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Michael Rice
Document Control Manager,
Corporate Project Administration
Station Casinos

Productivity Jackpot

Station Casinos Uses Autodesk® Buzzsaw® to Keep Billion Dollar Projects On Track By More Effectively Managing and Sharing Information

Project Summary

Station Casinos is a gaming and entertainment company that owns and operates multiple properties in the Las Vegas metropolitan area. For its latest venture, the Red Rock Resort Spa & Casino, the company had an aggressive timeline within which to develop 70 acres of land into an 800 room hotel, casino, spa, convention, and entertainment center. Previously, the company had relied on email, ftp sites, and courier services to share information and distribute up-to-date construction drawings to the teams of architects, contractors, and consultants involved in the projects. For the Red Rock project, however, Station Casinos needed a more sophisticated way to manage the challenges of the plan, build, and operate phases of the building lifecycle. Using Autodesk® Buzzsaw® has enabled the company to:

- Boost productivity by providing access to construction drawings and files within minutes rather than hours or days
- Guarantee that all members of the project team are working with the most recent and accurate information, eliminating mistakes and delays
- Save significant time and money by more efficiently managing design and construction projects
- Ensure the safety and security of its information via role-based access, automatic backups, and redundant servers



Red Rock's team of consultants, architects, and contractors can access the latest construction documents within minutes rather than days.

THE CHALLENGE

Let It Rock

Founded in 1976, Station Casinos is the premier provider of gaming and entertainment for local residents of the Las Vegas metropolitan area. The company prides itself on providing a complete, high-value gaming and entertainment experience with unparalleled convenience, high quality assets, unique gaming products, personalized customer service, and consistency in execution.

The latest gem to be added to the Station's empire—which already includes popular destinations such as Green Valley Ranch, the Palace Station Hotel & Casino, and the Sunset Station Hotel & Casinos—is Red Rock Resort Spa Casino. Slated to open in Spring 2006, Red Rock will contain a luxurious hotel, an 87,000 square foot casino, and 40,000 square feet of meeting and convention space, in addition to spas, restaurants, and other amenities.

"The Red Rock project is a pretty big undertaking," said Michael Rice, a Document Control Manager in Station Casinos' Corporate Project Administration division. "To stay on schedule, we needed to make sure that all the different stakeholders—from the design group, to the general contractor and various outside consultants—had access to the latest project information at every stage of the process. Outdated information means delays—and speed is of the essence for construction projects, particularly in a town like Vegas, where nearly every job is a 'fast track' project."

For Station Casinos, conventional means of sharing information wouldn't do. "Having someone burn files to a CD and send it across town via courier means it might not be received until 4pm the next day," said Rice. "We needed to eliminate that kind of downtime as much as possible."

THE SOLUTION

Centralized Management

After evaluating solutions from several different vendors, Station Casinos selected Autodesk Buzzsaw as the ideal way to keep Red Rock Resort on schedule and within budget. "We instantly saw the benefits of having a centralized project management and collaboration site," said Rice. "Moreover, Buzzsaw's customizable interface meant that we could easily map and document the

flow of information and documents in ways that enhanced our existing processes."

Additionally, Buzzsaw's ease of use played a significant role in Station Casinos' decision. "Buzzsaw was much more intuitive than the competing products we looked at," said Rice. "It can be accessed from the desktop with just a click of your mouse, and it has a 'tree type' file structure that everybody's already familiar with from using Outlook or Windows Explorer. That kind of simplicity allows our users to start using the solution right away and reaping the benefits."

THE RESULTS

Quick and Secure Access to Vital Information
Buzzsaw has completely revolutionized the flow of information within Station Casinos, allowing them to manage and share the most up-to-date project details with ease. "Let's say the dimensions of an elevator bank change," said Rice. "We can make the changes to the construction drawing, post it to the Buzzsaw site, and our team members will have access to it in minutes, not hours or days. That's huge time savings, particularly for our out-of-state consultants, who'd normally have to wait for the files to arrive in an overnight shipment."

This fast and efficient information sharing is more productive while generating hard dollar savings that contribute to the project's overall goals. Most importantly, Buzzsaw accomplishes these results safely and securely. "There's no sacrifice of speed for security," said Rice. "Between the role-based permissions that we can set up, and the automatic backups and redundant servers that Buzzsaw provides, we know that our information is as safe and secure as possible."

The Way of the Future

With Buzzsaw's support, Station Casinos has realized significant productivity gains and been able to keep its Red Rock project on schedule. Their usage of Buzzsaw has been such a success that the company will be using Buzzsaw for all Station Casino construction projects moving forward. "Once you've used Buzzsaw, there's no going back," concluded Rice. "It's hard to picture how we ever got things done without it."

For More Information
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