

USER REPORT

KKEY Grows With Video Technics

by Bill Rydia

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I have more than two decades of technical-operations experience and have spent the last two years with Clear Channel Communications.

Clear Channel's Television Division comprises 41 stations across the United States, which includes KKEY, a Telemundo affiliate in Bakersfield, which serves an ever-growing segment of Spanish-speaking viewers. With Video Technics' tapeless NewsFlow solution, KKEY was able to produce the first and only local, live nightly half-hour Spanish-language newscast in California's Southern San Joaquin Valley.

As is usually the case with most small start-up operations, the technical budget for KKEY's news build-out was pretty tight and we felt it was important to specify tapeless technology. We looked at several video file servers, finally agreeing on the Apella Video Clip Server from Video Technics after a successful implementation at our sister station, KLRT in Little Rock, Ark.

We discovered that the NewsFlow System, developed by Video Technics, would serve our need for a scalable video clip server for KKEY and also provide us with an affordable upgrade path for another of our sister stations, KGET. The fact that NewsFlow integrated so tightly with our AP ENPS Newsroom Software system was another huge plus.

OUT OF THE BOX

The Apella Video Clip Server is particularly easy to install and setup. We pulled the unit out of the box and started it up for the first time without any complications. The unit easily booted up to the familiar Microsoft Windows 2000 operating system.



KKEY PVTV Director Jonny Garcia sets up a news broadcast using the station's Apella server.

System documentation, technical setup and operational manuals were stored conveniently on the unit's system drive partition and we immediately began testing video output. The system is user-friendly and after our setup, we were able to go on-air a few days later without any training.

Our workflow is seamless between the ENPS news system and the Apella. The Apella server has a feature called "Hot-Folder" that allows our editors to simply drag-and-drop edited Quick-Time clips directly into the Hot-Folder for quick inclusion into the server's video library.

AP's ENPS rundown, using a Media Object Server (MOS) interface, automatically translates the Apella clip ID numbers stored in the server's media library to Thomson's ParkerVision News Production System's timeline. This lets us cue-up and playout from the Apella Video Clip Server during the live newscast.

Technical support at Video Technics is second to none. In the hectic days before our debut newscast, the technical, development and operations staff at Video Technics were available at

all hours to assist us and provide workflow suggestions, helping us meet our tight deadline.

Video Technics technicians worked tirelessly to provide us with software tweaks that enabled us to successfully interface different versions of Harris VDCP control protocol between the Apella Video Clip Server and our Thomson ParkerVision News Production System.

KKEY will continue to grow; because of its successful broadcasts with NewsFlow, we plan four and a half hours of live news coverage per day on KGET in early 2005. To accomplish this, we will add more Apella Video Clip Servers, a Ciprico DiMedia networked attached storage system and remote VT proxy editor applications to extend the capabilities of the six newsroom edit bays. ■

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For more information, contact Video Technics at 404-327-8300 or visit www.newsflow.tv.