



CASE STUDY

ITV embarks on a ten-year digital archive project to preserve its video content for future generations with a Spectra Logic storage solution

“ Spectra Logic has provided us with the tools we need to simply and affordably archive ITV’s digital content for many years. Through the use of the BlackPearl and Spectra’s T950 tape library, our content is kept safe and secure, yet still easily accessible. ”

Marcel Mester, Senior Project Manager, ITV



Spectra T950 Tape Library and 4U Spectra BlackPearl



ITV is an integrated producer broadcaster and the largest commercial television network in the UK. It is the home of popular television from the biggest entertainment events, to original drama, major sport, landmark factual series and independent news. It operates a family of channels including ITV, ITVBe, ITV2, ITV3 and ITV4 and CITV, which are broadcast free-to-air. ITV is also focused on delivering its programming via the ITV Hub, mobile devices, video on demand and third party platforms. ITV Studios is a global production business, creating and selling programmes and formats from offices in the UK, US, Australia, France, Germany, the Nordics and the Netherlands. It is the largest and most successful commercial production company in the UK, the largest independent non-scripted indie in the U.S. and ITV Studios Global Entertainment is a leading international distribution businesses.

The Challenge

ITV was looking to embark on a new, long-term archive project to preserve the organization’s digital assets for years to come. They anticipated reaching volumes of up to 20PB of content over time, with an estimated increase of about 2PB each year, and needed to store it for up to 30 years. Therefore, they required a solution that was high in capacity and durability, with the ability to scale to accommodate future growth. They also wanted a solution that did not require expensive proprietary middleware, was open standard, and allowed them the flexibility to work with other ITV departments like sports and news.

The Solution

ITV already operated three Spectra tape libraries at other locations throughout the UK. Therefore, they knew that Spectra Logic was a company that could be trusted and that offered high-quality products and support. They selected two Spectra® T950 Tape Libraries and two Spectra® BlackPearl® Converged Storage Systems to preserve their content at two geographically dispersed locations on differing media types, which is becoming an increasingly popular standard in long-term preservation archives.

They are currently utilizing Spectra products at two different locations: Greenwich and Leeds. At Greenwich they have a BlackPearl and a dual frame T950 with five IBM® TS1150 drives; and at Leeds they have a BlackPearl and a four-frame T950 with six LTO-7 tape drives.



ITV’s website features a “Latest top telly” banner

CASE STUDY: ITV – British Television Network

Several creative departments within ITV simultaneously move content to and from the organization's preservation archive automatically via BlackPearl using multiple integrated partner applications and a Customer Created Client (CCC), and manually via Spectra's BlackPearl® Eon Browser. ITV also expects to deploy multiple new MAM clients throughout several workflows in the future - made possible with BlackPearl's multi-tenancy capability. These Spectra certified clients will write content to one location. BlackPearl will replicate that content automatically to a second location through its Advanced Bucket Management feature.

Spectra Logic's archive solution allows ITV to streamline their digital workflow, eliminating costly middleware and simplifying the management of their assets. Through the use of Spectra's certified media and media health reports, ITV can rest assured knowing that their video program content is always safe and secure. Spectra's solution has ticked all of the boxes on ITV's list, providing a simple, affordable and easy-to-use design that is purpose built to meet their organization's needs.

Environment Snapshot

- Spectra T950 with LTO-7 Drives and LTO-6 Media
- Spectra T950 with IBM® TS1150 Tape Drives and Media
- Two Spectra BlackPearl Converged Storage Systems
- Spectra BlackPearl Eon Browser
- Advanced Bucket Management (ABM)
- GigE and 10Gb Connectivity
- CISCO 4500 Network Switches
- Vidispine and JAVA CLI Scripts
- Customer Created Client (CCC)

Solution Recap

Spectra T950 Tape Library – The Spectra T950 Tape Library is designed to meet the stringent requirements of the enterprise environment for data integrity, data security and high reliability. The T950 library reduces staff involvement significantly, affordably scales in capacity and

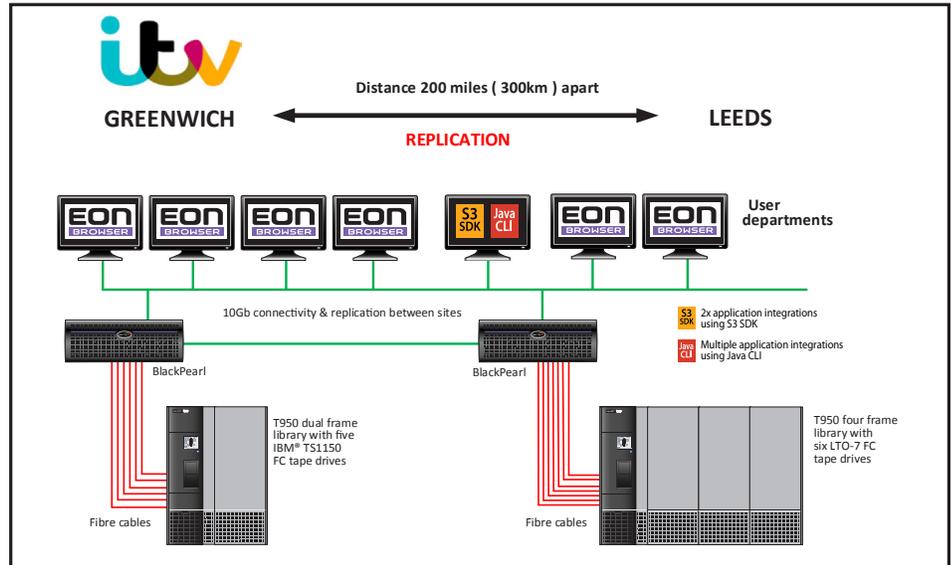


Image from a feature on eclipse watching in September of 2017

throughput, and delivers the best total cost of ownership of any tape solution.

Spectra BlackPearl Converged Storage System – The Spectra BlackPearl Converged Storage System solves the problem of costly and complex approaches to digital preservation by combining NAS and S3-based interfaces with multiple storage targets into a simple and affordable solution. Designed for numerous concurrent workflows, BlackPearl reduces the need for expensive third-party data movers by integrating Spectra S3-based interfaces with a range of certified clients and simple file movers.

Spectra BlackPearl Eon Browser – The BlackPearl Eon Browser, a client application for BlackPearl, provides

users a simple tool that not only stores assets, but simply allows users to search and restore files quickly. Its intuitive graphical interface facilitates the management and transfer of digital assets between any production storage or network share and the BlackPearl storage platform.

Spectra BlackPearl Customer Created Client – Spectra BlackPearl Converged Storage System requires a software client transfer data. Customers have the ability to create their own clients - a Customer Created Client, or modify an existing BlackPearl client to create a solution perfectly customized to their unique workflow(s).