

Korea National Open University

CASE STUDY



The Challenge

Korea National Open University (KNOU) is a Seoul-based university that specializes in distance learning and, to this end, provides approximately 180,000 students with content via Open University Network (OUN) - television broadcast, Web streaming & download, and IPTV, Satellite TV. In creating this educational content, the university had been relying on a tedious and time-consuming tape-based production workflow. KNOU's challenge was to replace this costly, inefficient workflow with a faster, more flexible file-based HD production workflow.

The Solution and Workflow

KNOU installed a Harmonic video infrastructure in phases to enable and optimize a new file-based production workflow. In the first of two deployment phases, the university installed two SD and two HD Spectrum™ media server systems within its sub-control room to support its production operations and to provide convenient media access for the facility's Apple Final Cut Pro nonlinear editors.

"The Harmonic Spectrum media server was our preferred solution primarily because it is a reliable and scalable system known for its proven performance at many customer sites," says Mr. Joon-Gi Kim, team manager at Digital Media Center (KNOU). "As we extended our Harmonic systems to support the entire production workflow, their robust format support and ability to interface smoothly with Final Cut Pro edit systems saved our operations both time and money."

The second phase, completed in June 2010, included installation of an additional four HD Spectrum server systems for production, six HD Spectrum systems for ingest, and a 60-TB Harmonic MediaGrid™ active storage system for high-capacity video storage. The new Harmonic systems were provided to KNOU by Seoul systems integrator Xein m&c Co., Ltd.

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SOLUTION AT A GLANCE

A new Harmonic video infrastructure at Korea National Open University (KNOU) has enabled the university to transition to an efficient, cost-effective tapeless workflow in the production of its distance-learning content.

The Result

The university's Harmonic platform, built on the Spectrum server and Harmonic MediaGrid system, provides KNOU staff with fast, convenient, and reliable media access from ingest through the editing of lectures and other distance-learning content.

The Harmonic systems' native support for 50-Mb/s XDCAM HD files enables simple real-time file transfers to Final Cut Pro nonlinear editors via open protocol, and the Harmonic API has enabled KNOU to give users VTR-like control of media on the Spectrum systems. A KONAN content management system transcodes content as required and creates the low-resolution versions of video, stored on the Harmonic MediaGrid system, that enable simultaneous browsing and searches by multiple client systems.

The shift from tape-based production to a file-based workflow has improved efficiency for KNOU staff in several key ways. With the ability to search, access, and browse low-resolution content stored on the Harmonic MediaGrid system, editors can much more rapidly locate and begin working on the content they need, even as other users or systems access that same piece of media.

Management of stored content is centralized, ingested into the Harmonic MediaGrid by the Spectrum systems, and the subsequent transfer of content between Harmonic storage and Final Cut Pro edit systems as 50-Mb/s XDCAM HD files saves KNOU both time and trouble compared with the university's earlier tape-based model. Centralized access to content also has allowed KNOU to move away from the limitations of a serial workflow toward a more collaborative parallel production environment.

