



CASE STUDY

British Film Institute preserves UK film history with Spectra data solution for digital archiving and long-term storage

“ Our Spectra Logic solution has helped us create a content strategy to preserve the BFI National Archive digital collection long-term. BlackPearl integrates seamlessly into our workflow applications and allows us to easily store and quickly access our files on tape libraries. The non-proprietary format of the system and its genetic diversity gives us confidence in our system’s future roadmap. ”

Stephen McConnachie, Head of Data and Digital Preservation, BFI



About BFI

The British Film Institute (BFI) is the lead body for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive by connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema; preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations; championing emerging and world class film makers in the UK – investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work; promoting British film and talent to the world; and growing the next generation of film makers and audiences.

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by a Royal Charter. It combines cultural, creative and industrial roles, bringing together the BFI National Archive and BFI Reuben Library; film distribution, exhibition and education at BFI Southbank and BFI IMAX; publishing and festivals. This UK-wide organisation works with partners to develop and support original UK filmmakers and films, advancing the position of film in the UK.

The Challenge

The BFI National Archive holds one of the largest film and television collections in the world. Dating from the earliest days of film to the live capture of current television content, the collection contains over a million titles. In 2012, the BFI launched its Unlocking Film Heritage project as part of BFI’s Film Forever strategy. A core objective was to digitise 10,000 films from the BFI and UK regional and national film archives, by the end of 2017, and to provide safe and secure long-term storage and access of heritage film in a new Digital Preservation Infrastructure.

The new digital repository needed to integrate with existing workflow applications, be flexible with future applications, and accommodate predicted data growth. The BFI team was also concerned about being locked into a single vendor’s technology drive and media roadmap. They relied on the trusted



Video cassette digitisation in the BFI National Archive

CASE STUDY: BFI

expertise of OvationData, worldwide provider of sophisticated and scalable data management solutions, to determine the best strategy. OvationData selected a digital tape solution as the best choice for BFI's unique storage requirements.

The Solution

Several tape-based market options were in consideration for this new digital preservation infrastructure. The preferred solution was a Spectra Logic architecture with two expanded Spectra® T950 Tape Libraries and two Spectra® BlackPearl® Converged Storage System appliances.

Spectra Logic technology is non-proprietary and integrated easily with the BFI's Imagen media asset management. BFI configured its four-frame T950 with LTO-6 drives and media, and its dual-frame T950 with IBM® TS1150 tape technology, creating both genetic diversity and eliminating future roadmap worries associated with implementing a single technology.

The digital archive solution operates flawlessly, enables quick, easy public access, and has proven to be the best-in-class, long-term digital preservation for the nation's cultural assets.

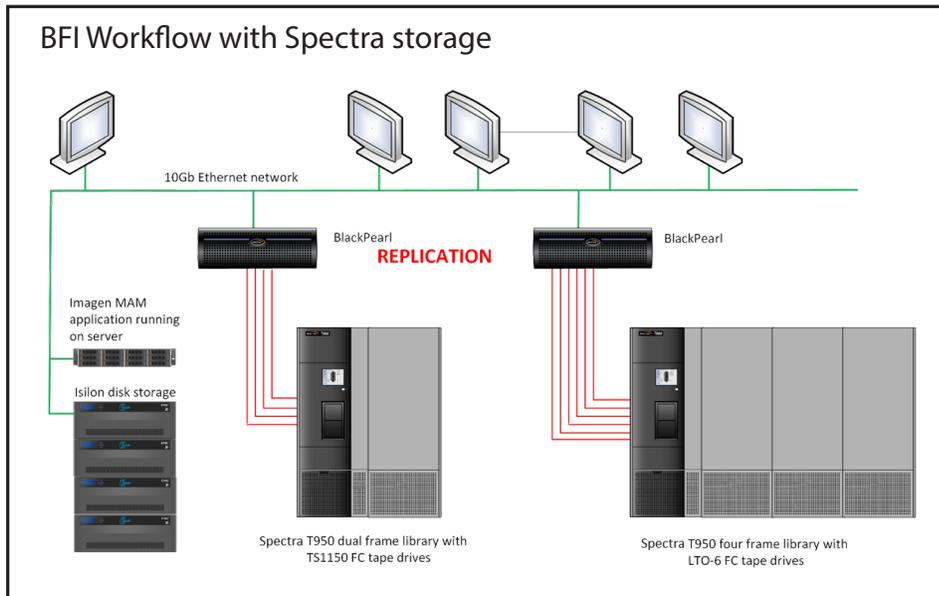
Environment Snapshot

- Two Spectra BlackPearl Converged Storage Systems
- Four-frame T950 with LTO-6 drives and media
- Dual-frame T950 with IBM® TS1150 drives and media
- Isilon disk arrays
- Imagen MAM

Why Spectra?

- Non-proprietary
- Easily integrated with existing Cambridge Imagen MAM
- Scalability
- Flexibility
- Genetic Diversity (2 tape technologies)
- Longevity
- Quick, easy public access to archive
- Best-in-class, long-term digital

BFI Workflow with Spectra storage



Solution Recap

Spectra BlackPearl Converged Storage System – BlackPearl was designed to provide a modern, simple portal to a multi-tier storage architecture and to break away from traditional and legacy solutions that are based on licensing models, driving greater cost when scaling. Designed for organisations where content and long-term integrity is at the core of their business, BlackPearl allows data to move seamlessly to disk, tape and cloud storage, in a way not previously possible. BlackPearl enables users to deploy multiple tiers of storage to create an architecture that is cost effective, easy to manage and scalable to exabytes of data. BlackPearl's simple RESTful API and integrated advanced bucket management (ABM) retains and manages organisation's assets at very low per-gigabyte costs.

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

in capacity and throughput, and delivers the best total cost of ownership of any tape solution. Support options range from the expected 24x7 worldwide onsite support to more advanced offerings including Spectra's industry-first Assisted Self Maintenance (ASM) program as well as proactive management and reporting tools that ensure optimal system availability.

Partner Profile:



Partnering with Spectra Logic, OvationData provides total data management solutions to preserve, manage, and understand digital data and media in a way that maximizes value. This partner specializes in geophysical data services for the oil and gas industry, as well as full-suite solutions for media & entertainment clients.