Workflow solutions
for media professionals.

sns
studio network solutions

Create amazing content, faster, from anywhere.

About SNS

Studio Network Solutions (SNS) is a creative, award-winning, media technology company specialising in high-performance shared storage workflow solutions for media production and post-production teams.

On premise, in the cloud, or both, SNS's scalable EVO shared storage solutions come with the award-winning EVO Suite, featuring built-in media asset management and advanced workflow tools that integrate with other leading creative technologies, including Adobe® Premiere® Pro, Final Cut Pro®, DaVinci Resolve®, Avid® Media Composer®, and more.
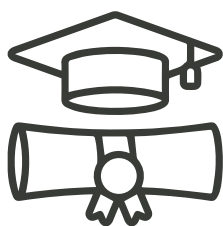
Trusted by video professionals worldwide, SNS empowers post-production, broadcast, and VFX teams in over 80 countries to create amazing content, faster, from anywhere.

Case Studies

Here, we showcase the variety of environments that benefit from the shared storage workflow solutions provided by SNS. **Click the icons below to read the case studies.**
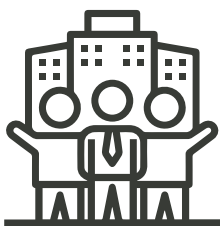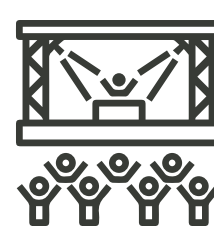

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SNS EVO Knows What it Means to Be Specialized

Specialized Bicycle Components, Inc., a global leader in designing and manufacturing high-performing bicycles, cycling components, and apparel, has redefined what it means to produce engaging video content. With a small but dedicated in-house production team, Specialized creates over 200 videos annually along with a plethora of images, enriching its website with captivating stories and resources.

The Challenge: Managing Growing Assets

The biggest challenge Specialized faced was managing and storing its rapidly growing media assets. Initially, the production workflow was limited, relying on direct-connect hard drives to a Mac tower. As the team expanded, the need for a more efficient sharing and collaborative solution became apparent.

The Initial Setup: Seeking Solutions

Specialized's workflow consisted of three Mac workstations running Apple Final Cut Pro (FCP) with direct-connect storage. They needed an additional storage solution for better asset sharing and organisation. However, they initially chose a SAN solution that was incompatible with their FCP editing workflow, leading to further complications.

The Solution: SNS EVO Shared Storage Server

Specialized turned to the EVO shared storage server to streamline their production workflow. Aaron Vogel, Video Specialist at Specialized, highlighted the need for a solution that enabled the team to collaborate on projects with centrally stored media. Their previous solution fell short, but EVO's compatibility met their needs perfectly.

Enhanced Workflow with EVO

EVO's flexibility allowed Specialized to connect directly using multiple 1GbE or 10GbE. This setup enabled seamless connection of iMacs, Minis, laptops, and PCs to the shared file system, facilitating an easily expandable workflow.

EVO's capabilities extend beyond FCP sharing, supporting Avid project and bin sharing, Adobe project sharing, and ProTools sharing. This versatility has been pivotal for Specialized, allowing them to efficiently manage and edit their extensive media library.

Preparing for Future Growth

With EVO, Specialized has set the stage for continued growth. As the production unit expands, the team can easily upgrade capacity and connectivity, ensuring that EVO can support future demands. The latest version of EVO also includes the award-winning EVO Suite of software tools, enabling users to search across all EVO storage, as well as local, offline, and other network disks. The EVO Suite allows files to be indexed on the fly, making it easier to find, preview, and share media assets and projects.

Conclusion

Specialized Bicycle Components has leveraged SNS EVO to overcome significant workflow challenges, enabling their production team to collaborate efficiently and produce high-quality content. EVO's robust and flexible shared storage solutions have not only streamlined Specialized's current operations but also prepared them for future growth and increased content production, ensuring that their media assets are secure, organised, and easily accessible.

Texas Christian University Drafts EVO For A New Sports Video Team

Starting From Scratch: Building a Dream Workflow

It's your first day as the head of a brand new video team. You arrive full of enthusiasm, only to be greeted by a shelf of external hard drives and a small server partition provided by the university's IT department. For some, this might be discouraging, but for others, it's an opportunity to build the workflow of their dreams. This was Chris Salters' experience when he joined TCU to lead a new video production team within the University's athletic marketing department. Chris was eager to take the department in a fresh, cinematic direction, and he embraced the challenge head-on.

From Texas A&M to Hollywood and Back

Chris was first introduced to post-production at Texas A&M University, working his way through school in the university's in-house production unit within the athletics department. After college, he moved to California and spent six years honing his craft at one of Hollywood's top trailer houses, rising from an intern P.A. to a full-time content editor. There, he became intimately familiar with the technology side of post-production - shared storage, media asset management, LTO archives, and workflows.

