

► CASE STUDIES IN SUCCESS



KATV ARKANSAS

PROTECTS ITS

NEWS CONTENT

AND HISTORIC VIDEO

WITH QUALSTAR'S

VIDEO ARCHIVE SYSTEM



THE STATIONS

KATV is owned and operated by Allbritton, a group company that operates ABC-affiliated stations in seven markets:

Washington, DC (WJLA); Birmingham, AL (WBMA / WCFT / WJSU); Harrisburg, PA (WHTM); Little Rock, AR (KATV); Tulsa, OK (KTUL); Lynchburg, VA (WSET); and Charleston, SC (WCIV).

Allbritton also owns and operates News-Channel 8, a 24-hour cable news channel in Washington, DC.

THE CHALLENGE

KATV needed to address two significant shortcomings in their storage systems. First, they were archiving news content to network attached disk storage that did not provide a true backup of metadata and media. They archive 20-30 GB per day of new content which quickly fills their disk storage. Expanding the NAS puts a strain on their budget every time they run out of storage space.

Then, they have been archiving clips for 50 years and have over 35,000 hours in their video tape library including rare ABC

footage going back to the 1950's. Their library also contains many hours of content relating to President and Hilary Clinton that are frequently accessed. The video tape library is currently located in a separate section of the building and managed using a cumbersome Excel-based indexing system that makes locating specific content a time consuming, expensive task.

THE SOLUTION

KATV uses a Video Technics NewsFlow solution for news (via ENPS) and master control (via Sundance) that includes four Apella LCS Media Servers for playout and ingest, a VT Proxy Browser embedded in AP ENPS and a VT Database Cluster with instant fail over capability. Near-line content is stored on a 6 TB NAS, while a VT Media Exchange Server (VTMX) is used to transfer satellite feeds and Pathfire content over the network. Content creation is performed using the VT News Edit Plug-In on multiple Final Cut Pro workstations. The solution includes eight VT Studio Pro NLEs and four NewsFlow Field Editor notebooks.

VT also delivered a BQ 20 Video Archive System from Qualstar Corporation. The BQ 20 VAS includes an archive server with a 2TB RAID cache and a robotics tape library

QUALSTAR BQ 20

VideoArchiveSystem



QUALSTAR®

holding 20 LTO 4 tapes, each capable of storing over 70 hours of DV25 content. Inside the library are two LTO 4 tape drives for concurrent reads and writes to the archive. XenData video archive management software runs on the archive server. The XenData software makes all of the archived video files appear within a single standard Windows logical drive, enabling NewsFlow to write and read from the archive as though it were a standard shared disk-based logical drive.



The XenData archive software is fully integrated with the Video Technics NewsFlow so that clips can be archived and restored directly from the Video Technics proxy editor screens. This allows the KATV news staff to access a very large archive right from their desks. KATV produces four news shows a day with

approximately 24 minutes of DV 25 content in each show. In total, KATV archives about 400 clips per week that have been aired or are historically newsworthy. The news team wanted to retain raw footage as well as finished programs, so their archiving needs were exceeding their current disk-based storage.

Adding the BQ 20 VAS gives KATV 1400 hours of content accessible on line and unlimited content on the shelf. The XenData software manages content on the shelf and in the library, making retrieval of any archived content simple to do. Each tape holds approximately 71 hours of DV25 content so content on the shelf occupies far less space than their current video tape library.

KATV also decided to replicate their archived content for disaster protection, something that was prohibitively expensive under their old process. Replication is a feature built in to the XenData software. Every evening at midnight the system automatically makes a second copy

of archived media. The replicated LTO 4 tapes are exported out of the robotics tape library for safe offsite storage and fresh blank tapes added. The current configuration will allow KATV to keep two years of content near-line while exporting older content to the shelf.

THE FUTURE

KATV plans to expand the BQ 20 VAS to 44 slots in the near future, more than doubling their available near-line content. They are presently refining the workflow to retain frequently accessed archived content on the VAS disk cache in addition to storing it on tape. They also plan to use the Qualstar / XenData system to protect content stored on their NAS RAID, including commercials and raw footage that hasn't yet been processed. The VAS will also be used to archive and protect raw footage from their Firestore camera disk drives. Adding a stand-alone networked LTO 4 tape drive to the system will allow KATV to locate the exported archive tapes on a bookshelf in the news room, providing the news team access to content by simply inserting a bar-coded tape cartridge from the shelf.



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