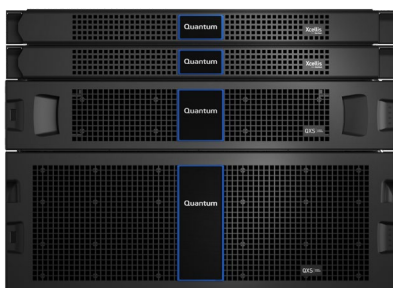# Quantum®

CASE STUDY

Studio Hamburg Postproduction GmbH
Revitalizes Archived Content with Quantum

Studio Hamburg Postproduction GmbH is optimizing its workflows and technical infrastructure to keep pace with the increasing demands for quality in the TV and film industry. Taking Quantum's StorNext-based Xcellis Workflow Storage solution as the new basis for the organization's storage infrastructure, the post-production house can concentrate on its joint creative work and operate faster and more effectively than ever before.

Studio Hamburg Postproduction

FEATURED PRODUCTS

Xcellis powered by StorNext

"The Quantum solutions provide trouble-free operation even when several films are being processed at the same time. Quantum Xcellis and StorNext are genuine pillars of support for our daily workflows."

Tammo Steinmetz
CEO, Studio Hamburg Postproduction GmbH

> "With Xcellis Workflow Storage and StorNext, we now have the continuous access our teams need to be productive around the clock."

Tammo Steinmetz – CEO, Studio Hamburg Postproduction GmbH

SOLUTION OVERVIEW

- Xcellis® Workflow Storage, powered by StorNext® (Dual Node, 10 TB Dedicated Metadata, Fibre Channel)
- 2 x Quantum QXS™-456 (56*6 TB = 336 TB raw capacity)
- 20 additional SAN clients to provide connectivity for existing systems

KEY BENEFITS

- Transitioned to a new storage platform while minimizing interruptions
- Enabled rapid ingest and provided fast access to content for post-production workflows
- Gained on-demand scalability to accommodate rapidly rising volumes of content
- Streamlined data management and enabled round-the-clock access to material through multiple clients

To keep pace with increasing demand for post-production and digitization services, Studio Hamburg Postproduction GmbH needed to upgrade its storage environment. By implementing Quantum Xcellis Workflow Storage as the basis for its upgraded storage infrastructure, the post-production house can concentrate on its creative work while accelerating workflows and enhancing efficiency.

BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO OLD MATERIAL

In addition to providing post-production services for new TV shows and films, Studio Hamburg Postproduction helps organizations revitalize older content. For example, Bayerischer Rundfunk (BR)—a public-service broadcaster—asked the studio to digitize its entire film archive, which includes films, children's TV series, and documentaries. BR has approximately

11,000 hours of 16-mm and 35-mm film material that must be processed.

"The project will last ten years," says Tammo Steinmetz, CEO of Studio Hamburg Postproduction. "We knew that digitizing all that content would require us to invest in new technology."

In particular, the studio needed storage that could deliver both high performance and scalability. The Studio Hamburg Postproduction team planned to digitize material using a 4K overscan procedure, which records each frame at a resolution greater than 4K. That procedure generates individual frames of up to 112 MB, which then undergo post-production processing. The storage solution needed to quickly ingest that rapidly growing volume of data and provide post-production team members with fast access to content for editing, color correction, and more.

GAINING ROBUST PERFORMANCE AND SCALABLE CAPACITY WITH QUANTUM

Studio Hamburg Postproduction selected a new multi-tier Quantum solution to handle the rigorous requirements for ingest and post-production tasks. To provide failsafe storage for files generated by the scanner, the studio chose two Quantum QXS-4 Series hybrid storage arrays, each with 56 mounting bays for 6 TB hard disks.

The studio uses Quantum Xcellis Workflow systems, powered by the Quantum StorNext file system and data management platform, to intelligently store and manage the raw data. With StorNext, multiple post-production team members can quickly and easily access the content they need, no matter where it resides across the storage environment.

TRANSITIONING WITHOUT INTERRUPTIONS

With help from Quantum, the studio transitioned from the previous storage environment—which used an earlier version of StorNext—to the new solution, all while minimizing downtime.

"The work with Studio Hamburg Postproduction exemplifies our method of upgrading storage systems," explains Christian Plitt, account manager Central Europe for media and entertainment at Quantum. "Taking into account the special features of the studio's IT infrastructure, we initially built on the existing StorNext 4 platform. With this approach, the upgraded hardware setup can grow slowly. We were able to upgrade the studio to StorNext 6 without impairing daily operations."

"The fact that Quantum provided recommendations to meet our special requirements is a sure sign of professional cooperation," says Steinmetz. "It was very reassuring that we could upgrade gradually to help ensure smooth operations."

The custom approach also enabled team members to avoid technical challenges that might have affected productivity.

"A post-production house like ours is focused primarily on creativity," says Steinmetz. "Staff members should not have to give a single thought about whether the different technical components can work together—and with Quantum, they didn't have to. It was a great relief."

ACCELERATING INGEST AND ENABLING FAST DATA ACCESS

For the BR digitization contract and future projects, Studio Hamburg Postproduction required storage that could ingest digitized content rapidly and provide robust performance for continuous post-production processing. "We scan and postprocess in two shifts for up to 16 hours a day," explains Steinmetz.

With Xcellis Workflow Storage and QXS Hybrid Storage, the studio has gained two storage environments that deliver the outstanding performance required. During initial testing, the studio achieved performance of approximately 3.2 GB/s from each solution—6.4 GB/s overall.

"The Quantum solutions provide trouble-free operation even when several films are being processed at the same time," says Steinmetz. "Quantum Xcellis and StorNext are genuine pillars of support for our daily workflows."

SCALING STORAGE ON DEMAND

Taking on new work such as the BR digitization project requires a highly scalable storage infrastructure.

"At peak times, we process and archive up to 100 hours of footage per day," says Steinmetz. "This means that we have to manage our storage resources very carefully and scale them very quickly on demand."

Tammo Steinmetz
CEO, Studio Hamburg Postproduction GmbH

Traditionally, upgrading systems could be expensive and time consuming. But with Xcellis Workflow Storage based on StorNext, the studio can add capacity and scale performance without major infrastructure overhauls.

ENHANCING DATA MANAGEMENT EFFICIENCY WITH STORNEXT

With studio editors, sound designers, colorists, and other team members spread across numerous work sites, managing data can be a complex undertaking.

"We are confronted daily with the matter of efficient handling of storage: Which data can we delete, which do we need to back up, and which do we have to keep available?" says Steinmetz.

Working with a wide variety of file formats and applications further complicates data management.

"When our in-house producers deploy staff to different workstations, the file formats and storage media should be of no concern," says Steinmetz.

The self-service approach of StorNext lets the creative staff access required files, without IT involvement—no matter where those files are stored. StorNext improves the efficiency of data management and streamlines workflows.

StorNext also helps keep content continuously available, providing reliable, 24/7 access to the storage systems for the studio's day and night shifts.

"With Xcellis Workflow Storage and StorNext, we now have the continuous access our teams need to be productive around the clock," says Steinmetz.

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE WITH QUANTUM

Steinmetz believes the studio is well positioned for whatever lies ahead.

"There are always new file formats and technologies that we'll have to accommodate. For example, we'll need to support UHD and HDR, which require even higher frame rates in post production," says Steinmetz. "The Quantum solution gives us a foundation that helps avoid a 'big bang'—a comprehensive change of technology in a very short time. With the Quantum solution, we are more than adequately equipped to meet future challenges."

Quantum®

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