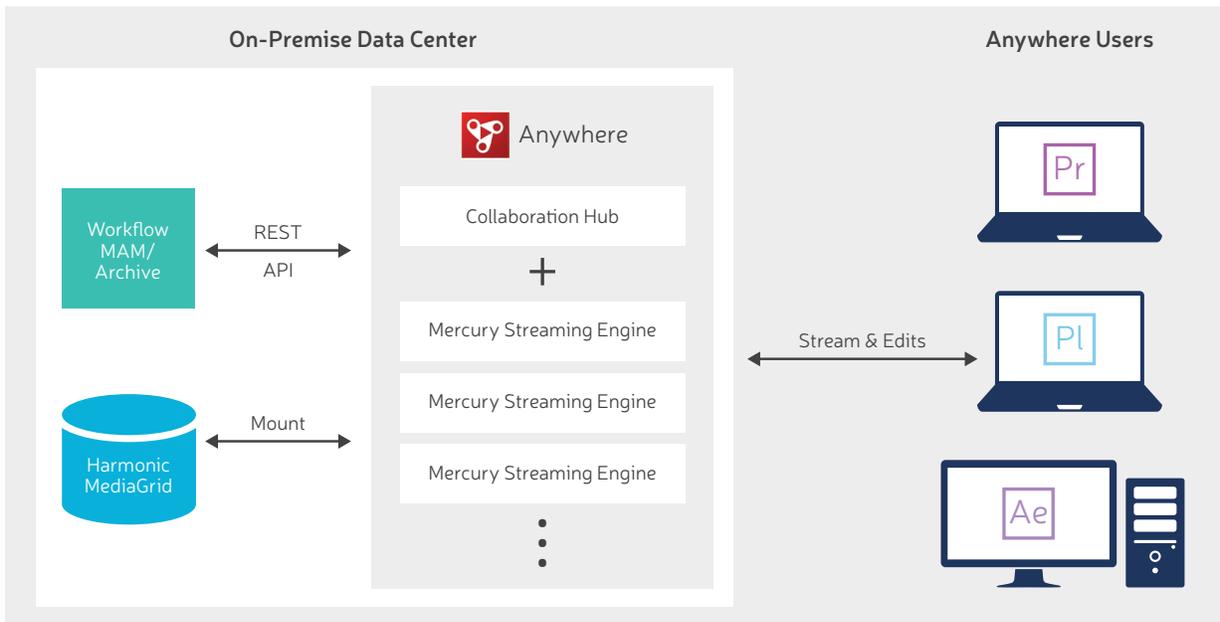# Adobe® Anywhere for Video

APPLICATION NOTE

Harmonic MediaGrid Shared Storage for Adobe® Anywhere

Introduction

Harmonic MediaGrid is an easily scalable, Ethernet-based shared storage system optimized for digital media. It provides the ideal bandwidth performance and storage capacity required to support the Adobe® Anywhere for video collaborative workflow platform.

Together, MediaGrid and Adobe Anywhere allow content creators to access and process workgroup content from virtually any location where there is network connectivity—even if the throughput needed for tasks such as high-resolution, native codec editing is unavailable. The products form a powerful solution for applications as diverse as quick-turn news production, digital post-production, viewing and editing dailies, or any editing situation where collaborative workflows and/or media access is limited or unsuitable for traditional edit-in-place operations.

For users of Adobe Anywhere, the primary benefit of MediaGrid is its sustainable performance and high availability. Whether storage is at 1% or 99% of capacity, MediaGrid enables consistent content delivery at predictable throughput levels. When capacity needs to grow, MediaGrid scales both bandwidth and capacity in a non-disruptive fashion. This capability assures that Adobe Anywhere editors, visual effects artists and other video professionals can simultaneously access, stream and work with remotely stored, high-resolution media over both local and remote networks with absolute confidence. No need for heavy file transfers, no low-res proxy files, no dropped frames.

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What is Adobe Anywhere?

