BBC Wales

Chooses MatrixStore to protect production assets.

The Company: BBC Wales Post Production

BBC Cymru Wales provides a wide range of English and Welsh language content for audiences across Wales on television, radio and BBC websites. Outside London, BBC Cymru Wales is the largest BBC production centre in the United Kingdom,The BBC Wales post-production team produces a wide range of programmes for local output and S4C, alongside some of BBC network's best known productions; Doctor Who, Torchwood, Casualty, Crimewatch and Human Planet.

The Need

With the production team in Cardiff taking on new projects the requirement for extra storage within the department became more urgent. The project in particular that that needed to be protected and made available online for versioning and re-purposing was the acclaimed Human Planet series broadcast in early 2011. More recently the department also had a requirement to keep key clips from previous years Rugby footage to be available online for re-use using Interplay to find and retrieve the clips on demand.

The issues they faced included:

- All the media files needed to be available on-line in order to re-version the content for different markets.
- There was no space on the Avid ISIS to accommodate the 30 Terabytes of content.
- Adding more ISIS chassis was not viable commercially nor relevant to the workflow
- The storage platform needed to automate the protection of the content
- The solution needed to be usable from AVID editing clients
- Moving content to and from tape was laborious and error prone so LTO was ruled out
- The storage would be required for other departments within Post production each requiring distinct storage silos
- Some of the other departments rely on the Avid Interplay production asset manager

The Solution

After considering many different options ranging from adding more ISIS chassis to a big bucket of disk the MatrixStore was the chosen solution. It acts as a nearline repository, complementing the ISIS shared storage providing guaranteed access to clips as and when required.

Out of the box MatrixStore provided:

- Centralised Vaults providing instant data protection and access to all assets
- A scalable solution that requires little or no management
- Capability to add and search on Metadata
- Ability to keep legacy content available online and browsable from Avid client machines
- High availability of data and automatic failover in the case of a hardware failure
- Ability to add in future storage as and when they become available

Object Matrix also developed the InterConnect application allowing content to be moved to and from the ISIS storage whilst keeping the Interplay database in sync.

The Process

1. The AVID ISIS workspaces are moved to MatrixStore using DropSpot with metadata added.
2. When content is required to be restored the editors use either DropSpot or MXFS (File System Interface) to pull content from MatrixStore or browse in place and on demand.
3. More recently Interconnect has been used to move content to and from the ISIS and MatrixStore.

Quick Facts

- 50+ Avid Clients
- Avid ISIS
- Avid Unity
- AVID Media Composer
- www.bbc.co.uk

Object Matrix

The MatrixStore Benefits

- Perfect for rushes, nearline & deep archive
- Integrated with Interplay
- Browse content with AMA
- Searchable repository
- Reduces management overheads & processes
- Self-healing, self-managing
- MatrixStore scales from 10TB to multiple Petabytes
- Highly secure
- 99.999% data availability
- Future proofing via software virtualisation. No dependency on a hardware platform.
- Designed to fit into AVID Workflows

www.object-matrix.com

Nick Pearce, co-founder of Object Matrix stated, "Helping broadcasters and post-production companies to protect content long term whilst providing guaranteed access to that content for re-purposing is what MatrixStore was made for. The integration with AVID Media Composer and Interplay just makes it easier for editors or administrators to get their hands on the data when they need it without leaving the environment they are most comfortable with."