Apple Video Server Software Brochure

Building4Media developed its own Apple Video Server (Xserve or Power Mac G4/G5) as a video server for (smaller) broadcasters, as a live assist server and as a content server for post production, editing, etc.. Our Apple Video Server is based on the Apple Xserve or Power Mac computer with special our video server driver software, a modified operating system, and FireWire hardware transcoders. The Apple Video Server can be controlled by Building4Media's FORK/TV Playout software, FORK/TV Editor software or by other (playout) software using a number of standard protocols and emulations. The Apple Video Server beats most of the specifications of high-end video servers for an unbeatable price.

The Apple Video Server works primarily in the DV25 format and supports video input/output in SDI, composite and component.

We have customers using the Apple Video Server for their playout ranging from the largest national commercial broadcasters to the smallest local broadcasters.

Summary

- The Apple Video Server is very well suited as a playout server for (smaller) broadcasters, as a live assist server and as a content server for post production, editing, etc..
- The Apple Video Server support three video inputs/outputs on an Apple computer and four inputs/outputs when an Xserve Raid is connected to the computer.
- The Apple Video Server support SDI, composite and component video inputs/outputs.
- The Apple Video Server offers in terms of storage for instance 0,75 TB in a Xserve (around 60 hours of DV25), or 4,25 in a Xserve and Xserve Raid (around 350 hours of DV25) and is scalable almost without limits. One of our customers has a 50TB SAN based on Xserve Raid and seven Xserve's as redundant video servers.
- In general Apple computers provide lots of other bandwidth.
- The Apple Video Server can be controlled by our FORK/TV Playout software, our FORK/TV Editor software, by other (playout) software (by using standard protocols like VDCP), by emulating other video servers or by emulating a standard VTR.
- The Apple Server can be used redundant as well with two Apple computers with automatic synchronisation of the databases. An option is automatic signal monitoring and switching with our FORK/TV Redundancy Switch software module and signal monitoring equipment.
- The Apple Server is based on the Apple Xserve or the Power Mac G4/G5. Especially the Apple Xserve is very well suited as a low-cost video server (huge storage, Unix operating system, connectivity, reliability, etc.).
- Thanks to its price tag starting from 10.000 euro the Apple Server comes within the reach of whole new groups of broadcasters and other customers.

Applications

- As a video server for smaller TV stations.
- As a separate “live assist” video server within a TV station. Due to its start time of just one or two frames, it is especially well suited for this.
- As a content server, for instance for post production.
- As a VTR replacement, for instance for edit sets. While the edit sets thinks it works with a VTR, it in fact controls our Apple Server!

Added values of the Apple Video Server

- Very high reliability, due to the Unix based operating system, RAID storage and full redundancy.
- Extremely scalable from one Apple computer running our playout automation software and being the video server to huge systems with enormous storage, playing many channels and with full redundancy
- The best price/performance ratio, due to a price tag starting at 10.000 euro.

Background information of the Apple Video Server

- To be able to use Apple computers as video servers Building4Media has adapted its video server driver software it uses to control high-end video server (like Omneon, Sony, Grass Valley, Pinnacle, etc.) to be used with Apple computers and changes were made to the Mac OS X operating system with the help of Apple in the USA.
- The Apple Video Server supports primarily in the DV25 format and uses standard FireWire transcoders.
- The Apple Video Server beats most of the specifications of high-end video servers, with for instance a start time of just one or two frames, which makes it very suitable for “live assist” applications.
- Thanks to Building4Media’s long experience in controlling video servers, VTR’s, etc. and the availability of the drivers, the Apple Video Server can be controlled using almost any protocol or driver. Just contact us to check possibilities.
- The Apple Video Server comes together with all the software drivers to be controlled by Building4Media’s FORK/TV Playout software products. For more information regarding our FORK/TV Playout software, please see our website: http://www.Building4Media.com.
- In the near future the Apple Video Server will have the functionality to playout EDL’s created by the FORK/TV Editor. This means that pre-compiling of EDL isn’t longer necessary and the compiling can be done during playout. This saves time in the workflow to playout the content. For more information regarding our FORK/TV Editor software please see our website: http://www.Building4Media.com.

For more information regarding the Apple computers, please see: http://www.apple.com .

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