IHSE's KVM Solutions Help Bridge the IP Gap

Terence Teng, Managing Director, IHSE APAC, talks KVM systems and the industry's transition to IP-based workflows as the company prepares for BroadcastAsia 2018...

BroadcastAsia: Has BroadcastAsia 2018 come at a good time for the media industry? Why?

Terence Teng: The transition from traditional broadcast workflows to IP-based workflows is a major undertaking and one that broadcast organisations of all types need to embrace. As with all changes there are many options open to broadcast engineers and system designers. It is essential that they understand the options that are available to them and the implications on the way their businesses will operate in the future. Meeting suppliers and other users at a major show, like BroadcastAsia 2018, gives them the opportunity to assess the best possible route to navigate through this exciting transitional period.

BCA: What do you think are the key developments in your market sector at the current time?

TT: New ways of thinking will be required as the broadcast workflow becomes more IP-focussed and content is handled in the cloud as physical interfaces are removed in favour of IP transmission and connectivity. Broadcast engineers are in the process of figuring out how to implement new IP techniques and technologies and a common approach is to introduce piecemeal solutions and integrate them into existing architectures, taking advantage of the benefits those IP solutions bring.

The key development in the KVM market sector, at the current time, is undoubtedly the ability to combine real and IP-based virtual systems. Users connected directly to physical computer hardware expect to be able to connect in exactly the same way to virtual machines;

Draco vario bridges physical and virtual worlds

wherever they are. In the majority of cases they do not want to concern themselves with intimate details of the device they are accessing.

BCA: How is the company positioning itself for the future of broadcasting?

TT: Universal, simultaneous, connection to real and remote computers is an area that IHSE has considered in depth, which has resulted in the development and recent release of the Remote IP CPU unit.

The device provides instant, real-time access from a KVM switch network to virtual machines over an IP network. It is an essential bridge between IP and traditional broadcast infrastructures; allowing production staff to manage tools across both domains. When combined with a **Draco tera** switch and with local extenders, users can seamlessly, and simply, switch between in-house and remote networks from their own workstation.

This means that individual users can access remote and cloud services as easily as local resources, without having to change systems or understand the network topography. It allows them to concentrate on their own particular jobs, rather than be sidetracked by issues that should not concern them.

The result is that professional broadcast staff can operate at the highest levels of efficiency and performance, selecting the right tool for the task, instantly and without restriction; no matter what type it is, or where it is.

BCA: Are the latest technological advancements revolutionising how manufacturers determine new product offerings? How challenging is it to address these issues and keep ahead?

TT: Technological advancements will inevitably affect the development and release of products. This is particularly relevant in the broadcast industry for two reasons.

Firstly, the rapid evolution of remote and cloud-

based applications in a virtualised world is forcing a re-think in the ways that the broadcast industry operates; creating new opportunities for vendors and allowing new entrants, some of whom are major IT companies (Cisco, Microsoft, AWS, *etc*.), to enter the sector.

Secondly, the level of interaction and integration between tools, companies and service providers has implications across the board. When one vendor develops a new concept or technique, it has major implications on the products closely associated and connected to across the workflow.

It means that we have to understand the way the industry operates, interact closely with other vendors and anticipate the way the market is evolving.

BCA: Is the increase in live production requirements changing the sector in any way?

TT: The sheer number of live events added to the broadcast schedule each year massively affects the economics and operation of broadcast organisations. Perhaps the greatest and most visible effect so far is the use of IP networks in the contribution element of the broadcast workflow. Being able to deploy multiple cameras at distant sports events, for example, and bring the images back to a

centralised and multi-purpose production facility drastically reduces the amount of equipment needed on site. Specifically, a full OB van does not need to be sent with all the associated costs it incurs. Production staff can manage several channels simultaneously from a single remote location with a vastly-reduced set of equipment and overall costs are reduced.

BCA: Why should delegates visit your stand at BroadcastAsia?

TT: KVM switch systems are already used by the world's leading broadcast organisations. They are an essential element of the broadcast infrastructure, giving each operator instant access to every computer and tool within their local facility. With just the press of a button, or a short keyboard sequence, a user can instantly flip between one machine and another and access all devices from the workstation on their own desk. With no perceivable transmission latency or image degradation, performance is so good that users don't even realise the hardware they are accessing is hundreds of metres away.

The **Draco vario** Remote IP CPU unit bridges physical and virtual worlds, allowing local networks to be seamlessly and transparently combined with remote networks. This solution supports multiple sessions allowing users to open several sessions in parallel and has the ability to share sessions amongst different users.

A visit to our stand at BroadcastAsia 2018 will allow broadcast engineers and professionals in this industry to explore the ways that they can deliver the most highly efficient and usable KVM solutions to their organisations in this rapidly-changing industry.
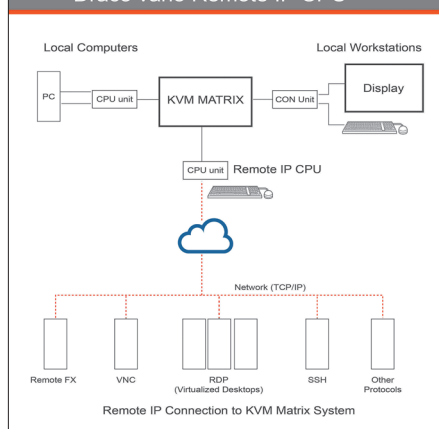
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How it works
Draco vario Remote IP CPU

Local networks can be combined with remote networks

Interest in VR/AR systems in Pro AV sectors is growing