XenData

Your Digital Assets

Preserved | Accessible

Solution Brief:

Archiving Avid Interplay Projects using NLT and XenData

Contents

XenData NLT Non Linear Technology

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1. Introduction

With more than 1,500 sites deployed worldwide, Avid Interplay Production provides asset management that expands workgroup capabilities by coordinating and moving projects in parallel, and enabling producers, editors, assistants and reviewers to find, edit, review and annotate media from anywhere.

XenData digital video archive systems manage LTO or Sony Optical Disc Archive (ODA) drives and libraries to deliver outstanding performance and value. XenData archives are well proven in the media and entertainment industry - with 600 robotic library installations in over 50 countries worldwide - ranging from small production organizations to local TV stations to major global broadcasters and major service providers.

Thanks to NLT's powerful Nearchive™ migration technology, XenData integrates seamlessly into Avid environments, providing a highly scalable open archive solution to Interplay Production users. Content can be moved quickly from Avid ISIS® on-line storage to cost effective LTO or ODA storage and later restored to on-line storage for reuse. Since clip and sequence metadata is always online within Interplay Production, users can quickly find and decide which assets to retrieve from the archive.

The combined solution provides a simple **"select+right-click"** GUI for archiving and retrieval of media assets such as clips and sequences. The Interplay database tracks media files stored in the XenData archive, so team members can look for both archived and online media using Interplay Access or Avid MediaCentral | UX. Interplay users simply select assets, then right-click choosing to restore and the system copies the media assets back to the ISIS shared storage where they appear online automatically.

2. Solution Benefits

When combined with Nearchive, a XenData archive provides the following benefits to Avid Interplay users:

- **Frees Space on ISIS.** The solution offers immediate cost savings by moving media off of ISIS storage onto cost-effective LTO or ODA storage, freeing up valuable Avid editing storage.

- **Familiar Avid Interplay Access and Avid MediaCentral | UX UI.** The solution simplifies workflows by seamlessly including the archive in the users' daily operation. There is no need for any other user interface. All archived near-line and offline content is searchable using standard media management tools provided by Avid. For example users perform archive and restore operations directly from Interplay Access just by selecting the asset(s) and right clicking to select the Store or Restore operation.

- **Multiple purpose open standard archive.** Beyond supporting Interplay, the archive accepts all file types. Files are stored in a standard file-folder structure which can be accessed, not only by Interplay, but via any Windows or Mac client with designated permissions. Multiple LTO or ODA cartridge groups may be created and used for different applications.

  A good application of this is too automatically backup the Interplay Engines database. By running a script to copy the Interplay database backup contents to a folder, which Xendata then copies to a tape volume set. This provides an automatic disaster recovery backup for the Interplay database.

  LTO cartridges are written in either the LTFS interchange format or the open standard TAR format. The use of a standard format prevents vendor lock-in and allows migration to future system.

- **Built-in data protection.** The system will automatically create extra backup copies of LTO cartridges for offsite retention.

