

Customer Story

How Sonar *Scaled Secure Work* Without VDI

Simplified access for remote and contract users

Eliminated laptop shipping for peripheral users

Avoided the operational overhead of VDI

Standardized secure access through the browser

⚡ Impact Summary

Sonar uses Island to securely support a growing global workforce without relying on VDI or shipping laptops to every user, giving IT a simpler way to manage access while freeing the team to focus on higher-value work.



Industry
Technology

Team
IT

Goal
Scale secure access as the company grows

Use Cases
3rd Party Contractors
VDI Reduction
SaaS and Web Apps



Challenges

- ✓ Slow, inefficient laptop shipping
- ✓ Supporting remote and contract workers
- ✓ Cost and complexity of VDI

The Challenge

Sonar helps more than 7 million developers globally build clean, high-quality code. As the company grew to 500 employees across five offices and numerous remote locations, its IT requirements grew with it.

Sonar's IT team needed a more efficient way to provide infrastructure and end-user technology to its global workforce. Providing infrastructure and end-user technology often meant shipping laptops around the world, creating delays and consuming valuable IT resources.

"Shipping laptops was taking an enormous amount of time. It was very inefficient, to be honest," said Andrea Malagodi, CIO at Sonar. "It was an incredibly painful period because our growth curve really accelerated."

Sonar considered VDI, but Malagodi knew supporting users across regions would introduce latency and infrastructure management requirements while forcing the company to expand its IT operations team.

"The moment I started thinking about that, I started getting cold sweats," said Malagodi. "We're going to have to hire a whole group of people to manage this."

Sonar needed a simpler approach that could keep pace with its growth.

"The answer to most questions is, well, we can do that through Island."

Andrea Malagodi, CIO, Sonar



The Solution

When Malagodi discovered the Island Enterprise Browser, he saw an alternative to both shipping hardware for every use case and building out a complex VDI environment.

“When I heard of Island, the first thing was kind of a bit of a sigh of relief,” said Malagodi. “Wow, this really could be a solution that we could employ.”

Sonar quickly established an Island tenant and began testing the platform. The company initially deployed Island to “peripheral users,” including the types of remote and short-term workers that had been difficult to support. It then expanded Island across the entire company and made it the mandatory browser for accessing internal tools.

“You fundamentally can’t get access to any of our internal tools without using Island,” said Malagodi.

For employees, the transition was straightforward because the experience felt familiar. For IT, Island provided granular security controls that could be tailored to specific situations and exceptions without introducing significant operational overhead.

“Most users said, listen, I use Chrome, now I’m using Chrome. It’s called Island, right? It’s all the same features and then some,” said Malagodi.

“When I heard of Island, the first thing was kind of a sigh of relief.”

Andrea Malagodi, CIO, Sonar



Results

Island gave Sonar a scalable way to secure access across its growing workforce while reducing the operational burden on IT.

Sonar avoided building and staffing a complex VDI environment while reducing the time IT spent provisioning and shipping laptops for peripheral users.

“We’re not spending our time trying to figure out where the UPS package was with a laptop or getting it billed,” said Malagodi.

Island enables Sonar to create detailed rules and address unique exceptions quickly. Changes that could otherwise consume significant IT resources can now be handled in hours or even minutes.

Simplified access and security administration means Sonar’s IT team can now devote its existing capacity to more important priorities while delivering better service to employees.

“The answer to most questions is, well, we can do that through Island,” said Malagodi.

“It gives me peace of mind, but it also means that we can use the capacity that we have on things that are more important.”

Andrea Malagodi, CIO, Sonar



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