

GRAPHON PROVIDES HIGH-PERFORMANCE REMOTE ACCESS SOLUTION FOR SEMICONDUCTOR DESIGN ENGINEERS.



Xilinx Deploys GO-Global for UNIX solution, increasing engineering productivity, reducing complexity, and speeding time-to-market.

Customer Solution at a Glance

Customer Profile: Headquartered in San Jose, California, Xilinx, Inc. (NASDAQ: XLNX) is a publicly traded company with approximately 2,600 employees.

Business Need: Xilinx needed a fast and efficient solution that would allow engineers to access graphics-intensive, UNIX-based applications from home and remote offices.

GraphOn Solution: Incorporating advanced server-based technology and near-zero-footprint clients, GO-Global® for UNIX provides Xilinx with fast, simple, affordable access from any location.

Results:

- Increased staff productivity, allowing engineers to do more work in less time – from any location.
- Eliminated the need to run complex, high-bandwidth software such as VNC or TightVNC.
- Enabled higher utilization of existing computer resources.

Founded in 1984, Xilinx develops, manufactures, and markets a broad line of advanced integrated circuits, software design tools, and intellectual property. With over 50 percent market share, the company is the worldwide leader in one of the fastest growing segments of the semiconductor industry – programmable logic devices.

In the highly competitive semiconductor marketplace, companies such as Xilinx face numerous time-to-market pressures due to increased global competition, ongoing technology innovations, and rapidly changing industry trends. Shorter product life cycles mean that chip makers today have smaller market windows to research, design, test and manufacture new products.

In order to increase engineering productivity, reduce complexities, speed time-to-market, and more fully utilize existing computing power, Xilinx deployed a GO-Global cross-platform, remote access solution that allows design engineers to access sophisticated, graphics-intensive tools from any platform and from any location.



Access to Applications Anywhere.



UNIX Environment

Xilinx runs a number of graphics-intensive software tools and applications on UNIX servers installed at its headquarters in San Jose, California, operating in a UNIX Common Desktop Environment (CDE). The server-based applications are accessed via a wide range of client platforms, including Windows, UNIX and Linux workstations.

Xilinx® end users are electrical engineers who are designing a variety of end applications involving complex layout, verification, and simulation activities.

Remote Possibilities

To increase productivity and allow better utilization of the UNIX servers, the company implemented a Virtual Private Network (VPN) to allow engineers in the field and in other Xilinx offices – as well as engineers working from home – to access the applications remotely.

Originally, Xilinx used freeware products such as Virtual Network Computing (VNC) and TightVNC on remote workstations to allow access to the central applications. However, this solution was less than ideal.

“With TightVNC, we had to set up some very complex Quality of Service schemes on our routers to reserve channels for the TightVNC users,” explained Jeff Goldman, IT Manager at Xilinx. “This took up a significant chunk of bandwidth and slowed down our WAN.”

Evaluating the Alternatives

To overcome these limitations, Xilinx evaluated a number of products on the market including GO-Global for UNIX from GraphOn.

“GO-Global had some really important features that we were looking for – the ability to disconnect from a session and then reconnect to it later when the engineer went home, for instance,” said Goldman.

After completing the evaluation, Xilinx made the decision to deploy GO-Global for UNIX. The company cited three main reasons for the selection:

- Ease of use
- Low bandwidth requirements
- Speed and performance

“The bottom line is that GO-Global greatly increases efficiency. Our design engineers can now work more efficiently from home, which means they get more work done. Also, using GO-Global over the WAN uses less bandwidth and doesn’t saturate the network, so the applications run faster.”

Jeff Goldman,
IT Manager
Xilinx

The Simple Solution

GO-Global is a very easy product to use. By simply running a Java applet, a browser plug-in, or a tiny native client, users can run server-based UNIX or Linux applications from any network-attached device, regardless of platform or operating system.

“GO-Global is very easy for our engineers to use – there’s nothing confusing about it,” added Goldman.

Low Bandwidth, Fast Access

GO-Global utilizes GraphOn’s patented Rapid-X Protocol (RXP) which is much faster and offers much better data compression than other solutions. By only publishing the application’s GUI over the network, RXP provides near LAN-like performance, even over high-latency lines.

“Because GO-Global doesn’t require a lot of bandwidth, our applications run very quickly and the WAN is less saturated and can handle more traffic,” explained Goldman. “In addition, GO-Global works well over slower links. Our users successfully work from home using cable modems or DSL lines.”



Thanks to GO-Global, Xilinx has eliminated the need for complex, high-bandwidth software such as TightVNC, while at the same time increased engineering productivity by providing easy, efficient remote access to their software tools.

“With GO-Global, all our users are happy, which keeps their managers happy, which makes me happy,” concluded Goldman.



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