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CTB Film Company Improves Content Production and Simplifies Archive Storage

Leading Russian independent motion picture studio employs fast and reliable RAIDIX-based storage featuring Western Digital's Ultrastar Hybrid Storage Platform

Challenge

Customer's existing storage infrastructure was reaching maximum capacity and needed upgrading to accommodate growing video archive and ensure safekeeping of valuable video content.

Solution

An open, flexible storage solution based on Western Digital Ultrastar® Data102 hybrid storage platform and RAIDIX storage management software.

Key Results

- Smooth, fault-free content production with no shutdowns due to technical issues
- Flexible archive management that is easy to scale on demand
- Higher storage reliability delivered by Western Digital's innovative technologies and powerful RAIDIX algorithms

Company Profile

CTB Film Company is a privately owned film production company that is well known for its award-winning original content. For over 25 years, CTB has created an unrivalled inventory of more than 150 feature films, TV series, documentaries, animated movies and series. The company boasts three Oscar nominations in short animated and foreign language film categories, as well as top awards from Annecy, Zagreb, Ottawa, Aspen and other film festivals. CTB actively explores new technologies and opportunities presented by digitalization in order to bring out the best in its productions, to inspire and to take our audiences on a thrilling journey of imagination.

Safeguarding Irreplaceable Data

With so much time and effort invested in shooting and editing video projects, safekeeping the digital content created is crucial for motion picture companies. Not only is creating the data expensive, there might be no other chance to shoot it ever again, so losing or corrupting video content is unacceptable. That is why it's extremely important for film companies to invest in top-notch storage and processing tools for their editing teams, and CTB knows this very well.

To cope with their growing video archive and ensure safekeeping of their shoots, CTB needed to upgrade their storage infrastructure and expand its capacity to accommodate both past and present shoots and make room for future data. CTB needed a flexible, reliable and easy-to-scale storage infrastructure to maintain high-speed video production, avoid deadlocks and ensure they could deliver projects on time. In addition, the technical team had to ensure the compatibility of any new storage infrastructure with both the professional applications and multithreaded access required by the specialists on their team.

Western Digital, RAIDIX and OKNO-TV Were the Perfect Solution

To address these challenges and save precious time, CTB decided to upgrade their storage, enhance their technical toolkit and improve their studio infrastructure at the same time. The company turned to its technology partner, OKNO-TV, for assistance. OKNO-TV is a system integrator and solution provider for nationwide and regional TV stations, radio stations, and sports, cultural and public facilities in Russia since 1991. The experts at OKNO-TV designed a powerful storage architecture that was both scalable and reliable, and incorporated the use of existing hardware components and equipment in the studio in order to minimize upgrade costs.

"As the experts in broadcasting and TV solutions we know that even the minor faults in the data managing systems are critical for our clients. All our efforts are aimed at delivering the perfect products and services and we cooperate with the best vendors and developers to compose solutions that fit the needs of our customers. We are thrilled when the products we have complement each other—and Western Digital and RAIDIX is a perfect example of mutually beneficial compatibility."

Eugene Altshul
Senior Integration Engineer, OKNO-TV

"In order to bring our creative ideas to life we rely on up-to-date and enduring technologies. With Western Digital and RAIDIX, we've got a solution that we can trust and rely on and I am very happy. And with OKNO-TV, we have an integrator that truly understands our needs."

Sergey Selyanov
Founder and Owner, CTB Film Company

Having worked with Western Digital on other projects, system integrator OKNO-TV chose the Ultrastar Data102 hybrid storage platform for its high density, extreme reliability and easy scalability. Most importantly, ONKO-TV chose the Ultrastar Data102 for its unique technologies not found in any other storage platform: patented IsoVibe™ and innovative ArcticFlow™. IsoVibe reduces vibration-induced performance degradation, while ArcticFlow overcomes the cooling issues by introducing cool air into the middle of the platform. Both these technologies contribute to long-term reliability and reduced drive failures, enabling the safekeeping of all the digital content stored on the platform.

To manage the system, OKNO-TV chose RAIDIX storage management software installed in a dual-controller configuration to further increase the reliability and fault tolerance of the system. The system provides file access over 10Gbit Ethernet for parallel operation for multiple iMac Pro clients. RAIDIX is the perfect match as it was purpose-built for post-production and TV broadcasting environments, and maintaining high-speed access during multithreaded operations.

With RAIDIX, studio system administrators can add high-density HDDs for increased capacity or high-speed SSDs for increased performance to the storage resource pool with just a couple of clicks.

No More Delays or Freezes

OKNO-TV was able to deploy the new solution very quickly, just weeks from design to the final setup. The OKNO-TV team also completed a wide range of renovations in the server room with no interruptions in production workflow. With the upgrades finished, CTB's technical team quickly saw the value of the new solution. RAIDIX-based storage makes the archive easier to manage and more capacious for upcoming projects. The system throughput allows team members to process video in the DaVinci Resolve application without delays or freezes. The system also makes the entire content production process smoother, from creation to distribution.

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