



STORAGE VISIONS[®] 2007 CONFERENCE

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Title

Grid Storage for Digital Media

Abstract

Increasingly, the professional video and broadcast markets are embracing tapeless workflows for the acquisition, production and distribution of content. The efficiencies of a file-based model allow content producers to generate more content and open new distribution outlets for that content. Core to this new workflow model is networking and storage technology that enables fast, shared access to large digital media files by many different applications.

Up to now, traditional SAN and NAS architectures have been used within media facilities to provide storage for their digital media files. Most of these storage systems are deployed to support specific applications or workgroups within the facility, resulting in several, distinct islands of storage. Having separate storage systems makes asset management a real challenge, especially when searching for a particular media file. System management of these separate storage systems has also become a headache.

What is needed within a digital media facility is a centralized, enterprise-wide shared storage environment that brings all of these islands together and integrates the workflow. However, given the capacity and bandwidth requirements of such a system, typical SAN and NAS systems are no longer appropriate – they cannot meet the access demands and have become too complex to manage.

Enter grid storage, a new approach to building a storage infrastructure that removes bottlenecks, provides fast access to large media files and eases management burdens. Grid storage is based on the utilization of any number of interconnected, yet independent, storage nodes and a clustered file system that presents the

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grid as a single global namespace. Because of the highly distributed nature of grid storage, there are no single points of failure, bottlenecks or contention.

This presentation will explore the characteristics of grid storage and apply the benefits of grid storage to a digital media workflow. We will describe and explain what a grid storage (or clustered storage) system is and how it works. We will also discuss why the attributes of a distributed grid storage system are ideally suited for the demands of working with large digital media files and how production and broadcast facilities can use such a system as an enterprise-wide storage platform.

Biography

Paul Turner joined Omneon Video Networks in May 2003, managing the Product Marketing and Product Management functions. Mr. Turner brings with him over 20 years of experience in the broadcasting industry in Europe and the USA, starting his career as an engineer at the BBC in 1980. Since then he has held Engineering and Senior Management positions both in the USA and the U.K. at the Grass Valley Group, Abekas Video Systems, Scitex Digital Video, Sony Electronics and, most recently, Pinnacle Systems, where he held the position of Director of Product Marketing for their Storage, Switcher, DVE and Character Generator product lines. Mr. Turner holds an honors degree in electronic engineering from Liverpool University in the U.K.

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