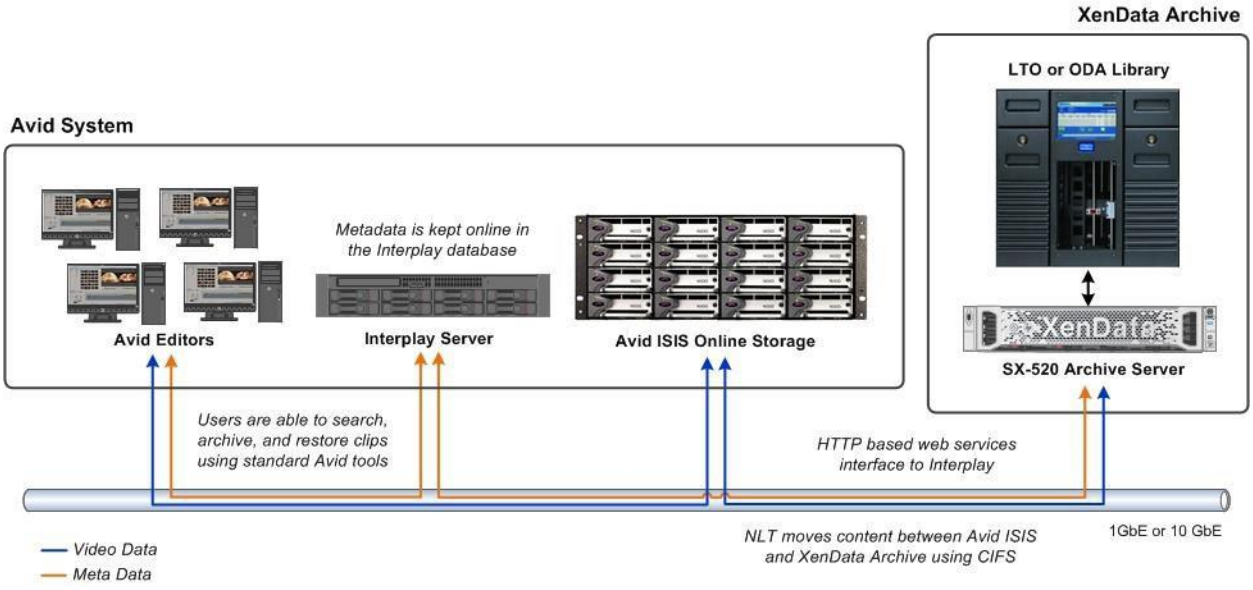
- **Manages unlimited externalized cartridges.** The system manages any number of externalized cartridges, providing an unlimited total capacity. There are no license fees for externalized capacity. When offline files are accessed, the system prompts with email alerts and on-screen notifications,

identifying the cartridge that should be imported back into the system. A range of different reports helps manage the entire archive including all externalized cartridges.

- **Strong file version control.** The solution provides comprehensive file version control. Deleted clips and old versions may be restored from LTO or ODA.

3. System Architecture

A basic Nearchive- XenData archive system for Avid Interplay Production has the following architecture.



The system is comprised of the following elements:

- **Avid Editors:** editors run Avid Media Composer and access online and archived media using standard Avid tools, such as Interplay Access or Avid MediaCentral | UX.

- **Avid ISIS Online Storage:** provides high performance collaborative production storage to workgroups.

  Nearchive moves content between online Avid storage and the XenData archive using CIFS. XenData system built-in disk cache delivers high performance in a network environment and the NAS architecture makes it easy to deploy.

- **Interplay Server:** the archive connects to Avid Interplay Production database via Interplay Web Services to seamlessly move video content from Avid shared storage to near-line LTO or ODA cartridges, while keeping metadata online in the Interplay database.

- **XenData Archive** powered by XenData Server and Nearchive Server software. The following XenData systems have been certified to use with Avid Interplay: the SX-520 Series of Archive Servers managing LTO or ODA libraries to 10+ PB and the SX-10 Archive Appliance managing LTO drives and libraries to 125 TB.

