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KVM enterprise and video matrix switchers in broadcast applications



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The broadcast industry has readily embraced computercentric video, bringing with it a greater need to manage large data files. This trend, in turn, has increased the reliance upon IT technology in the broadcast workflow. Large video files need to be handled with flexibly. efficiency and without corruption.

KVM matrix switches provide instant access to video files within the broadcast workflow: from ingest through to editing, preview and playout. A KVM switch performs on video files a task that is essentially similar to that performed on linear video assets by the

production switch.

KVM switches deliver instant, flexible and unrestricted connectivity between users and data. High-resolution digital video files are immediately accessible to users across a network. An editor or graphic artist can use his or her own workstation with assets on a remote device. Files are actively accessed, not distributed, resulting in faster response and better asset management. Data storage can be optimised and secured in Central Apparatus Rooms (CARs).

IHSE's Draco enterprise KVM switches are the solution of choice for many of the world's most prestigious broadcast and editing operations; in studios, outside broadcast vehicles, post production and effects generation, including by the likes of BT Sport, ZDF, Sonic Magic Studios, ARD group and Facility House.

Draco switches deliver instant access to data files across any network and are available in single units with up to 288 ports. They deliver sub-millisecond switching, flexible port allocation and the ability of configuration into larger 'Matrix Grids'.

Video streams are transmitted throughout a switched network with no perceivable visual artefacts or delay to multi-head devices at 4K video resolution and beyond, incorporating high-speed USB 2.0 and HID interfaces as well as analogue or digital audio and RS232 or RS422 serial signals. This includes support of Mac Pro workstation installations.

Separating the workstation from its processor means it is not necessary to designate a specific location to a task: operators are not tied to desks; workstations can be located in the most convenient position. So the number of monitors is related to the number of users, not systems. Users experience no perceivable difference in video quality, mouse performance or display frame rate. It is as though they were on a local computer with no delay in computer response.

KVM matrix switches are well proven in high performance, mission-critical applications: in security, control rooms, government and military command centres, throughout airports and corporate office installations — delivering uninterrupted, flexible and uncorrupted data across vast distances.

Mike Whelan, managing director of specialist systems integrator Digital Garage, explained: "Broadcast studios, post-production houses and edit studios are rapidly building virtual systems where banks of computers and file storage devices are located in dedicated computer rooms. KVM switches provide dynamic and highly flexible connectivity with the ability to instantly reconfigure and personalise interconnections between terminals and processors.

"Any user can arrange terminals to their preferred configuration, while becoming less reliant upon the actual physical equipment configuration. The advantages to both the user and organisation are massive — in time and efficiency improvement and in maximising the use and flexibility of limited resources."

For more information, visit www.ihse.com.