Identifying the Need for Shared Storage

When Chris saw the shelf of hard drives and the data server his new department was using, a shared storage and media asset management solution immediately leaped to the top of his priority list. "The biggest issue we had, aside from adding more staff, was the need for speed to allow everyone to access the media," he explains. The existing server, designed for data, was insufficient for video production. Demonstrating the server's inadequacy by showing his superiors how it caused his computer to stall while scrubbing through video proved his point effectively.

The Right Solution: EVO 16 Bay Shared Storage Server

Building a new infrastructure was no easy task. Chris needed a solution that provided enough performance for 7+ editors working simultaneously in Adobe Premiere, was scalable, and fit into an evolving media management workflow that included LTO archive. After months of research and product evaluation, Chris chose the EVO 16 Bay Shared Storage Server.

"EVO and its ShareBrowser software allow us to log our footage and add metadata, making it all searchable," says Salters. Each EVO system includes unlimited licenses of ShareBrowser, an intuitive asset management software that lets users search, tag, index, and preview media across all storage, which was vital for Chris's team.

Planning for the Future

When implementing a shared storage system, long-term goals are crucial. Chris knew from day one that he needed a system that would serve as the backbone of an evolving infrastructure - one that could support a growing team, a growing media library, new high-end media formats, and seamless integration options for backup and archival solutions. EVO and ShareBrowser provided the perfect solution, offering a reliable foundation for the team's evolving workflow.

"I'm excited to see what comes from this department," says Salters. "We've had a lot of changes within the past year, and I think it's only going to get bigger and better. It's pretty cool to be a part of it."

Nashville Public Library Checks Out EVO

Why Nashville Public Library Needs Specialised Audio/Video Storage

If you think a public library has no need for specialized audio/video storage, think again. From Pulitzers to podcasts, Nashville Public Library does it all. "We're not your average library," laughed Larry Jirik, Technology Services Manager at Nashville Public Library. Music City's 21-branch library system produces incredible content every day, including educational reading videos, audio podcasts, and special appearances from renowned authors like Sally Field and the late Congressman John Lewis.

How It Started

"Years ago, our production team told me they needed more storage capacity for all of our content," said Jirik. "We needed more than just storage, though. We needed to collaborate on editing projects, we needed a sandbox, and we needed to trust that we can access our storage at any time. So, I started doing research."

Jirik's research led him to an 8 Bay EVO media production server, a powerful audio and video editing storage system that benefits every part of his team's post-production process. "You can buy a storage appliance anywhere, but they aren't designed around video and audio production workflows like EVO. They just store data; they don't do much else," Jirik added. "The tools that were available with EVO were a big selling point. That's where EVO really stood out."

Financing EVO for Public Institutions

When it came to placing the order and investing in post-production storage, Jirik explained how the tax-funded civil service organization funded their EVO purchase. "We often apply for grants for funding. We are very fortunate to have the Nashville Public Library Foundation which provides private donor money as well," said Jirik. "After we presented our business case and what EVO would enable us to do in the video production department, we received the funding to purchase our first EVO… in 2013." For public institutions like Nashville Public Library, the benefits of EVO make funding decisions simple. EVO and

the included EVO Suite of workflow tools are available without any per-seat license fees, so there is no additional software cost as a team grows. Plus, EVO media production servers are manufactured in the USA within the guidelines of TAA compliance, and are trusted by thousands of public, private, and government institutions around the world. "Everyone I talked to about EVO had glowing reviews, especially about the support. Knowing that so many other public institutions had positive experiences with EVO made me even more confident in my decision."

How It's Going (and Going, and Going)

Eight years later, Jirik has become a vocal advocate of the EVO shared storage solution, frequently sharing his own rave reviews about his team's shared media storage infrastructure. "We're sitting with an uptime of 302 weeks, 4 days, 4 hours, and 59 minutes… and counting," announced Jirik with pride.

He continued, "my favorite part about EVO is that it is maintenance-free. Once I racked it, the EVO just sat there and ran. We haven't had to get support involved for hardware at all. And I never hear anything about it, so EVO is doing its job exactly as planned."

"The training we received was very clear and helpful as well," he added. "SNS made it easy to learn so we could start using the tools right away." **Read the full Case Study HERE**

Puppet theater is a big hit in Nashville Public Library's programming.

EVO Empowers Creative Ministry at Church by the Glades

A Tagline Fit for Innovation

Hyper-creative and fully charged. This tagline could describe a cutting-edge production studio, an avant-garde dance company, or the newest installation at a metropolitan art museum. Surprisingly, it fits a church—Church by the Glades (CBG).

A Diverse Congregation

With six campuses in South Florida, including two in correctional facilities, Church by the Glades welcomes upwards of 9,000 people to their weekend worship gatherings. Combined with live online experiences and television broadcasts, CBG reaches an extraordinarily diverse audience.

