

VBS.tv

Video Xsan environment, installation & support

VBS.tv came to Jigsaw24 when they realised that they needed their creatives to have access to a collaborative environment. After meeting with their Head of Post-Production, we extended their video editing setup with an Xsan solution and new Mac edit suites.

Streamlining collaboration between editors

VBS, the makers of Vice magazine, wanted to extend their existing setup to give their editors better access to shared projects and resources – they needed a collaborative environment. They were already using two edit suites with direct attached 4TB RAID storage and wanted to carry on using these, so our solution had to integrate with this existing equipment and be expandable.

Tailoring a solution to the VBS workflow

Our experts paid VBS a visit to meet with their Head of Post-Production, Al Brown, who talked us through the company's workflow and the issues they wanted to overcome. It gave us the chance to look at their acquisition method and editing formats, and discuss their SAN options.

To give access to shared storage in their Mac environment we designed an Xsan solution. It uses dual Apple Xserves, Apple Promise 16TB RAID storage and a QLogic Fibre switch, which can be expanded to allow connection of additional Xsan clients. The two existing Infortrend RAID storage units have been incorporated into the Xsan as a second volume.

Jigsaw24's professional engineers were used to install and configure the systems, including putting all the kit in place at the VBS offices and installing the new edit suites. These, along with the existing Mac Pros, were connected via Fibre Channel. The new storage is also available to the rest of the office via Ethernet. This allows rough cuts and logging to be done on iMacs and notebooks. All of this had to be done while live productions were being carried out and finished before the company's critical deadlines, with minimal downtime and disruption.

After the installation had taken place, we tested the connectivity and bandwidth of the setup. We were able to resolve any teething problems early on, and fix the issues that they were having with bad RAM on one of the existing edit suites.

Ongoing support and updated equipment

Installation and testing of the setup went to plan and was completed on time. VBS were able to meet their deadlines and the project was a success. To make sure everything runs smoothly, we also provide them with remote server support.

Vice now come to us for their video production equipment, including HD cameras, audio kit, field gear and camera consumables, as well as for our professional services, which cover installation, integration, configuration and support.

For more information about collaborative environments, get in touch with us on the details below.

Working with...

VBS.TV

In a nutshell...

Who are VBS.tv?

VBS.tv is an online branch of Vice magazine – a free publication available in 18 countries around the world, from Scandinavia to South Africa. Covering everything from international news to pop and underground culture, VBS produce original material that they stream as free content 24 hours a day.

What did they need?

VBS.tv wanted to integrate two edit suites with 4TB RAIDs into a larger collaborative storage setup.

How did Jigsaw24 help?

We designed an Xsan-based solution that gave them access to higher capacity shared storage. We installed all the components and ensured everything was connected via Fibre Channel for the fastest possible speeds, then tested the connectivity and bandwidth of the setup. We were able to resolve any teething problems early on, and fix the issues that they were having with bad RAM on one of the existing edit suites.

What were the benefits?

- It's now far easier for VBS.tv's editors to collaborate.
- Rough cuts and logging can now be done on iMacs and notebooks, rather than taking up time in the main edit suite.
- Their ongoing support contract means that VBS.tv always have a reliable port of call should something go wrong.