Customer Success Story

Amplidata builds Live video Archive for Montreux Jazz Festival

LEVERAGING AMPLIDATA OBJECT STORAGE TECHNOLOGY TO BUILD A LIVE VIDEO ARCHIVE

Data archiving is traditionally seen as a tedious, time and money consuming process. But companies are starting to understand the value of their archived data. For companies to exploit their data archives, those archives need to be easily accessible. Latency is key! One organization that definitely understands the value of their "archive" is Montreux Sounds, curator of the Montreux Jazz Festival archives.

More than 5,000 hours of concerts have been recorded since the inception of the Montreux Jazz Festival in 1967 by the visionary Claude Nobs. It is the musical and technological restoration of this inheritance that is at the origin of the creation of the Montreux Sounds Digital Project. Montreux Sounds has established a collaboration with the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology of Lausanne (EPFL) to "digitize" and valorize memorable concerts of past editions of the festival. It is a cultural and educational project to safeguard this heritage for future generations and to emphasize its value for scientific and artistic projects.

STEP 1: SECURING THE FOOTAGE ON TAPE, REDUNDANTLY

The first phase of this mega-project was to make an inventory of all the existing footage and copy the data to digital tape. LTO tapes were a logic choice for availability and cost efficiency reasons. For this part of the project, it was important to design an error-proof process that facilitates archiving approved assets for an indefinite time.

STEP 2: CREATING AN "ACTIVE" ARCHIVE

As a second phase of the project, EPFL is building a storage infrastructure that will enable the festival to make the library more easily available for future developments. Building a true "Active" Archive was, according to the EPFL researchers only possible if the following requirements were met:

- Long life cycle ("a hundred year archive")
- Low energy consumption
- Immediate access to the data; low latency
- High security, protect access to media by unauthorized users
- High availability (built-in redundancy to prevent loss of data)
- Cost-efficient
- "Fast" and easy replication mechanisms

Amplidata's AmpliStor was the only technology that meets these requirements as it combines the low power requirements of a dormant archive and the high throughput requirements of a live system.

ARCHITECTURE

EPFL acquired and installed a total of 128 AmpliStor nodes, totaling 1PB, and 6 storage controllers. The hardware is set up in two datacenters. At the EPFL data center, 76 nodes will provide storage for further EPFL research. The plan is to eventually maintain a disk-only archive. EPFL will investigate what the potential is of the active archive and what the limits are.

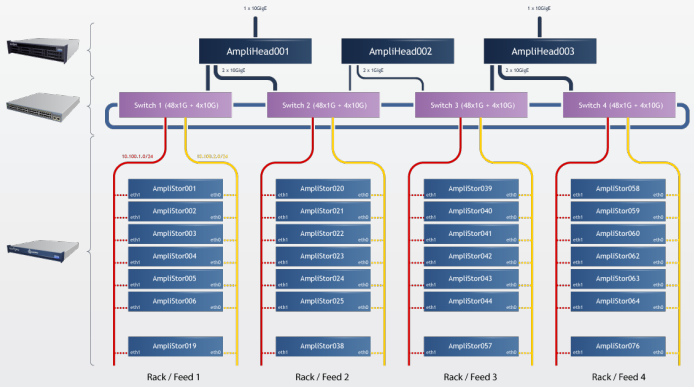

Image 1: Live Archive Architecture

STEP 3: SUSTAINING THE ARCHIVE ON THE LONG RUN

Archiving is a continuous process. Maintaining an archive can only be done efficiently when it is well-planned and well-designed. The two main challenges are scalability, providing for growth, and hardware redundancy. The festival will continue to record content that needs to be preserved. The

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quality of the recordings will keep improving and this will affect storage requirements. Capacity requirements could increase up to 1600%. Also, it is very important for the project to build an archive that can evolve as new hardware technologies become available. Over the next five years, EPFL will address the sustainability problem and carefully evaluate the challenges to preserve the archive for the long run such as growing the archive with new content, managing technology shifts and minimizing operating costs.

AmpliStor was designed to meet scalability requirements for projects like the Jazz Montreux Archive and is completely hardware independent. Although the system comes preinstalled on AmpliStor appliances, customers can, over time, decide to switch to different hardware platforms without service interruption.

CONCLUSION:

Alexandre Delidais Director of Operations and Development at EPFL: "This partnership is a fantastic opportunity for both parties to evaluate and innovate a real platform with such a wide and conflicting set of constraints. The high demands of video and the appetite of the Montreux Jazz organization to always use latest technologies for capturing concerts will make this platform future-proof for the mainstream needs 5 years from now."

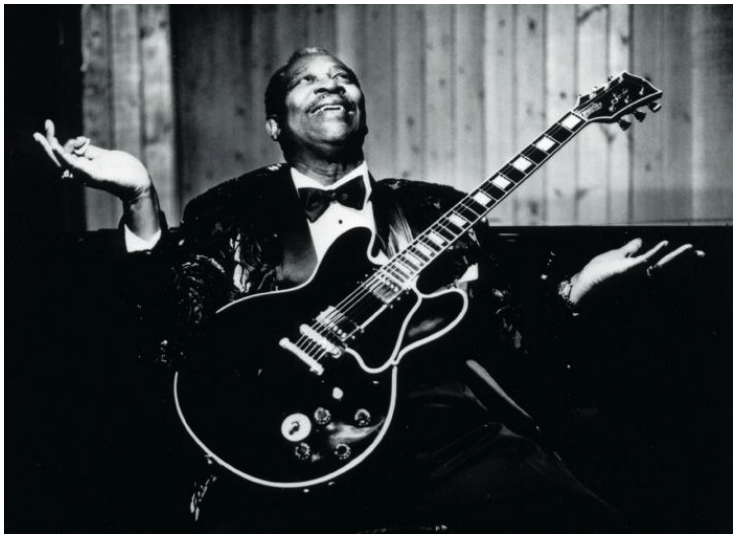

Image 2: B.B. King Live at Montreux Jazz - Courtesy Montreux Jazz

ABOUT MONTREUX JAZZ SA

Founded by Claude Nobs in 1967, over the years the Montreux Jazz Festival has become an unmissable event for music fans in Switzerland and around the world. Its stages have been graced by all of music's greats, from Miles Davis to Ray Charles and from David Bowie to Prince. Whereas Jazz constitutes the Festival's historic core, other styles of music were quickly integrated into the Festival, bound together by a common thread of mutual curiosity and enthusiasm. Montreux Sounds SA was founded in 1973 by Claude Nobs with the aim of safeguarding and maintaining the Montreux Jazz archives.

ABOUT EPFL

EPFL is one of the two Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology. Like its sister institution in Zurich, ETHZ, it has three core missions: training, research and technology transfer. Associated with several specialized research institutes, the two Ecoles Polytechniques (Institutes of Technology) form the EPF domain, which is directly dependent on the Federal Department of Home Affairs. With over 350 laboratories and research groups on campus, EPFL is one of Europe's most innovative and productive scientific institutions. The School's unique structure fosters trans-disciplinary research and promotes partnerships with other institutions.

ABOUT AMPLIDATA

Amplidata responds to the market's need by solving the problems traditional technologies face and guarantees ultimate availability on all storage tiers. Leveraging their BitSpread technology, Amplidata enables customers to build highly available storage infrastructures at significantly reduced cost.

Amplidata is active in North America, Belgium, Germany and Egypt, and has its operational headquarters at the Innovation Center in IT Valley in Lochristi, near Gent, Belgium. R&D are located in Belgium and Egypt, sales and support are represented in a number of countries in Europe and North America. More information can be found at www.amplidata.com.

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