

MAJOR
BROADCASTER
ATLANTA, GA

SI
AZZURRO

SPORTS NEW MEDIA EXPANSION

Scope of Work

- Expand the highlight and new media operations in order to cover new initiatives.
- Build a Tape and Terminal Gear area central to operations.
- Move eight Sports New Media editing suites and four additional editing suites to a new floor and add an additional six suites.
- Move the existing playout area into the new centralized feeds area.
- Build a centralized feeds recording and play out system.



The Challenge

- Expand and reconfigure an existing facility as part of a multi-phase project to transform an Atlanta Based Major Broadcaster's Sports New Media and Central Feeds areas.

The Project

The client sought to begin the expansion and consolidation of its highlight and new media operations in order to cover new sports broadcast initiatives. To support this expansion, Azzurro quickly developed a plan with the client to build a new technical equipment center area central to the new consolidated operation area. This plan also included the build of new editing suite in addition to moving existing edit suite with minimal impact to the daily operations.

In addition to terminal gear equipment, this area houses encoding farms, live streaming farms, central server and storage. Azzurro relocated eight Sports New Media editing suites and four additional editing suites to the West side of the facility and added an additional six suites. Logging, tagging, and desktop highlight creation was centralized in this area along with two highlight supervisor stations. The existing playout area was moved into the new centralized feeds area.

The new centralized feeds recording and play out system provides baseband and broadband video feed recording and play out.

This project involved the integration of systems selected by the client's staff. These include:

Media Asset Management System

Dalet is the core system of twenty two (22) servers responsible for cataloging and tracking stored media, scheduling records of the EVS ingest servers and managing the archiving of media. Thirty (30) Dalet clients search and retrieve media from managed locations using a workstation application or a web browser.

API web services are used to develop communication interfaces with the EVS system and the Stainless video logger application. Dalet clients schedule and submit record requests to the EVS system for ingestion. During the ingestion process, EVS sends Dalet status notifications of the new media. Upon completion of ingestion, Dalet catalogs and creates a low resolution proxy of the media.

Dalet identifies media suited for archiving based on user-defined criteria. After confirmation from end-user, Dalet transfers the media to the archive server and updates the media status.

Playout and Ingest System

The EVS system is comprise of seven (7) ingest servers, four (4) playout servers, nine (9) IP Directors for control of playout/ingest servers and sixteen (16) XT-Access servers functioning as gateways for the SAN.

During the ingestion of a live event, each XT-Access server creates a high resolution Apple Pro Res proxy on each SAN and a low resolution h.264 proxy on the NAS. The low resolution proxy is used by the Stainless video loggers during the logging of a live event.

Post Production Editing

Twenty-two (22) Apple Final Cut Pro editing systems edit media stored on the SAN in its native Pro Res format. This allows instance editing during a live recording and eliminates the need for transcoding from ingest server file formats. Each Final Cut System has dual connection, one per san, in a multi-path configuration for high data rates and redundancy.

Storage Systems

Storage Area Network (SAN) and Network Attached Storage (NAS) systems are both used in the deployment of this solution. A 2.4 PB mirrored StorNet SAN environment built on a Brocade fiber channel fabric with Active Storage raids provides high availability and shared storage of high resolution video files. A NetApp NAS system stores low resolution video proxies accessed by network-attached clients for live video logging.

The Technology

- **Dalet Media Asset Management System**
- **Active-storage raid**
- **StorNext shared storage system**
- **NetApp network storage**
- **EVS playout and ingest servers**
- **Stainless custom video logging application**
- **Apple Final Cut editing system**
- **All systems are interconnected via Cisco IP network switches and Brocade fiber channel switches**

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