

Streamline the News production process

The journalist can work on audio, text, and all information sources fully integrated in the NCS (NewsRoom Computer System) workspace. Any of the journalists can edit a story with his NCS, edit audiobites (interviews, for instance) and then insert them in the story. These are easy to perform as all tools needed are available on a single screen. Furthermore, the chief editor is able to monitor and control the whole workflow from a single system. Several stories can be assembled into a "running order", that will be sent automatically to the Dalet system for broadcasting. Dalet's prompting interface, NewsCast, allows live updates from multiple users. When ready to air, pushing the "Next" button moves the first story in the running order to the "Now" line. The prompter starts scrolling.



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SUCCESS STORY



Dalet and ENPS Join Forces



ITN is the UK's largest private newsgathering and broadcasting company with 245 affiliate stations. From its London headquarters, ITN produces the daily news programs for all British commercial terrestrial networks: ITV, GMTV, Channel 4 and Channel 5. In August, ITN launched Digital One, a 24-hour ITN-branded news service available on DAB. Digital One is part of the News Channel service that provides news content for TV, radio, and the Internet. ITN has employed the Associated Press' ENPS newsroom system since 1998. ITN Journalists using ENPS can

conveniently browse incoming wires, edit text-only stories, and create rundowns. Journalists wishing to incorporate audio elements in their stories, however, had to use a separate analog, tape-based system. Implementing Digital One was a major concern for ITN since stories had to be suitable for many different media. Steve Holt, Editor of News Direct, ITN's 24-hour news radio station, explains, "In our business, everything is a deadline. Working on different systems represents a major disadvantage, because it slows everything down."

ITN produces for TV, Internet, and Radio



"The Dalet system will enable journalists to produce more content in a shorter amount of time".

Nicolas Wheeler, Chief Editor of ITN Radio

communicated to Newscast via the MOS protocol. Within the Newscast prompter window, text scrolls as the story is being read and sound bites, appearing as an icon, are inserted into the appropriate location within the text. To play the sound bite, the journalist simply clicks on a play button at the appropriate time.



A Fully-Integrated Solution

To streamline operations, ITN evaluated several integration options. After careful review, ITN selected the Dalet Newscast system along with a suite of Dalet production tools. "Dalet was chosen because ITN has always been impressed with Dalet's [digital] editing software," according to Ted Taylor, Director of Technology at ITN, "as well as its ability to now integrate with ENPS." Dalet's production tools and Newscast integrate with ENPS using the Media Object Server (MOS) protocol, an industry standard

that enables traditional text-only newsroom systems to inter-operate and exchange information with modern multimedia systems. With



this integration, journalists can incorporate any audio or visual element into their stories by simply "dragging and dropping"

those files into the Dalet workspace. The MOS protocol enables both systems to maintain a link between the stories created in ENPS and multimedia elements managed by Dalet. This link remains in place from production to scheduling to broadcast. By using this approach at ITN, journalists are able to acquire and edit audio using Dalet's simple-to-use production tools. The appropriate story is then linked to a sound bite and placed in a running order managed by ENPS. ITN is the only newsroom in the world where journalists read their stories on-screen. Newscast contains a prompter window that is accessible from ENPS through ActiveX controls. Story order is determined by ENPS and

Benefits of Integration

ITN is able to take advantage of numerous benefits including:



- Improved productivity since "the Dalet system will enable journalists to produce more content in a shorter amount of time," comments Nicholas Wheeler, Chief Editor of ITN Radio.
- Changes to the running order can be made seconds prior to broadcast, which is often necessary in a live news operation.
- A collaborative work environment that allows multiple users to contribute stories and make simultaneous changes to the running order.
- Better sound quality through Dalet's digital production and broadcast capabilities.
- Improved user-friendliness since the Newscast screens employ a modern and easy-to-use "look and feel" and appear

in the ENPS environment via ActiveX controls.

- Improved reliability through a redundant architecture that allows the broadcast to continue if one Newscast workstation fails.

These benefits, coupled with a fast deployment schedule and tight project management, have enabled ITN to achieve a high return on investment for this project and significantly improve productivity in a very short timeframe.