



CASE STUDY

Studio Hamburg preserves award-winning cinema and television with Spectra Logic solution

“ The idea was to renew our backup system and integrate the existing media archive into the backup. Spectra’s hardware infrastructure offered the performance we needed at a great value, with good references and strong system partnerships.”

Dietmar Schuldt, IT Services Manager, Studio Hamburg



*Spectra
BlackPearl
and
Spectra Stack
Tape Library*



Founded in 1947, Studio Hamburg is known internationally as a leading provider of cinema and TV productions. Its services cover all areas of the modern film industry, including broadcast/IT projects, studio operations, decoration, post-production, dubbing and the rights and licensing business. The group’s production portfolio reaches across all programming segments, from award winning cinema, documentaries and television films to long-standing series, mini-series, daily soaps and entertaining television variety shows. Some of its subsidiaries include Studio Hamburg Production Group, Cinecentrum, Polyphon, Studio Hamburg Serienwerft, Studio Berlin, Studio Hamburg Atelierbetriebs GmbH, Studio Hamburg MCI, Studio Hamburg Synchron and Studio Hamburg Postproduction.

The Challenge

Studio Hamburg, which is comprised of 30 companies and production teams, has been experiencing significant content growth. The organization’s entire workflow is digital, including filming, video editing, cutting, retouching, sound recording, fine tuning, and finalizing the product. A 45-minute TV series can generate several hundred gigabytes of original footage, as well as working copies, editing material, photos and the like. Studio Hamburg has a constant need for large-scale media storage and backup. Some of their subsidiaries and production teams had maintained their own backup and archive systems, which typically meant standalone external hard drives or NAS systems locked in a storage cupboard.

After five years of operating, it was time for the existing storage infrastructure to be adapted. The main focus of their new system was on backing up the Studio’s 100 VMs, the databases, the Microsoft Exchange systems and the file system. Studio Hamburg wanted a hybrid and scalable solution for backup. Media data is also backed up from the archive, so the new system needed to offer transparent asset management across their companies and production teams and shift their growing content to a central secondary storage. Studio Hamburg was looking to incorporate online, nearline and archive storage repositories in a flexible structure



The entrance to Studio Hamburg’s headquarters. Photo credit: Studio Hamburg.

CASE STUDY: Studio Hamburg

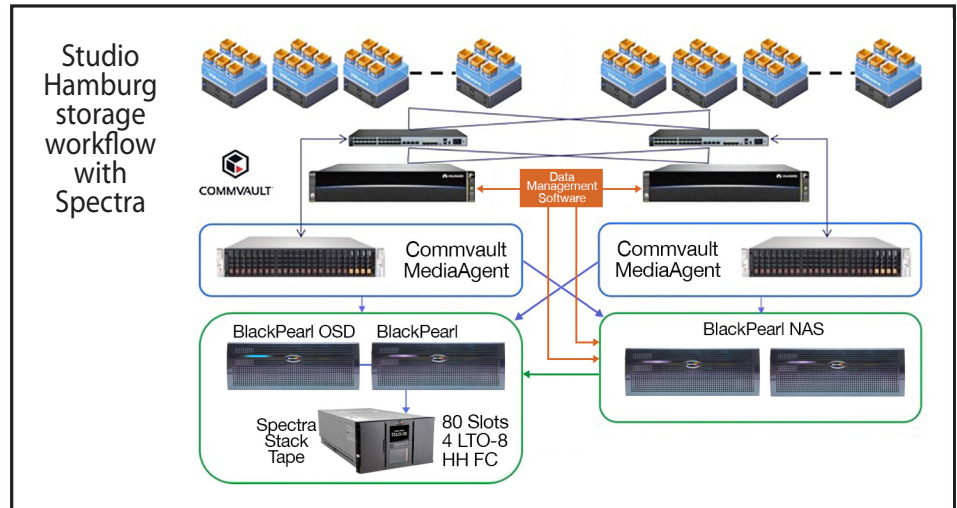
connected via Fibre Channel. User access to the archive was also deemed necessary.

The Solution

With the guidance of system integrator itiso, Studio Hamburg adopted a new online storage system by Huawei, as well as a Spectra® BlackPearl® NAS Solution for long-term content preservation, along with a partner data management software. The new structure replaces an old storage system with 147TB that had been in operation since 2013. The BlackPearl NAS enables an active archive solution that provides appropriate access and a performance of over 800 MBps. Its verification features permanently check the content, which ensures that digital assets are available when needed.

Just eight months after installing their first Spectra solution, Studio Hamburg added another 4U Spectra BlackPearl NAS Solution. With a read/write performance of over one gigabyte per second in a single CFIS file share, this NAS system attaches to five editing stations where Studio Hamburg converts short clips into different formats for several large media organizations. Files are moved transparently into the long-term NAS storage tier with integrated software, deleting files at the source after they have been migrated off the primary storage to free up space. The whole process happens automatically based on storage policies set by the studio's IT department.

In 2020, Studio Hamburg decided to replace their backup solution. They deployed a Spectra® BlackPearl® Hybrid Storage Platform with Object Storage Disk and a Spectra® Stack® Tape Library with LTO-8 drives. For their backup workflow, a NAS Fileshare on the new object-based BlackPearl platform performs as a backup target for their Commvault software, with a second copy written to an existing BlackPearl NAS. Full backups are written to the Spectra Stack every month. In addition, daily snapshots are sent from the NAS to a separate partition on the tape library via Network File Interface (NFI). The built-in NFI client provides automated data movement from Spectra NAS to tape through the BlackPearl platform. They



expect that the new system will ingest a total of 1.8PB per year. The solution enhances their data protection strategy with multiple copies of backup data in a Perpetual Tier of storage.

Environment Snapshot

- BlackPearl Hybrid Storage Platform with 36 16TB HDDs in NAS Fileshare
- BlackPearl Object Storage Disk (OSD) Solution (40TB)
- Spectra Stack Tape Library
- Four LTO-8 Tape Drives
- Commvault backup software
- Spectra BlackPearl 4U NAS Solution with two expansion nodes and over 90 16TB HDDs (1.4PB total capacity)
- Second Spectra BlackPearl 4U NAS Solution with 35 8TB HDDs (280TB total capacity)
- Integrated data management software
- Two Huawei OceanStor 2600 V3 arrays

Why Spectra?

- Great performance
- Hybrid and scalable solution
- Easy-to-use and affordable solution
- Object storage to disk, tape or cloud
- Active archive
- Strong relationship with partner Itiso

Solution Recap

Spectra BlackPearl – BlackPearl was designed to provide a modern, simple portal to a multi-tier object-based storage architecture that is cost effective, easy to manage and scalable to exabytes of data. Designed for organizations where content and long-term integrity is at the core of their business, BlackPearl allows assets to move seamlessly to disk, tape and cloud storage, in a way not previously possible.

Partner Profile:



ITISO GmbH is an information technology and services company based out of Hamburg, Germany. Working with partners like Spectra Logic, ITISO consultants and system architects integrate tailor-made IT architectures and individual solutions with the purpose of supporting and assisting companies in the development and implementation of data management solutions that optimally reflect their specific business processes and future requirements.