The Role of Creativity in Church

"Church here is like a caffeine punch in the face," says Mauricio Tinoco, CBG's Film Team Director. "[Lead Pastor David Hughes] believes that church should be fun and engaging. We have the greatest message ever told, and we need to tell it really well. We're going to mine culture and do something that helps engage people."

CBG's YouTube channel showcases culturally relevant message series supported by captivating art and advanced technology. Tinoco and his team—which includes four paid staff members and numerous volunteers and interns—produce four weekly television episodes, averaging seven projects each week. "We have almost no projects that pass through just one set of hands," Tinoco explains. "It's super collaborative, and that's something EVO makes possible."

EVO: Enabling Creativity

CBG's previous shared server setup was a cobbled-together system that was slow and inefficient. Every computer operated independently on its own 8 TB mini-RAID, enough to store only three weeks' worth of material. This setup made it difficult to create periodic recap videos quickly, an essential part of CBG's vibrant congregational life.

Tinoco sought a new solution with two non-negotiable features: storage space and speed. He found both in the 128 TB EVO 16 Bay. EVO's search capabilities, shared editing features, seamless software integration, and simple administration impressed him. "I was almost shocked at how easy it was to get it up and running. Setting up workspaces and user privileges was incredibly simple."

When Pastor Hughes requested a recap video, CBG's film team turned it around in eight days - from concept to completion. "Gathering footage was the easiest part because it was all in one place and easy to get to. While I was editing one highlight reel, three volunteers were on other stations finding more clips. As soon as they finished, they'd holler from the other room, 'Hey, Mo, you want to grab this footage?' and I would just pull it over. Before we had EVO, something like that would not have been possible in that amount of time."

Margin for More

With six iMac workstations running Adobe Premiere Pro and After Effects, EVO is a reliable, speedy, and intuitive partner for CBG's Film Team. "The amount of margin EVO created for us and the way it's made us efficient is just unreal," Tinoco explains. "We're not having to sit in the office, waiting for hard drives to copy or hunt them down."

Church by the Glades exemplifies how innovation and technology can enhance religious experiences. With EVO, CBG's film team can efficiently produce high-quality content, engage their diverse audience, and continue to grow their ministry.

EVO Gets Standing Ovation For Live Event Production

The 99 Problems of Live Event Production

Capturing the essence of a live event means recording more than just the performers. It's about capturing the whole experience: lasers, foggers, pyrotechnics, LED curtains, and even performers flying around. While this makes for an incredible fan experience, it presents significant challenges for recording and streaming to audiences outside the venue.

Regardless of whether you're streaming in 720p, 1080p, or 4K, live events can generate terabytes of media over a festival, tour, or single concert. Some may resort to saving footage across multiple drives, but this can lead to an event producer's worst nightmare: losing that once-in-a-lifetime media.

EVO: The Solution for Reliable Storage

Live event production crews need a dependable shared storage solution—one that safeguards captured footage and expedites turnaround time for deliverables. Enter EVO, a high-performance shared storage server purpose-built for media production teams.

A satisfied customer shared, "You always remember when you lose media. It's the worst feeling. Since EVO, I have not had to tell a customer that I don't know where their media is."

EVO offers various form factors ideal for live event production, such as the short-depth EVO 8 Bay Live, the DIT-friendly EVO Prodigy Desktop, and the vesa-mountable MOD.

Streamlined Post-Production with the EVO Suite

Securing media is only half the battle. The post-production workflow that follows can be just as challenging, especially if finding the right clips quickly is difficult. EVO's media asset management system, ShareBrowser, makes this process seamless. Editors can find, preview, share, and collaborate on media and projects faster than ever. ShareBrowser allows attaching custom metadata like artist, song, date, time, location, and shot angles to media files, making it easy for editors to find specific shots. "We used to manually write down timecodes for later reference," said a live event customer.

"ShareBrowser saves us hours by creating timecode-based comments with a simple click, allowing us to identify and access our media in seconds."

Enhanced Tools for Event Producers

In addition to ShareBrowser, EVO includes Slingshot and Nomad - tools that significantly aid event producers. Nomad, EVO's built-in remote editing tool, enables teams to work on media and projects on the go, accessing lightweight proxies for effective remote and offline editing.

Slingshot, EVO's built-in transcoder and automation engine, is a favourite among live event teams. It automates tasks like transcoding, transferring, backing up, and syncing media, which used to be done manually. This automation speeds up the production process, enabling faster day-of-show edits.

The EVO Suite Advantage

All these tools - ShareBrowser, Nomad, and Slingshot - are part of the EVO Suite, an award-winning software toolset included with every EVO solution. Customers praise EVO for enhancing their live production workflow. One event producer shared:

"Your successes and failures are public with thousands - potentially millions - watching in real time. We needed a reliable solution that could keep up, and EVO was that solution. Our whole workflow is now six or seven times more efficient. With EVO, I always know where my media is. It saves us time in turning around deliverables, and it saves us business in terms of reputation. I only wish I had made the switch sooner."

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