SOFTWARE GENERATION LIMITED

FlashNet

The most scalable, reliable, powerful and flexible content storage management system available to the broadcast industry

Size isn't important.

At least, it isn't to SGL FlashNet. Whether you are the smallest part-time broadcaster, or bustling multi-location post-house, or even a network that spans continents, SGL FlashNet has been designed to fit your requirements.
SGL FlashNet is the most scalable content storage management system available to the broadcast industry, providing unrivalled levels of flexibility and adaptability in tailored solutions that simply work.

Efficiency is.

SGL FlashNet's unrivalled power and amazing levels of resilience stem from the unique clustered architecture at its heart, and this Open System approach also ensures that FlashNet integrates seamlessly with all major broadcast vendors and third parties, providing your organisation with the most advanced content archive and storage management system available.

Your content. Where you need it, when you need it.

Intelligent architecture

SGL FlashNet's architecture is based around clustering. Each installation comprises 3 base modules: the database, the resource allocation module and one or more I/O modules. These modules are installed on physical servers, known as nodes. Each node is identical, running the same software as all others, and each node runs the I/O module. This means that every node in the FlashNet cluster is attached to the storage devices (disk/tape library etc) and is capable of performing data transfers. Servers are not dedicated to a single device or process, which means that all nodes can be used to perform any task.

SGL FlashNet's highly scalable architecture means that a system can comprise a single physical machine running all modules, or many nodes for high levels of resilience and data throughput. A clustered architecture with a central database gives SGL FlashNet unrivaled resilience, scalability and power.

Resilience

High availability is a key theme of FlashNet's clustered architecture. All nodes are in constant communication with the central database, and each module on each node reports its status every few seconds with a 'heartbeat'. If a node fails, or is taken off-line for maintenance, its workload is automatically redistributed throughout the cluster, keeping the flow of data to and from the archive consistent and uninterrupted. In standard clustered configurations the main database is also fully redundant, using the latest clustering software to ensure that content is available 24x7x365. In addition, FlashNet's unique system of storing index information on the same media to which data is written means that in the event of ultimate system failure the database can be rebuilt from the individual media. The database records the usage of all components in the archive, and uses this data to load balance across the cluster, to maintain component health to the highest possible level. The automatic failover capabilities in SGL FlashNet also enable active upgrade and maintenance. When downtime is required, individual servers can be shut down safely while the rest of the archive is operational.

OPEN system

Open System is the philosophy that drives the development of SGL's broadcast solutions.

It means that all our solutions are developed to be as accessible and integration-friendly as possible. Our products and services are designed and produced in conjunction with all leading broadcast vendors, in all arenas, providing seamless operation in any broadcast environment. SGL's innovative XML-based API provides an open-standard, non-proprietary method for 3rd-parties to easily integrate with FlashNet, and we provide remote access to our labs so that developers can test against the latest version . SGL is the Open System, providing customers with more effective and efficient, integrated solutions.

Scalability

FlashNet is scalable to a virtually infinite degree. Smaller operations may require a lower-cost archive, consisting of, for example, a single physical server; this provides a compact yet highly efficient archive system, whereby all 3 modules run on the same machine. Larger facilities traditionally require greater speed and redundancy in the archive; using identical FlashNet software a cluster of 20 or more nodes can be assembled, driving 40 high speed tape drives at speeds of up to 140MB/s each and using several terabytes of disk storage. Whatever the size of the initial cluster, as data transfer requirements increase, the cluster grows with the simple addition of further nodes. More nodes mean that your content gets where you need it faster.

Solutions that fit

Whoever you are, whatever you do, SGL has a solution that not only offers significant ROI values, but will revolutionise the way you work. Some of the biggest names in broadcast from around the world have already adopted the SGL Open System approach. Our client list includes NBC News, CBS News, ESPN, BBC, TV Azteca, CNBC News, HBO Asia, MTV Turkey, Cox Enterprises and Fox, as well as many others from the smallest call-letter stations to the largest networks.

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