nerdio | **Manager** for Enterprise

MHolland

CASE STUDY

Learn how a billion-dollar plastic company used Nerdio Manager for Enterprise to transition to the cloud quickly and easily.

About M. Holland

From healthcare to cars, plastics play a critical role in most of the products we use daily, and M. Holland plays a critical role in the plastics industry. Founded in 1950 and headquartered in Northbrook, Illinois, M. Holland is a leading international distributor of thermoplastic resin. The company helps suppliers identify and leverage the most strategic channels to markets around the world, while also offering sourcing and supply chain solutions. Its product line includes materials that can fit virtually every application, manufacturing process, and market.

M. Holland does over $1 billion in annual sales and sells to more than 4,000 customers. Since 1950, the company has grown steadily through both organic growth and numerous acquisitions. Most important for M. Holland is the deep, on-going relationships that it establishes with clients, through a consultative approach and a focus on long-term partnerships.

Situation

Although M. Holland has been in business in the United States since its founding in 1950, it has recently increased its presence around the world, with branches in Mexico, Puerto Rico, and expansion plans for Europe and Asia. However, the company was reaching the limits of its mostly on-premises IT solutions. Its 350+ employees around the world need access to business-critical systems around the clock. The company's growth and expansion plans meant that it could no longer afford to have all its IT infrastructure located on premises.

Over the years, M. Holland had built its IT infrastructure around an on-premises Microsoft stack, but that wasn't keeping up with their requirements in today's more agile business environment. "With our existing systems, if our office went down, our company was dead in the water," said Vincent Rocco, System Administrator, M. Holland Company. "We started a transition to more cloud-based systems because we need to keep the business running 24/7, 365 days a year. Our business couldn't stop if the office went down."

Solution

To create a more robust IT infrastructure, M. Holland started moving its core IT systems to the cloud, specifically Microsoft Azure. As part of that, it is migrating its ERP system to Microsoft Dynamics 365 and taking advantage of Microsoft Azure's capabilities like Azure Virtual Desktop (AVD).

> *"Azure Virtual Desktop is a no brainer for us,"* **– Vincent Rocco, System Administrator, M. Holland Company.**

As the company started migrating to the cloud, it realized it needed better options for managing virtual desktops and costs. Although the company had used Citrix solutions, they turned out to be expensive for on-going support, and Microsoft's built-in solutions for managing virtual desktops didn't suit M. Holland's needs.

"We're a Microsoft-stack shop, so we looked into Microsoft's options for managing Azure Virtual Desktop," Rocco said, "but it wasn't very user friendly."

That's when M. Holland's Microsoft rep suggested Nerdio Manager and put them in touch with Nerdio's experts. Shortly after, M. Holland implemented Nerdio Manager for a proof-of-concept to test the solution against its needs.

M. Holland appreciated how easy Nerdio was to work with. "We started with a proof-of-concept, so Nerdio worked with us on licensing to get the ball rolling," said Rocco. "It was very helpful."

Results

For M. Holland, Nerdio Manager is a key component for its transition to more cloud-based solutions. It's made overall management of M. Holland's virtual environments much more efficient and easier.

> *"Since day one, Nerdio Manager has made Azure Virtual Desktop incredibly simple,"* said Rocco. *"The biggest value for us has been Nerdio's ability to do master image creation."*

Using Microsoft's native solutions for managing virtual disks can be cumbersome. According to Rocco, the company would have to go through multiple steps, from creating an image, stopping it, prepping it, deallocating it, and then imaging it.

"I had many issues when I tried to do it natively through Microsoft," he said. "That's why we went with Nerdio Manager."

In addition, M. Holland cites Nerdio's extensive online, always-available technology resources as a key to easy deployment and ongoing management. "Nerdio has incredible training videos," said Rocco. "If you want to learn anything, they have a video about it."

By using Nerdio Manager, M. Holland has been able to turbo-charge their transition to AVD, creating an IT environment that's much more robust, secure, and available than their previous on-premises solutions. It's enabling more effective support and easier management of functions like master image creation to help M. Holland continue to grow their business.But for Rocco, it's not just about what Nerdio Manager for Enterprise can do for his company, it's also personal. "Someone with limited knowledge like me can come in, learn Nerdio, and be an Azure AVD guru," he said. "It's great."

> *"I couldn't have done what I've done without Nerdio and got my company to the point that we're at without Nerdio,"*
> **– Vincent Rocco, System Administrator, M. Holland Company.**

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About Nerdio

Nerdio empowers IT Professionals to deploy, manage, and auto-scale Azure Virtual Desktop. Created to address the technical and security requirements of enterprise customers, Nerdio Manager is ideal for IT Professionals looking to deploy and manage large AVD environments and can be connected to an existing AVD setup or used to stand up a new AVD deployment. Nerdio Manager is an all-PaaS Azure application that runs in a customer's own Azure subscription, making it one of the most secure and compliant solutions on the market. For more information, visit www.getnerdio.com/nme.

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