal Logic team sought to avoid using hard-coded direct pathways to a local install of ShotGrid, which would have both slowed down the platform and made connections more tenuous. The team updated IP address restrictions so that employees can log in to ShotGrid from the cloud from home, while maintaining stringent security protocols to safeguard all work and communication. The transition to a remote workforce using ShotGrid in the cloud was relatively seamless, and the team retains real-time access to tasks, notes and versions that are processed through its render farm and imported into ShotGrid.

Real-time status updates

ShotGrid's customizability saves the day

Because the editorial pipeline is the heartbeat of Animal Logic's projects, its team created a custom ShotGrid workflow for updating frame ranges and generating reports on edit changes. They also developed a custom tool for tracking dialogue in ShotGrid, which links speech to characters and shots and helps artists determine scratch versus final dialogue. The ability to include version status on assets enables teams to quickly identify whether a version is approved or a work in progress, as well as who the version has been reviewed by and when.

The bottom line

01

Dataset growth

02

An essential pipeline solution

03

Faster decision-making

04

More time for animating

"Our pipeline is built for speed and scale, and introducing ShotGrid was integral to managing the influx of data generated by complex productions."

Sean McAlear, Production Manager, Animal Logic

[Read full case study >](#)