



CUSTOMER CASE

HIPPODROME DE VINCENNES

STORING AND PRESERVING DIGITAL CONTENT AT THE MAIN CENTER FOR HARNESS RACING

"We chose Active Circle because of its ease of use, its transparent access in file mode and its use of the non-proprietary TAR format on tape, guaranteeing compatibility with standards."

THE CENTER OF HARNESS RACING

The center of harness racing in France, the Hippodrome de Vincennes is equipped with 24 video cameras which are used for recording the races for subsequent broadcasting. The primary mission of the association Cheval Français is to further the development of harness racing in France, and it is the rights holder of the recordings. Cheval Français manages the video production and broadcasting directly from the racetrack, thanks to an integrated production department for the web broadcast channels Equidia and Sulky TV.

THE RACES SINCE 1929 – A UNIQUE DIGITAL HERITAGE

Through this arrangement, the racetrack can draw from the considerable video collection managed by Cheval Français. All the events and races since 1929 have been filmed and archived, representing thousands of hours of content. The content is indexed using various criteria like date, driver, jockey, horse and owner, with management entrusted to the archiving team. The data are stored in appropriate facilities on site.

MOVING TO DIGITAL FOR A FASTER RESPONSE

The archives are stored on different media types, each corresponding to common formats being used at the time of recording, such as Beta videotape and Digital Betacam. This presents potential problems in the form of loss of videocassettes, theft, time lost searching for cassettes in the archives, multiple manual handling steps and high storage costs. Over time, the need for change was gradually recognized, and the project was initiated in 2010. "We realized that we needed to be more responsive, which meant converting to digital" confirms Thierry Bastian, technical director at Cheval Français. The project involves storing the digital heritage of Cheval Français, while at the same time improving security and reducing access time to the content.

THE SOLUTION: ACTIVE CIRCLE

The Active Circle solution is presented by the systems provider EVS, being compatible with their broadcast servers and IP Director software which perform the content requests. Following a review of various offerings on the market, the solution put forth by EVS and Active Circle was chosen. "We chose Active Circle because of its ease of use, its transparent access in file mode and its use of the non-proprietary TAR format on tape, guaranteeing compatibility with standards" says Michel Harnie, technical lead and project manager.



The Physical Archive Room

A SCALABLE SYSTEM

The archiving system consists of a server with the Active Circle software installed and a Quantum LTO i80 tape library equipped with LTO 5 tape drives. The total capacity of the system is 70 terabyte. The capacity can be increased by adding servers or expanding the tape library, without changing the architecture or affecting the workflow. The system may also be scaled by implementing new and improved technology, such as next generation LTO drives.

INTEGRATION WITH IP DIRECTOR

Active Circle connects with the EVS IP Director software through its file mode. This means that IP Director sees the Active Circle archive as a file system that can be accessed using CIFS. In the IP Director user interface, archiving is done by simple drag and drop. Searches are performed using the same user interface. Installation is quick. Thierry Bastian underlines this by saying: "Active Circle and EVS form the foundation of our success with this project, and we consider them true partners."

THE ARCHIVES ARE TRANSFORMED INTO DOCUMENTARIES AND DVD

Images are becoming an essential part of race promotion. The PMU betting offices and the racetracks are equipped with flat panel, widescreen TVs, and the bettors access the images on TV or on the web. The implementation of the new archiving system adds value to the archives, which are often used to produce documentaries and promote the races. Rapid access to the archived contents enables accelerated workflows and faster production times. In addition, the new system has allowed the rapidly growing service of DVD-authoring (or DVD on demand) to take off. The DVDs are ordered by breeders and drivers. Thanks to Active Circle, the teams gain rapid access to the requested races. They can retrieve the images according to various criteria like race, participants, drivers and jockeys and quickly deliver the DVD with the requested content.

A SECURE ARCHIVE IN FULL HD

Technical director Thierry Bastian summarizes: "The implementation of the new archiving system is a success. Our content is secure, we access it more quickly, and we gain more value from it. The storage and archiving of the contents is now in HD. This is a step towards going 100% HD, which is a gradual process due to budget constraints."



The main Technical Room



*« Our content is secure,
we access it more quickly,
and we gain more value from it. »*

Thierry Bastian –Technical Director



The Archiving Desk



Created in 2002, Active Circle develops software for organizations that manage large volumes of data: video content, images, scientific or technical data, or user information. The Active Circle solution optimizes data lifecycle management while at the same time simplifying storage administration and reducing total cost of ownership.

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