

Case study

Windridge Therapeutic Equestrian Center

» The biggest benefit of the Fujitsu scanners is the level of efficiency that they provide for daily administrative duties «

Margo Dewkett, horse trainer and race horse jockey , Windridge Therapeutic Equestrian Center



The customer

Customer: Windridge Therapeutic Equestrian Center
Country: USA
Industry: Other
Website: www.windridgetexas.org

The challenge

For the 25 years the Windridge Therapeutic Equestrian Center had been serving the community of Gilmer, TX, it had also been collecting volumes of paper records. Paperwork was time-intensive for the small staff, and space-consuming in the compact office. The Center found scanning solutions offered by various other vendors to be complex and ineffective.

The solution

Windridge discovered that Fujitsu ScanSnap scanners fit their needs well. Simple, portable, and efficient, the S1300i helped streamline current processes and archive records. With the ability to scan a wide range of documents and materials into PDF and JPEG files, ScanSnap provided an effective scanning solution for this growing non-profit organization.

The customer

The Windridge Therapeutic Equestrian Center has one of the more bucolic headquarters you'll ever find in a non-profit organization. Located near the East Texas city of Gilmer, Windridge sprawls over 66 acres of pine-covered landscape, where nine staff members, 22 horses, and a 38,000-square-foot equestrian facility are dedicated to providing opportunities for children and adults with disabilities through equine-assisted activities and therapies.

The challenge

The organization began in 1988 when Margo Dewkett, along-time horse trainer and race horse jockey, wanted to start using horses as a therapeutic tool for people with neurological disorders, physical impairments and other conditions. Horseback riding stimulates the human muscles and nerves used in walking and other normal motions which help tremendously for therapy purposes.

In the decades since it began, Windridge has experienced incredible growth, spurred partly by the organization's outreach and partly by word-of-mouth recommendations. In the process, it has experienced growing pains that are familiar to most small organizations.

For Dewkett, one of those was dealing with a large and growing volume of paper that was undermining operational efficiency.

"We've used paper documents for all of our activities, from employee and client forms, to reports on the conditions of our horses, to research that we're conducting on the effects of equine-assisted therapy," she says. "We've been operating for more than 25 years, and wanted to create electronic versions of all of our documents. But when I looked at all the paper we have accumulated, I despaired to think how much work it would take to create."

Initial attempts at digitizing the organization's paper documents were not encouraging. Dewkett says Windridge tried a couple of scanners from different vendors, but none worked well. "Their software was not easy to use and they wound up taking more time than I wanted to spend on scanning, driving me nuts," she says. "The machines just wound up collecting dust."

The benefit

- Portability of S1300i enabled staff to bring scanning capabilities with them in the field.
- Helped streamline daily administrative activities.
- Digitizing paper documents freed up office space previously used for storage.
- Searchable capability made it easy to find comments in PDF files.
- Artwork and other materials used in outreach efforts are easy to scan into local PC folders.

The Solution

A better solution was presented one day when Dewkett was visiting with a Windridge donor. "He showed me a Fujitsu ScanSnap scanner, and gave me a demonstration by writing a note, scanning it, and having it pop up as a PDF on his computer screen. The total time from when he first mentioned the scanner until I was looking at the electronic version of his note was less than three minutes. I was sold. The next day we went out and bought our first Fujitsu. It's been with us ever since."

Windridge is using the Fujitsu ScanSnap S1300i, a portable scanner that can perform duplex scans of up to 12 pages a minute, turning documents and images into Adobe PDF or JPEG files.

"It exceeded my expectations because it's so fast and easy to use," Dewkett says. "The software that it uses to communicate with the computer is very easy to understand. It just works."

Windridge is using the S1300i to scan a wide range of documents and other materials, including sponsor-generated artwork for fundraising campaigns, business cards from potential donors and contacts, and a long list of forms used for collecting information on clients, volunteers, policies, and operational details such as the health of the horses.

Products and services

- FUJITSU Image Scanner ScanSnap S1300i

The benefit

The small Fujitsu scanners make a big impact on daily operations at Windridge.

"I am one of the people responsible for testing potential instructors, so I'm out and about a lot, and everything has to be portable," she says. "All of the documents surrounding our instructors are done using paper forms, but I need them converted as quickly as possible into electronic documents. I can carry a Fujitsu scanner and my laptop with me and scan documents on the spot."

The organization's long-range plan for its archives is to eventually digitize all documents. This will result in a number of benefits.

"First, it will free up office space that we can use for activities other than storage," she says. "What's more important is that it will help us maintain our history, which is something we desperately need to do. Every heartbeat that passes through Windridge's gate, people and horses alike, — has to have documentation or files created, and the Fujitsu scanners will play an important role in building long-lasting, easily accessible records."

The scanning technology will also play a role in helping the organization grow. "The biggest benefit of the Fujitsu scanners is the level of efficiency that they provide for daily administrative duties. For example, I make a lot of notes on documents that appear in different colors, like red or blue. I can quickly find those notes in the PDF files. Having electronic copies of our documents just makes everything go faster, which means we have more time to spend helping our clients and continuing our growth."

Contact

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