**StorNext Pro Solutions**

# New England Media Company Improves Workflow Productivity with StorNext Pro 4K

The pace of media production is under increased time pressure, even as file sizes increase due to acquisition of 4K and higher-resolution content. An aging Xsan infrastructure was presenting productivity and performance challenges for a New England media organization. With goals to scale its infrastructure to support high-resolution formats and to create content for multi-platform consumption, the company needed a storage solution to address current demands while providing a path for future growth. Quantum's system integrator partner, 1303 Systems, recommended and delivered StorNext Pro 4K to simplify the company's Xsan migration, address productivity concerns, and deliver the required scalability.

## WORKFLOW PRODUCTIVITY CHALLENGES

The media organization creates content for various distribution channels but was challenged in handling the larger files sizes associated with 4K and HD assets. The workflow is typical of many media groups: files are ingested and added to storage volumes; metadata is logged into the media asset management system; and stories are edited, finished, and published, with copies sent to archive. Working with a six-year old infrastructure meant many of the processes were manual, including retrieving tapes from archive. The productivity impact was significant as editors experienced delays of up to four days to get requested archived assets.

The existing storage infrastructure was already over capacity, and the organization anticipated not only an increasing volume of files but also increasing files sizes. In addition, the fast-paced environment required solutions that would not only enhance productivity but also provide the reliability and dependability that allow editors to focus on creating stories without concern for the underlying technology.

As it investigated new storage architectures, the primary goal was to implement a modern workflow that allowed the organization to work in HD and 4K while having very fast access to archived files. Not only did team members need to easily discover the files, they needed a storage infrastructure that would restore files very quickly. While the company liked the collaboration and user experience of Xsan, it tried

deploying a well-known scale-out network-attached storage (NAS) solution that just did not perform as expected and was limited in capabilities compared to Xsan. The media group realized it needed a solution that was media-savvy like the aging Xsan, but more modern and with the capabilities to handle increasingly large files and room for future growth.

1303 Systems had the answer, recognizing the value Quantum's StorNext® Pro 4K solution could provide to its client. The bundled solution delivered the Xsan-compatible foundation to address performance, along with a StorNext AEL Archive using LTO-6 tape for cost-effective asset preservation. The integrated solution also provided all the performance needed for real-time 4K ingest, editing, and finishing, with greatly reduced archive retrieval, from days to minutes.

## SOLUTIONS THAT WORK

"Quantum products and solutions are rock-solid and stable," says Chris Collum, President of 1303 Systems. "We knew they would work."

1303 Systems recommended Quantum's StorNext Pro 4K solution, a complete storage solution designed for media workgroups integrating StorNext 5 data management software with StorNext appliances, including options for archiving.

"The StorNext Pro Solutions provide an easy-to-implement foundation to address current challenges while providing a roadmap for scalability," says Collum.

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# 1303 SYSTEMS

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**Chris Collum,
President of 1303 Systems**

## SOLUTION OVERVIEW

- StorNext Pro 4K including:
  - StorNext 5
  - M662XL Metadata Appliance
  - QXS-1200 48TB Storage RAID System
  - QXS-1200 48TB Expansion Systems
  - AEL500 Archive System (3 drives/41 slots)
  - 24x7 Gold Support
  - Service Spares Kit

## KEY BENEFITS

- Complete 4K-ready storage solution with 100% Xsan compatibility
- Improved productivity when retrieving files from archive
- Highly scalable online, near-line, and archive storage
- Alignment between business growth strategy and storage performance
- Dependable reliable storage infrastructure

The StorNext Pro 4K solution is designed with the needs of modern workflows in mind. It focuses on the demands for bandwidth to handle the volume and I/O required for high-resolution content, plus the ability to support both SAN and LAN (IP) clients. With the media organization's strategic goals to become an industry game-changer and its increased use of 4K content, the implemented solution fulfills current needs while also providing headroom for increasing capacity requirements.

