



Advanced Audio Delivers Symphony Sound Using iSCSI

Advanced Audio rentals is a leading audio equipment rental firm in Burbank, California with clients such as Sony Pictures, 20th Century Fox Studios, Paramount and Warner Brothers. These companies needed a partner to provide them with equipment to achieve the high quality sound that is imperative for orchestral recording, post production and film dubbing.

But what do you do when your current workflow process does not keep pace with high definition audio technology like Digidesign's ProToolsIHD? Realizing that quality sound is imperative in the movie business and for orchestral recording, Paul Levy, owner of Advanced Audio Rentals was determined to find a networked alternative solution that could support all track counts and sampling rates up to 192kHz.

With the introduction of Digidesign's ProToolsIHD, audio engineers could now configure virtual track layouts and use many more effects to speed workflow. Audio could now be digitized at sampling rates up to 192kHz. Currently, the only standalone storage solution that can support 192kHz recording is FireWire 800-based. This storage format poses multiple challenges including mounting difficulties, lack of RAID redundancy, and track allocation problems because one needs to use multiple physical devices daisy-chained together in order to overcome the IDE rotational speed limitation of 7200 RPM.

"One of the challenges I had to resolve was that the only ports left for connection in a Macintosh® were the FireWire 800 port or the Ethernet port. FireWire based storage was not stable enough and did not provide the robustness needed for orchestral recording or sound dubbing. I was intrigued by the power of iSCSI and the ability for facilities to use their exist-

"One of the challenges I had to resolve was that the only ports left for connection in a Macintosh were the FireWire 800 port or the Ethernet port. FireWire based storage was not stable enough and did not provide the robustness needed for orchestral recording or sound dubbing," states Paul Levy, owner of Advanced Audio Rentals, Burbank, California.

ing backbone and wiring of 1-Gb or 10-Gb Ethernet. So I began to research solutions," states Paul Levy.

And so the search began for a configuration that could be adapted to the changing needs of his clients. After reviewing the needs of High Definition Audio, Paul needed to find a product that could connect to the Macintosh Ethernet port and also provide Fibre Channel connectivity. He decided on the ATTO iPBridge™ 2700, an iSCSI-to-Fibre Channel bridge that would provide the connectivity needed to a Fibre Channel switch or Fibre Channel RAID storage.



Advanced Audio put together a configuration that could be adapted to the changing needs of their clients. Featuring the ATTO iPBridge 2700 and ATTO's Xtend SAN iSCSI initiator, clients could connect their Macintosh via the Ethernet port directly into 3 Terabytes of online Fibre Channel RAID storage, or use 2 Gigabytes of Fibre Channel via the ATTO Celerity FC-42ES Host Adapter.

Power Behind the Storage

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For clients in need of a complete storage network, numerous Macs can be connected to the ATTO iPBridge 2700 via the Xtend SAN software. Multiple Fibre Channel Storage devices can then be connected to the 2700 to create a consolidated "pool" of storage. This configuration provides clients with a much faster and more streamlined workflow and ultimately saves money.

"ATTO's Xtend SAN and iPBridge 2700 provided the perfect solution. ATTO Technology's Xtend SAN software product for Macintosh is a software-based iSCSI initiator. This software converts any Ethernet port on the Macintosh to an iSCSI port allowing connection to any iSCSI device. ATTO's iPBridge 2700 receives the iSCSI data and converts it to Fibre Channel, allowing facilities to integrate their existing GigE infrastructure" states Paul Levy."

Solution Synopsis

Challenges

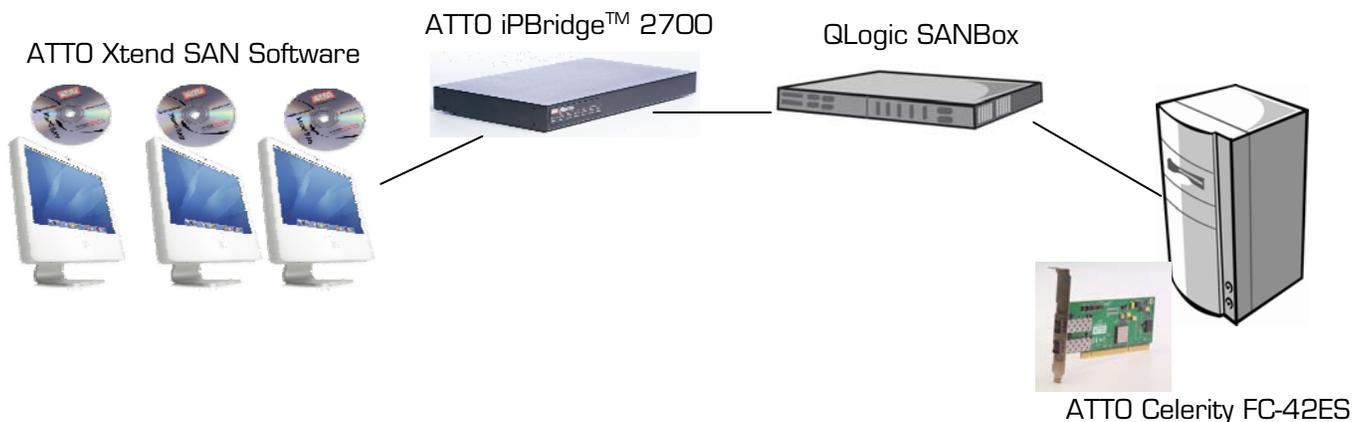
Find a networked storage alternative to FireWire that could support HD audio and sampling rates of up to 192kHz. The solution needed to connect to the Macintosh Ethernet port and also provide Fibre Channel connectivity.

Solution

A networked configuration featuring ATTO iPBridge 2700 and ATTO's Xtend SAN iSCSI initiator. Clients could connect their Macintosh via the Ethernet port directly into 3 Terabytes of online Fibre Channel RAID storage, or use 2 Gigabytes of Fibre Channel via the ATTO Celerity FC-42ES Host Adapter.

Products used

ATTO iPBridge™ 2700 iSCSI-to-Fibre Channel Bridge
ATTO Xtend SAN Initiator Software
ATTO Celerity FC-42ES 4-Gb Fibre Channel Host Adapter



Storage Performance Solution Partners:



ATTO Technology, Inc.



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Power Behind the Storage

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