

# Sun™ and Front Porch Digital

## Video archive solutions driving new revenue opportunities



Broadcast, entertainment, and media companies store and manage vast amounts of video content since it is critical to their businesses to preserve video assets for the long-term. These companies maintain large archives that house tens of thousands of hours of video. On-air video servers inevitably become filled and production projects compete for expensive online storage. Capacity is further strained by the rapid adoption of High Definition (HD) broadcasting, which calls for higher bandwidth and increased storage requirements.

### Highlights

- Simplify the process of preserving, managing, and accessing digital video content
- Cost-effectively grow a video archive from a small library to a large distributed storage repository
- Reduce the high cost and inefficiency of managing physical media assets for reuse
- Integrate online, near-line, and offline storage
- Reduce time to locate and retrieve content regardless of where it is stored
- Repurpose existing content assets

Converted into digital form, video archives require hundreds of terabytes (TB) of storage capacity, and these repositories are constantly growing. Furthermore, editors and video technicians must have unrestrained and easy access to archives in order to create content for new revenue opportunities — an essential activity for today's media and entertainment businesses. Multiuser access and collaboration, however, must be balanced with archive security and access control.

Front Porch Digital's portfolio of software products offers comprehensive content management solutions for the media and broadcast industries that help users manage, search, protect, and share video assets. Using Front Porch Digital's software, video professionals can easily locate, retrieve, and edit content — dramatically improving production efficiencies and lowering the cost of the creation process.

### Managing and leveraging video assets

Front Porch Digital's DIVArchive is an innovative video storage and management solution that stores assets digitally to retain and protect them for the long-term and manages the content from ingest, through edit, to playout.

Furthermore, DIVArchive is fully integrated with the leading broadcast automation and media asset management (MAM) systems enabling content to be distributed efficiently and cost-effectively.

DIVArchive helps media companies create a unified content storage system of disk and tape libraries and, with the DIVAdirector option, view the stored assets from any desktop. Today's file-based production systems require a central content repository that seamlessly supports multiple essence formats and wrappers such as MPEG, DV25/50, MXF, and GXF. Front Porch Digital partners with Telestream to enable broadcasters using DIVArchive to automatically transcode video formats, providing interoperability between different production systems and delivering the right format to every device.

In addition to accessing entire program files, DIVArchive's partial restore function can accurately retrieve and restore selected portions of stored content. This saves time and resources when only a small segment is needed from a large file such as when the content is used to support editing applications. Content can even be restored on the fly while reading from a tape to minimize any delay in retrieving the data.

### Protecting content

Storage devices such as tapes and drives slowly deteriorate due to wear and other factors. DIVAprotect, a DIVArchive option, constantly monitors the storage infrastructure and warns of media or tape drive degradation before it results in reduced performance, or worse, catastrophic data loss. In addition, content can be automatically migrated to new media to help guard against data loss.

### Cost-effective archive infrastructure

Sun Microsystems offers the servers, storage, and system software necessary to create scalable, high-capacity digital archive systems. Combined with Front Porch Digital software, Sun archive solutions help media companies manage their video content by enabling interoperability among large digital media storage devices, video servers, editing systems, and digital media workflow applications.

With Front Porch Digital software on Sun systems, media and broadcast companies can build a variety of configurations from a small archive solution to a large distributed storage repository. The heart of the digital archive system is an integrated high-capacity disk array and tape library. A typical archive configuration includes the Sun StorageTek™ SL8500 modular library system with Sun StorageTek T10000 tape drives, Sun StorageTek 6540 disk arrays, and Sun Fire™ X4600 servers running the Solaris™ 10 Operating System (OS).

Sun offers a wide variety of disk storage capacities and performance levels including datacenter systems, Network Attached Storage (NAS), midrange arrays, workgroup arrays, plus a full range of storage management software. Sun continues to drive tape technology forward, offering libraries, drives, and media that safeguard data, accelerate access, and take advantage of the inherent portability and security of tape. Along with Front Porch Digital's content management software, Sun systems help improve the efficiency and productivity of digital archives with streamlined management, better monitoring of backup applications, and friendly interfaces.

### Improving reliability and performance

A large cable communications company had over 125 TB of video content in an Avalon EMC/ADIC tape library that was causing system failures. The company was unable to obtain the level of technical support they needed to resolve the problem. Consequently, they replaced their ADIC library with a Sun and Front Porch Digital solution that included:

- Six Sun Fire V220 servers running DIVArchive software
- One Sun StorageTek L700 tape library later upgraded to an StorageTek SL8500 modular library
- Four Sun StorageTek T9940B tape drives

### Learn More

For more information, visit [sun.com](http://sun.com), [fpdigital.com](http://fpdigital.com), or contact your local Sun sales representative.

The new archive solution improves the overall reliability, performance, functionality, and scalability of their communications system. In addition, efficiency and asset security is enhanced by enabling backups that create two copies and moving one of the copies to a safe, off-site location. Furthermore, instead of the inherently risky manual handling of video tapes, the digital tapes used in the Sun and Front Porch Digital solution are protected in an automated, robotic environment.

### Conclusion

Media and broadcast companies are challenged by the increasing size and complexity of video archives as well as the need to easily access and reuse their video content. Front Porch Digital software running on Sun servers and storage offers a comprehensive digital video content archive and management solution. This combination from Sun and Front Porch Digital helps media companies maintain a secure, long-term repository for their video assets, while enabling easy and cost-effective access to the content for repurposing in new revenue generating projects.

