

CASE STUDY • MANUFACTURING • DISTRIBUTED OPERATIONS

How Scipi Has Managed To Keep Its Files On The Server

and its remote storefronts for more than 7 years.

7+ Years

On a Single
Platform

20+

Retail Storefronts
Across 5 States

110–120

Licensed
Users



THE CUSTOMER

Scipi, a 100% employee-owned ESOP holding company headquartered in Minnesota

Founded in 1959 and employee-owned since 1975, Scipi (formerly St. Cloud Industrial Products, Inc.) celebrated 50 years of employee ownership in 2025. The holding company runs four operating businesses across manufacturing and distributed retail, including North Central, Sunburst Memorials, Parts Midwest, and VPOC. Roughly 300 team-member owners work across distributed locations, including more than 20 small retail storefronts spread across five Midwestern states.

THE CHALLENGE

Remote Storefronts. Centralized Files. No Easy Path.

Scipi runs lean. The IT team supports nearly 300 users across multiple operating companies, and a large portion of those users sit in remote storefronts where there is no local server, no on-site IT staff, and no appetite for complexity. The shared files they need every day live on a central Windows file server back at headquarters.

The obvious options had real problems. Synchronization tools would copy large server data sets onto every laptop and storefront workstation, filling up local drives with data the user did not need and creating a backup problem out of what should have been a simple access problem. VPN added software, configuration, and support overhead that small storefront teams were not equipped to manage. Cloud collaboration platforms would have meant moving files off the server, re-formatting them into a new structure, and training every user on a different way of working.

As an employee-owned company, Scipi takes a different view of IT spending than most. Every dollar saved or wasted lands on the balance sheet of the people who actually work there. Whatever Scipi picked had to be affordable, easy to operate with a small IT team, and stable enough to keep running without constant attention.

WHAT SCIPI NEEDED

- ✓ **Keep the files on the server.**

No replication to local laptops. No syncing entire servers down to storefront workstations.

- ✓ **Remote access without VPN overhead.**

Something a storefront employee could use without IT setting up a tunnel on every device.

WHAT SCIPI NEEDED

- ✓ **Honor existing Windows permissions.**

Whatever NTFS and SSO already controlled should keep controlling.
No parallel access model to manage.

- ✓ **Cost-effective and built to last.**

Affordable today, stable enough to run for years without constant intervention.

THE SOLUTION

Browser-Based Access To The Files That Stay On The Server

Scipi deployed MyWorkDrive more than seven years ago to give remote storefronts and home-based staff secure access to centralized Windows file shares. Files stay on the server. Users reach them through a browser or a mapped drive that behaves exactly like Windows File Explorer. Permissions and authentication flow through the systems Scipi already operates.

Users see only the folders they have rights to. Storefront employees do not see headquarters data they have no business seeing, and the data sets stay where they belong, which is on the central server rather than scattered across 20-plus retail locations and a fleet of laptops.

Built on What Scipi Already Runs

MyWorkDrive plugs into the customer's existing Windows permissions and Single Sign-On environment. There is no separate user database to maintain, no second permissions model to keep in sync, and no parallel access control to audit. When IT adjusts a group membership in Active Directory, MyWorkDrive picks up the change.

For end users, the experience is the same kind of mapped drive they were already using inside the office. Whether they are at a storefront in Iowa or working from home in Wisconsin, the files appear in the same place, with the same names, organized the same way.

THE RESULTS

Seven Years In. Still Working.

7+

Years of
Continuous Use

110–120

Licensed
Users

0

Servers Synced
to Local Devices

A Platform That Has Quietly Earned Its Keep

For more than seven years, MyWorkDrive has given Scipi a remote access solution that does not demand attention. Files stay where they belong. Storefronts across five states access what they need. The platform runs alongside the existing Windows environment without forcing a parallel model on top.

Low Overhead for a Small IT Team

From an IT perspective, the solution is straightforward to manage. Permissions are administered the same way they already were. The integration with Single Sign-On removes a credential headache that would otherwise have to be solved separately. The result is fewer support requests, less time spent on file-access troubleshooting, and more time available for the parts of IT that actually need attention.

An Experience Users Do Not Have to Learn

For end users, the experience is simple enough that there is not much to learn. Browser access requires no install. The mapped drive looks like File Explorer because it is File Explorer. Training requirements have stayed low for the entire run, which matters when the user base includes storefront staff who were not hired for their familiarity with IT systems.

Cost-Effective by Design

As a 100% employee-owned company, Scipi pays close attention to where the money goes. MyWorkDrive has delivered enterprise-grade functionality at a price point that fits a fiscally responsible operating model. Seven years of continued use is the clearest evidence that the math has worked.

WHY MYWORKDRIVE

What Has Kept Scipi On MyWorkDrive For Seven Years

Scipi selected MyWorkDrive for the reasons that mattered in 2018. The reasons that have kept Scipi on MyWorkDrive in the years since are largely the same ones, which is itself a useful signal.

FILES STAY ON THE SERVER	No forced replication. No syncing servers down to laptops and storefront workstations. Data stays where it belongs and where it is already backed up.
WINDOWS-NATIVE PERMISSIONS	Built on existing NTFS permissions and Single Sign-On. No parallel access model, no second user directory, no extra credential to manage.
BROWSER AND MAPPED DRIVE	Either path works. Users get the interface they are comfortable with, whether that is a browser session or a familiar File Explorer drive letter.
DISTRIBUTED-FRIENDLY	Small retail storefronts across five states reach what they need without any local server, on-site IT, or VPN client.
LOW OPERATING OVERHEAD	Stable enough to run for years without constant attention. A practical fit for a small IT team supporting nearly 300 users across multiple companies.
COST-EFFECTIVE AND RESPONSIVE	Enterprise functionality at a price point that fits an employee-owned company watching every dollar. Responsive support when something does come up.

READY TO EVALUATE

Keep Your Files On The Server. Reach Them From Anywhere.

MyWorkDrive gives your users secure HTTPS access to on-premises file shares, with SSO and MFA, on browser, mapped drive, and mobile. No VPN to deploy. No data to replicate. No new permissions model to learn.

[Start a free 30-day trial at myworkdrive.com](https://myworkdrive.com)