

CASE STUDY

CUSTOMER FEEDBACK ON

NORTHERN



PRODUCT: QUOTA SERVER

COMPANY: MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

SUBJECT: PROMINENT BOSTON MUSEUM TURNS STORAGE MANAGEMENT INTO
A FINE ART

Since its opening in 1876, the Museum of Fine Arts, based in Boston, has enjoyed a reputation as one of the nation's premier museums. Both the museum and the affiliated [Museum School](#), which operates just across the street, boast state-of-the-art facilities, and an environment that nurtures innovation, featuring a wide range of media, from traditional painting and drawing, to computer animation, performance art, and sonic art.

Given the museum's distinguished pedigree and reputation for innovation, it's little wonder that they selected Quota Server from NORTHERN to manage its second most valuable assets--its data.

Steven Glazier manages a network that connects employees of the museum with the Museum School. With 450 workstations--both Intel and Mac-based--and over 2,000 users, you can easily imagine the vast data traffic as graphics students accumulate MP3s, JPEGs and video clips, and museum workers assemble PowerPoints and collect digitized artwork for the preparation of catalogs, exhibit-specific literature, schedules and assorted other printed materials.

As Glazier describes it, "user demand will always outstrip disk space no matter how much is provided." About a year and a half ago, he and his team evaluated Quota Server from NORTHERN, developers of Win NT/2000-based network administration software that sets, monitors and controls what is being saved to the server. Glazier realized that adding storage capacity to an ever-swelling volume of largely unpoliced data-- from JPEGs to MP3s-- would simply produce more headaches without a flexible, easily accessible means of managing these resources across the network. Quota Server allows him to set quotas on space to be allocated to a specific file server, a department or an individual. They can also apply file blocking and set quotas based on the amount of space available on a drive or in a directory. When a quota is exceeded, an alert prompts the network administrator for action.

Glazier tested Quota Server with Microsoft apps and with Macintosh machines and found that its graphical user interface, robust feature sets, ease of use and installation made it the best solution for their needs.

"We looked at two other products that compete in this space and tested them in the same environment," he said. "Quota Server gave us bigger bang for the buck. We really liked the graphical user interface, it was easy to set up and very intuitive. It also enabled us to efficiently and centrally manage the School's storage resources through a direct fiber connection. By automating user-based data quotas, the software enabled us to maximize the Museum and School's existing storage capacity and keep things running smoothly while requiring little intervention or administration."

He also hastens to underscore the value of the network broadcasts that Quota Server sends to Intel-based machines alerting users when they are exceeding or at their quota limit. Glazier adds that NORTHERN'S support is "friendly, cordial and has always been able to address our questions promptly."

"The bottom line," he concludes, "is that Quota Server does what it's supposed to do."

To see how Quota Server can address your storage challenges and provide an efficient, cost effective solution, call a Northern account executive at 1-800-881-4950. For more information on NORTHERN and its family of network software solutions, visit us at WWW.NORTHERN.NET