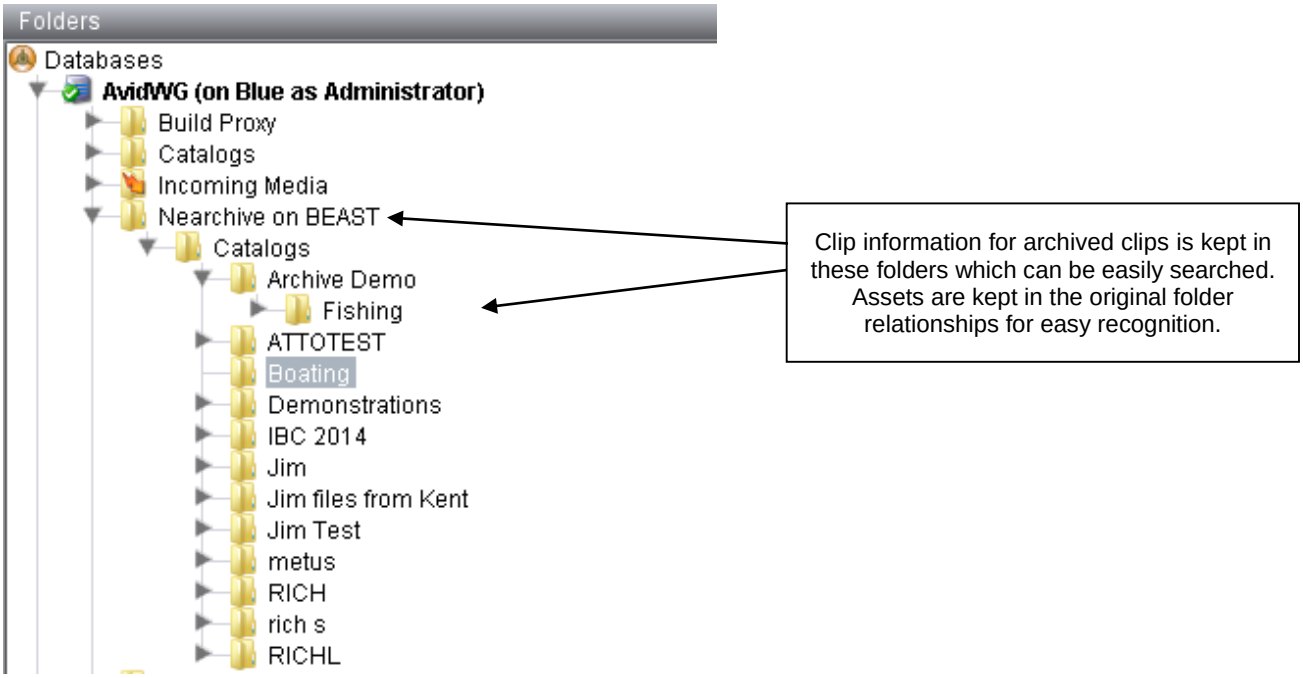
Avid users benefit from a seamless integration, being able to search for archived clips and to perform archive and restore operations directly from the Avid Interplay interface. The archive process starts when the Interplay Access or Avid MediaCentral | UX user selects asset(s) and right clicks to select the Store action. The Nearchive server

software then acts as a data mover. Content to be archived is copied over the network from the online Avid storage to the volume managed by XenData. Depending on the archive policies and configuration, files may be written to replicated LTO or ODA cartridges. The Metadata is archived and also kept online in the Interplay database so archived clips are searchable from within Interplay. The restore process starts when the Interplay Access or Avid MediaCentral | UX user selects asset(s) and right clicks to select the Restore action. Nearchive instructs the network transfer to move the correspondent files from the XenData volume to Avid ISIS Online Storage. XenData fulfils the request by restoring the files from LTO or ODA. Once the restore operation has been successfully completed, the clip status is updated to online.

4. How to Archive and Restore Clips from Interplay Access

To operate the archive from Interplay Access, the user simply selects the assets which are to be archived. These maybe folder trees or individual assets such as clips or sequences. Then right click on the selection, a menu will be displayed which includes the NLT Nearchive Services selection. Choosing this will cause a dialog to prompt the user to choose what action is taken: Store or Restore. A job name can also be entered so that real-time status can be shown regarding the requested action.