As a complementary solution to the Adobe Creative Cloud, Adobe Anywhere enables deep collaboration for enterprise-level video production workflows. Its capabilities are embedded directly in the latest versions of Adobe Premiere® Pro CC, Prelude® CC, After Effects CC and other Creative Cloud applications, eliminating the need for team members to learn new video software tools.

Adobe Anywhere operates across standard networks and requires no proprietary hardware. For complete control and security, it is hosted on-premises with other enterprise media storage and asset management infrastructure. The solution introduces the Mercury streaming engine, a new technology that dramatically alters the speed-quality tradeoff normally associated with distributed video workflows. With the Mercury streaming engine, users can work directly with high-quality media without delay. Clips are accessed remotely via a dynamic streaming technology that provides full resolution and very high quality over standard networks.
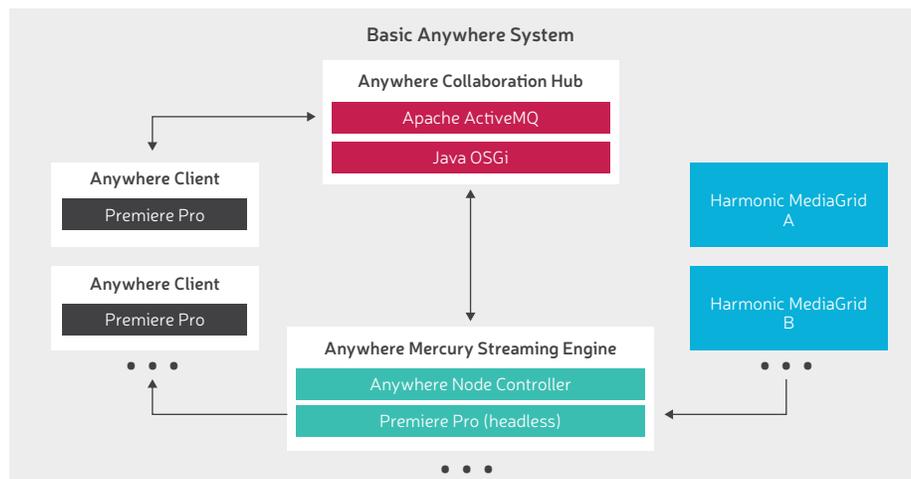
Adobe Anywhere Workflow with MediaGrid

The Adobe Anywhere platform contains two types of components: Collaboration Hubs and the Mercury streaming engine. By adding more Mercury streaming engines to the system, it can scale to support bigger workgroups.

Adobe Anywhere is designed to be located in the data center, alongside the MediaGrid storage system and the user's media asset management (MAM) system of choice, such as Harmonic's Media Application Server (MAS). The MAM system is used to manage the content lifecycle, from tracking source assets through production all the way to archive. Adobe Anywhere directly integrates with MAS via REST over HTTP, and can be used to create custom workflows via the Anywhere API.

Connections between Mercury streaming engines and MediaGrid are via standard TCP/IP. The streaming engines host local instances of Premiere Pro and provide access to mounted MediaGrid volumes. Clients can access their Anywhere projects over any workstation connected to the Internet—there is no need for each creative workstation to have its own dedicated Ethernet or fibre channel connection.

Anywhere Collaboration Hubs utilize standard protocols and specifications such the Apache ActiveMQ™ open-source message broker and Java OSGi framework. The hubs negotiate communication between distributed Anywhere Node Controllers and clients, and manage tasks such as media ingest, export and conversion.

In addition to supporting the Mercury streaming engines, the MediaGrid can connect directly to editing clients located inside the broadcast center. This high-performance, mixed deployment simplifies implementation and saves the user from needing to build and support separate storage systems.

An Adobe Anywhere deployment with two mounted MediaGrid storage systems

Conclusion

An Adobe Anywhere solution featuring Harmonic MediaGrid shared storage offers significant flexibility and scalability while eliminating compromises in video resolution, image and sound quality. MediaGrid also provides the low latency and throughput to enable Anywhere clients to achieve maximum video playback performance, whether they are located within the building or across the world. By minimizing the hardware and support needed for distributed production and post production, the MediaGrid-Anywhere solution also simplifies administration and management tasks, reducing CAPEX and OPEX.