### SIMPLIFYING MIGRATION

A concern when updating any technology is minimizing disruption. The media organization could not afford any downtime; the approach was to build a secondary system, copy all the data, and cut over to the new solution very quickly. Because the organization had been using Xsan, it knew the benefits of Fibre Channel for guaranteed high-speed access to storage and efficient collaboration.

As in most media workflows, the storage infrastructure must be integrated with a variety of workflow applications. 1303 appreciated the track record of Quantum in integrating and validating performance with both asset management and editorial systems. More importantly, the file system's existing integration with Xsan reduced the concerns for data migration and reduced challenges in transitioning from Xsan controllers to StorNext metadata controllers.

The StorNext Pro 4K solution has provided the media organization with a powerful workflow solution. With StorNext 5 at its core, the high-performance collaboration, data management, and policy-driven software facilitates file sharing and movement of files throughout the workflow. StorNext Storage Manager automatically moves files to and from the archive, giving editors direct access to its nearline capacity and eliminating the need to manually retrieve tapes.

An upgrade from 2Gb Fibre Channel to 8Gb Fibre Channel, plus high-throughput online disk, has provided the desired performance improvements that had not been achieved with the previous 10Gb NAS scale-out solution. While online disk provides the high performance necessary for real-time editing, the StorNext AEL Archive library with LTO-6 tape helps to manage costs, preserve valuable assets, and give editors fast, fully automated access to archived content.

### INFRASTRUCTURE TO ALIGN WITH STRATEGIC GOALS

The media organization has strategic goals to grow its capabilities and be highly competitive in its industry. It intends to increase its use of high-resolution assets such as 4K, 6K, and even 8K content, as well as optimize its use of multiple distribution platforms. Its workflows must be able to keep up with these goals. Today, it incorporates editing suites such as Adobe Premiere or Apple Final Cut Pro as well as the Cantemo Portal media asset management system. Quantum's validated interoperability with these solutions as well as other file-based workflow technologies helps to position the organization for the future.
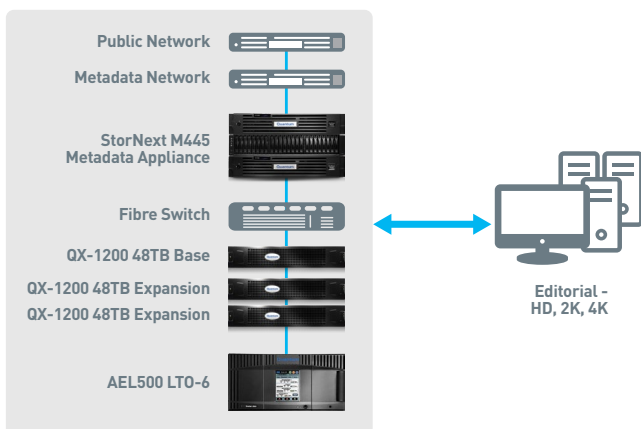
### QUANTUM-1303 SYSTEMS PARTNERSHIP

With its experience in the media and entertainment industry, 1303 Systems has the ability to identify technology solutions to fulfill its clients' long-term needs. In partnering with Quantum, 1303 is able to recommend storage architectures to address the high-performance requirements of modern workflows involving high-resolution content. Together, Quantum and 1303 deliver the expertise, bundled solutions, and support to give customers confidence as they pursue new business models for sharing media assets.

"The StorNext Pro Solutions provide an easy-to-implement foundation to address current challenges while providing a roadmap for scalability."

Chris Collum,
President of 1303 Systems

### ABOUT 1303 SYSTEMS

1303 Systems is a Silver-level Quantum Partner. It provides system integration services related to media & entertainment, collaborative workflow, workflow automation, and IT data centers. Its goal is to recommend and deploy the technology that allows clients to unlock their creativity.

**Public Network**
**Metadata Network**
**StorNext M445 Metadata Appliance**
**Fibre Switch**
**QX-1200 48TB Base**
**QX-1200 48TB Expansion**
**QX-1200 48TB Expansion**
**AEL500 LTO-6**

**Editorial – HD, 2K, 4K**

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