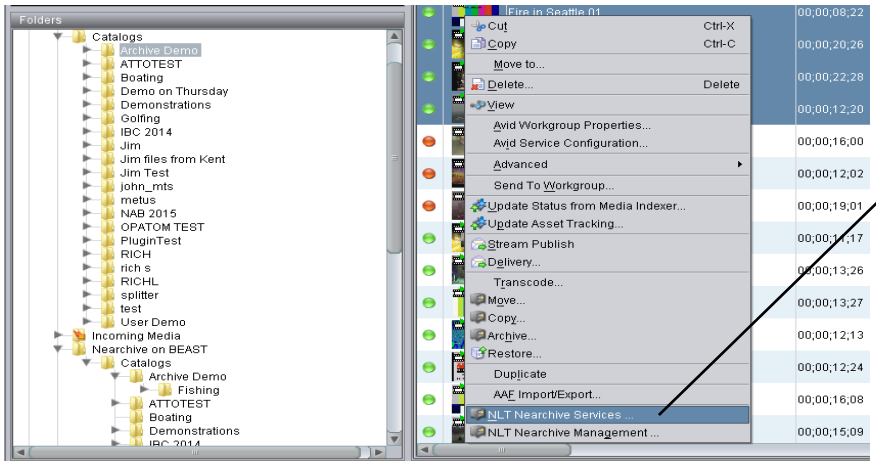
The system creates a special folder in the Interplay database. The **"Nearchive on <host>"** folder and its associated sub-folders are used to catalog all archived assets. When a clip is archived, a link to the clip information is put in the Nearchive folder (retaining its original path). This folder tree can be used when searching for a clip which is archived to restore it.

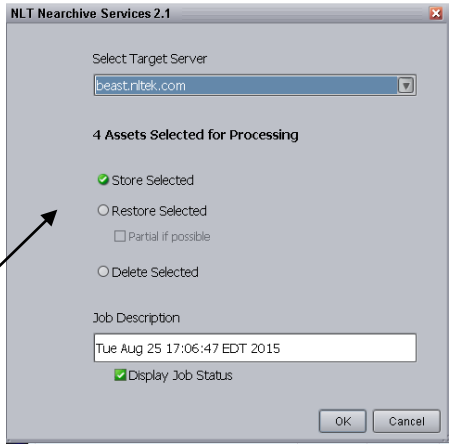


Archiving clips using Avid Interplay Access

To archive a clip just select the clip you want to archive, then “right click” and select “NLT Nearchive Services” A dialog window will open to allow selection of the action to Store or Restore that asset.

When a clip has been archived and clip information and MXF files have been deleted from Avid ISIS, the status of the clip is red, meaning the media files are no longer online (i.e. not on Avid ISIS storage).





Simply right click on the selected assets choosing “**NLT Nearchive Services**” (left), then select the job action (above).

Restoring clips using Avid Access

Use the Interplay Access search tool to find the clip you want to restore. Select the clip and then “right click” and select “NLT Nearchive Services” A dialog window will open to allow selection of the action to Restore that asset. If you refresh or search again for the clip you will see that the media files for the clip are now “on-line” as indicated by the green status.

If the requested clip is offline (i.e. all cartridges that contain the clip information and MXF files have been exported from the library), the clip will be automatically moved into the appropriate “Retry” folder. Immediately, the system sends an email and/or on-screen message that identifies which cartridges contain the requested clip. This notification allows the correct cartridge to be easily identified and then imported back into the library. The file will then be automatically restored when the read request is retried (periodically) by the Nearchive Server. The user can also initiate a “retry” manually.

5. Managing Assets Independently of Interplay

The NLT-XenData archive solution for Interplay may optionally include a special version of axle Video's MAM. By adding this option, the solution is able to index content and supports searching independently of the Avid Interplay Production database. This configuration makes the entire contents of the archive searchable from any PC, Mac or iPad connected via Wi-Fi, allowing archived files that originated in Interplay Production to be searched and restored by users not connected to the production workgroup.

The axle MAM is accessible from any Web browser, and does not require any client software (Avid or otherwise) to perform its functions. axle supports both a simple search, where users can type in a keyword which will be searched across all metadata fields, as well as multivariable advanced searches, where specific values can be matched within defined metadata fields (which were inherited from Interplay).

In addition to search functions, axle allows browsing of all assets in the archive via its built-in H.264 streaming player capabilities. When each master clip is saved to the archive, a streamable H.264 proxy file is also placed into a reserved folder structure in axle, and associated with the master clip and its metadata.

Finally, the axle option provides a method to restore archived assets to Interplay from within the axle web browser interface. By specifying a clip to be restored, users can trigger the movement of the high-resolution media from the integrated XenData tiered storage system back to Avid's ISIS storage, where it will then be shown as online media within Interplay.

6. Contact Information

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