TV5MONDE

Cutting-edge broadcasts reach over 200 countries on five continents

TV5MONDE is the leading international French-language television channel broadcasting to a daily average of 25 million viewers and 180 million households in over 203 countries. Based in Paris, TV5MONDE’s seven different channels offer subtitles in multiple languages in order to reach audiences simultaneously across five continents. With over eight primary distribution centers, broadcasts via 52 satellites, more than 6,000 cable systems, and availability in 3 million hotel rooms, TV5MONDE is the world’s second-largest distributed channel.

The individual requirements of its broadcast partners adds to the scale and complexity of TV5MONDE’s operation. To accommodate the cultural, scheduling, and technical needs of broadcasting partners, TV5MONDE often needs to modify its programs. This process is further complicated by time zone differences, rights management issues for films and TV series as well as local subtitling.

To deal with the thousands of hours of original programming, versioning, and an extensive back catalogue, TV5MONDE has made an extensive investment in IT technology including global WAN capacity and a large IBM storage area network (SAN) to manage its workload of large media files, graphics, and animation.

With growing requirements for widescreen formats, high-definition broadcast and IP-TV, TV5MONDE needed a dramatic increase in the capacity and performance of its storage platform. The company initially evaluated an upgrade to its existing SAN infrastructure, but limitations on scalability and lackluster performance prompted TV5MONDE to explore an alternative.

“The Isilon solution is easy to deploy and is progressive in terms of storage capacity and bandwidth. It is also very responsive to our storage requirements, enabling us to easily add TBs of storage whenever we need.”

GUILLAUME LAIRLOUP
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF IT SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY AT TV5MONDE

CHALLENGES
• With industry shifting to widescreen, high-definition programming, existing SAN could not meet changing capacity and performance requirements
• Business desire for cost efficiency with a "pay-as-you-grow" model
• Need for seamless compatibility with variety of other technologies

SOLUTION
• EMC Isilon scale-out NAS

KEY BENEFITS
• Capacity to store and deliver 15,000 hours of video
• Flawless, stable, and high-performance storage needed to meet growing high definition content
• Easy to deploy and manage to grow capacity and bandwidth as needed, as well as integrate with existing environment

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[Image of broadcast equipment]
Flexibility and performance were key requirements for TV5MONDE and, in a challenging economic climate, the company wanted a storage platform that would allow “pay as you grow” scalability. Another vital consideration was compatibility—with its core SGT Media, Asset, and Content Management system as well as cross-platform compatibility for computers utilizing Windows®, Linux, or Apple® operating systems.

TV5MONDE had already deployed EMC® Isilon® scale-out storage for use in another division. The success of this installation prompted TV5MONDE to pilot a much larger Isilon solution for use as a new storage infrastructure for the bulk of its audiovisual content.

Upon selecting Isilon installation and deployment was a smooth transition. As Guillaume Lailroul, Deputy Director of IT systems and Technology for TV5MONDE, explains, “The Isilon solution was easy to deploy and is progressive in terms of storage capacity and bandwidth.” The Isilon nodes take just two half-bays and integrate seamlessly with the SGT MAM software to allow it to store and index up to 15,000 hours of digital video as near online storage before broadcast. Following installation, the Isilon platform has performed flawlessly.

With Isilon, TV5MONDE now delivers a wider variety of programming in high definition, and has the ability to grow its storage infrastructure in line with demand.