ATTO

ATTO Technology, Inc.

For over four decades, Thirteen/WNET New York has been asking big questions. And in so doing, it has encouraged viewers to ask illuminating questions of themselves and their world. This is the vision that drives the non-commercial, educational, inspiring public television that Thirteen/WNET provides.

Each year, Thirteen, shares its vision with millions of viewers in the New York, New Jersey, Connecticut tri-state area and -- via the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) -- with people in every corner of the United States. Their business is offering viewers a forum for exploring ideas, reveling in art and culture, and marveling at the world's wonders, as they do every year without fail. Beamed coast-to-coast via PBS, Thirteen/WNET's signature series continues to form the core of the nationwide public television schedule: AMERICAN MASTERS profiled the figures who have defined American culture; GREAT PERFORMANCES thrilled audiences with soaring dance, theater, opera, and music; and NATURE led viewers on unforgettable journeys of discovery.

As Thirteen's show repertoire expanded so did the risk of losing data. With the increase in productions at Thirteen/WNET, the risk and impact of potential data loss had become critical. Jeff Dockendorff, Associate Director of Engineering, now had the challenge of finding a solution that would be able to support the requirements going forward.

"The first system that needed to be upgraded was an Avid Nitris used for HD on-line editing attached to RAID 0 SCSI based storage," stated Jeff Dockendorff. "Changing storage was not an option for us. In addition, our current system was limited in the amount of space and could not be easily moved due to the complexity of SCSI cabling."

"The ATTO FastStream addressed all of the identified needs; it provided the much-needed data protection against drive failure, it is easy to manage and configure, and can support the need to easily integrate with existing storage. The added bonus is all of this without any performance loss," says Jeff Dockendorff, Associate Director of Engineering at Thirteen WNET New York.

Thirteen needed to find a high-performance, stand-alone solution that added data protection, could be seamlessly integrated into the Avid storage environment, would allow for easy disconnecting and connecting of the alternate storage, and offered a solid set of management features. In addition, fast access to the show being edited was required.

"High Definition uncompressed non-linear editing requires large amounts of storage. Each second takes about 160 MBytes at 10-bit uncompressed. That expands to about 10 GBytes per minute and 600 GBytes per hour. Our 24 disk Ultra 320 Storage array can only record about four hours of material, and each client usually brings with them at least half that much material for their project. In addition, we usually keep each client's material, pending changes, for about two weeks and can only hold two clients' materials on our existing storage. One of our requirements is the need to be able to disconnect one client's storage and connect another's. We like to do this with Fibre Channel fiber optic connectivity," states Jeff Dockendorff.

After looking at his options, Jeff Dockendorff selected the ATTO FastStream™ Storage Appliance. The ATTO FastStream Storage Appliance provided instant RAID parity protection to his SCSI storage device and seamlessly integrated into his current Avid environment. With dual 4-Gigabit Fibre Channel host interfaces and dual Ultra320 SCSI device interfaces, the ATTO FastStream solved Thirteen/WNET's need for easy installation.

The extensive management features allow for existing RAID volumes to be expanded, mirrors added or RAID levels changed dynamically while keeping all data intact. Storage can be added as needed, when needed.

Power Behind the Storage

The storage provisioning feature allows for optimal use of storage assets and the ability to modify Thirteen's storage infrastructure with minimal or no disruption to application services.

"The FastStream sends an email if a drive fails, but continues to provide full performance. If a drive fails there is no loss of media and we can change it when we have completed the project. The ease-of-use and ability to monitor the storage was the final piece of the puzzle. The ATTO FastStream addressed all of the identified needs; it provided the much-needed data protection against drive failure, it is easy to manage and configure, and can support the need to easily integrate with existing storage. The added bonus is all of this without any performance loss," says Jeff Dockendorff.

Solution Synopsis

Challenges

Risk of losing data on RAID O SCSI storage. Needed to find a high-performance, stand-alone solution that added data protection, could be seamlessly integrated into the Avid storage environment, would allow for easy disconnecting and connecting of the alternate storage, offered a solid set of management features and had fast access to the material being edited.

Solutions

The ATTO FastStream™ Storage Appliance provided instant RAID parity protection to existing SCSI storage devices and seamlessly integrated into current Avid environment. With dual 4-Gigabit Fibre Channel host interfaces and dual Ultra320 SCSI device interfaces, the ATTO FastStream solved Thirteen/WNET's need for easy installation and allowed for easy disconnecting and connecting of the alternate storage.

Products Used

ATTO FastStream™ 5300 Storage Appliance

Storage Performance Solution Partners:

ATTO
ATTO Technology, Inc.

thirteen
WNET NEW YORK
Thirteen/WNET New York

Power Behind the Storage

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