

4-Gigabit Fibre Channel Technology Enables PostWorks to Create a Powerful Solution for HD Color Mastering

The transition to high definition – both an opportunity and a challenge.

Recognizing the explosive trend to transition from traditional post-production workflows to workflows that support high-definition, PostWorks, Inc. realized that these new innovations require creative solutions to support the formats and deliverables that the industry demands.

PostWorks – a full service, high-definition, post-production facility, specializing in HD conform and mastering – needed to store and manage the footage for high-definition programming. After working with this year's Academy Award documentary nominees "Born Into Brothels: Calcutta's Red Light Kids" and "Tupac: Resurrection," Matthew Schneider, director of technology at PostWorks determined that there was a need to change the current workflow and increase PostWorks' capabilities to complete color grading in a higher resolution.

In the world of high definition video, there is 8-bit and 10-bit color mastering. When color grading, PostWorks prefers to work in the higher resolution of 10-bit. "Our current 2-Gb Fibre Channel SAN did not have sufficient headroom to accommodate 10-bit high definition," stated Matthew Schneider. "We were mastering on local SCSI docs that were unprotected and had less capacity than Fibre Channel. To gain productivity, we needed a solution that we would be able to network our Avid Nitris Systems, offer

protected storage, a shared file system and solutions for fast efficient data transfers. We began our search for 4-Gb Fibre Channel solutions."

After reviewing the requirements and options, the PostWorks' team turned to Facilis and ATTO Technology to implement a state-of-the-art 4-Gb Fibre Channel storage area network solution. As a result, PostWorks selected the Facilis Terablock with ATTO Celerity FC-42XS 4-Gb Fibre Channel storage adapters to power the transfer of data. With speeds of up to 800 MB/sec. per channel, the Celerity Storage Adapter was capable of supporting the 10-bit color mastering PostWorks required. "By going from 2-Gb Fibre Channel to 4-Gb Fibre Channel we've basically opened the doors to mastering the 10-bit," Schneider said. "In addition we are getting a better ROI by turning out better product faster."

PostWorks has experienced other benefits of upgrading its storage infrastructure. "It certainly streamlines the entire pipeline," Schneider said. "It is possible to load in one room and finish in another room, essentially giving us a revolving door of material workflow." PostWorks' dedication and talent, combined with ATTO's Celerity line, is the perfect match in advancing visual literacy.

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