

INSANELY GREAT!

Bath Spa University

Shared storage for a professional video editing suite

Bath Spa University were looking for an 11-seat, multi-user video editing suite. They gave Jigsaw24 a call and we helped them find the solution to meet their performance and budgetary requirements, and ensure that they were able to undertake real-world professional projects. As well as including the capacity for future upgrades, our experts implemented a render farm to operate out of hours.

Bath Spa offers a range of courses, from pre-degree study to postgraduate degrees. The university, home to around 5,500 students, has achieved exceptionally high rankings in the national league table. It has also been designated as a Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning in the creative industries, with strong links with key employers and industry partners.

Bath Spa University have made a significant investment in resources and facilities available to their students, both at the Bath School of Art and Design and the Schools of Music and Performing Arts.

Marrying professional and educational requirements

The university wanted an 11-seat video editing suite with a commercial focus that would be capable of fulfilling real briefs to a professional standard. The technical requirements included managed logins for full- and part-time students, fully shared data storage and roaming home folders and real performance suited to video editing by multiple users. It was also important for the university that the proposed solution consisted of professional industry tools, as completed projects could be used to generate revenue.

Designing a storage solution

Sammy Aindow, one of Jigsaw24's leading systems and storage consultants, helped Bath Spa University investigate a number of possible solutions. Sammy specialises in backend broadcast and post-production systems, so he was able to assess exactly what was needed.

He decided against a ten Gigabit Ethernet (10GbE) storage solution, as it was not the best value for money in this instance and instead suggested a Fibre Channel-based SAN, with redundant metadata controllers for high availability. The Fibre Channel fabric offered redundancy and 8Gb per second capability, which would give the university the opportunity to double their storage bandwidth in the future. In addition to this, tight directory integration would provide the centralised management and security required.



Working with...



In a nutshell...

Who are Bath Spa University?

Bath Spa offers a range of courses, from pre-degree study to postgraduate degrees. The university, home to around 5,500 students, has achieved exceptionally high rankings in the national league table.

What did they need?

All 11-seat, multi-user video editing suite, complete with fast shared storage and a render farm. The system needed to be scalable and offer the university a degree of future proofing.

How did Jigsaw24 help?

We specced, configured and installed the 11 edit suites, all running off an 8Gb Fibre Channel SAN, which would allow for the secure storage, shared access and easy management of large amounts of data. We also installed a render farm and compression cluster, then coordinated the installation around building work at the university.

What were the benefits?

- The university now has a professional standard editing suite which they can use for teaching and to generate revenue.
- Several options for redundancy and failover mean that the system is highly reliable.
- The bandwidth of the network can be doubled in the future if Bath Spa want to expand their setup.



Careful coordination and project management

As the new video editing suite was located in a newly acquired university building where construction was still underway, careful coordination and project management was required. Components for the suite were delivered independently from a number of sources, while a subcontractor installed the Fibre cabling onsite. We organised and carried out the task efficiently, without encountering any problems.

The project was completed, including the final stage of configuration, in approximately three days. Technicians at the university undertook some preliminary work and set up their client machines, while our onsite engineers configured and installed the servers and storage.



Seeing the benefits...

The university now has enhanced professional facilities to offer both its staff and students. The addition of a compressor cluster was not in their original specification but has essentially resulted in the university getting two solutions for the price of one. Several options for redundancy and failover were incorporated to improve reliability and optimise the availability of the systems.

We made sure that Bath Spa got the best possible prices, enabling them to implement the latest 8Gb-ready Fibre Channel switching at no extra cost, with the capacity to double the bandwidth of their storage network in the future.

“The Xsan and Fibre Channel solution Jigsaw24 helped put in place is providing our Broadcast Media students with all the power and space they need to produce high quality results. Particularly impressive is the implementation of distributed processing across the suite – transcoding video is now a quick and easy task, rather than an overnight chore.”

Ollie Kenchington, **Studio Technician, Technical Support and Network Administrator at Bath Spa.**

For more information about optimising your shared storage, get in touch with us on the details below.



Want to know more about shared storage?

Call: 03332 409 231 Email: sales@jigsaw24.com Visit: www.jigsaw24.com