

CatDV Optional Components



Third party codecs

Media playback in CatDV is based on QuickTime, which means a variety of add-on codecs and components are available to support additional media formats including MPEG-2, MXF, RED, Cineon DPX, WMV, and many others.

Companies such as MXF4mac and Calibrated Software produce a range of codecs that can be used with the CatDV MXF Option to seamlessly work with P2, XDCAM and AVID MXF media.

CatDV also works well with third party transcoding products, including Compressor, Rhozet, and Episode Engine.

Plug-in SDK

The CatDV client application provides a plug-in API that allows software developers to extend the capabilities of CatDV by adding new menu commands to process and update selected clips from within the application.

A number of plug-in products are currently available, providing integration with third party archiving solutions from DAX Archiving (Blu-ray and tape) and Object Matrix (near-line hard disk) amongst others.

You can extend the capabilities of the CatDV media asset management tool both by adding options to the client application and by plugging together different server components to solve the most complicated workflows.

MXF Option

With the CatDV MXF Option you can import and work with MXF files such as those from a Panasonic P2 camera, Sony XDCAM, or as used by AVID (you will also need to have a suitable third party codec installed to play the media).

With MXF clips it is normal for the audio and video information to be written to separate files. When you import a P2 volume or an AVID folder CatDV will automatically combine video and audio tracks from separate files into a single clip, allowing you to play the files in synch without having to create a reference movie or transcode the files. Using "metaclips" you can create subclips, add metadata and log notes, build previews and treat native MXF files just like regular clips.

CatDV uses its built-in MXF and XML parsers to read metadata from the files and load these into CatDV metadata fields, including any data entered on the camera such as subject, location, or camera lens details. In the case of P2 media, you can log the clips in CatDV, bulk edit fields such as name, creator and placename, or creating event markers, and then export these back to the P2 clip for interchange with other applications.

Archiving Option

With modern tapeless workflows it is important to be able to archive and back up your media files. The CatDV Archiving Option provides integrated support making it easy to archive files to a Cache-A LTO archive appliance by copying files to the Cache-A vtape folder and keeping track of which tape they have been archived to.

Once files have safely been archived, CatDV provides the option to purge those files from local storage, but low-res proxies and a searchable database of all your log notes and other metadata make it easy to find those files again, and request that they be retrieved using the Cache-A interface if they are currently offline.

Although designed specifically for use with Cache-A ProCache and PrimeCache archive appliances (as tape-based solutions are generally held to be superior for long term archiving), the CatDV Archiving Option can also be used to archive files to removable hard drives if necessary.

CatDV Worker Node

The CatDV Worker Node is used to automate aspects of your workflow by automatically triggering actions based on files appearing in a watch folder or by the user changing the status of a clip on the server. Typical actions include transcoding, renaming or FTPing a file to a server, sending an email notification, and more.

For example, you might create an offline proxy and publish clips to a server whenever a new file is ingested. Or a user might review a clip and set the status to 'Approved', ordering the Worker to copy the file to a playout server while simultaneously rendering a web version of the finished segment for display on the public web site.

Powerful file renaming and copying options and conditional actions can be used to ensure files are named and processed consistently, no matter what the source... ideal if you ever need to build an integrated workflow combining footage from RED, P2 and EX cameras and MPEG rushes sent in from location via a satellite feed, for example.

The worker can also be used to integrate with an external service, submitting commands and metadata from the CatDV database via XML, and then updating the clip as a result of the response received.

Although designing and implementing a complete workflow tailored to your specific needs is a skilled task, the CatDV Worker Node provides a sophisticated graphical user interface to simplify the job of scripting a particular workflow as much as possible.

Review and approval

You can implement simple "review and approval" functionality very easily with the Web Client. Simply configure a smart folder to display clips whose status is 'Awaiting approval'.

After logging on and clicking on the smart folder the reviewer will see any clips that need attention. He or she can play the clip, and if it's ok select 'Approved' from the clip status drop down in the toolbar. They will then be prompted to add a brief comment detailing their decision and the updated clip is saved to the server. For audit purposes the system automatically keeps track of who changed the status in the clip history field.

For more advanced workflows, you can then use the clip status change to trigger a Worker Node action, such as sending an email, FTPing the file, or invoking an action on some external system.

Customised web interface

The CatDV Web Client provides a complete set of sophisticated functionality out of the box, but you can also view it as a toolkit that can be built on to create a customised web application for specific purposes.

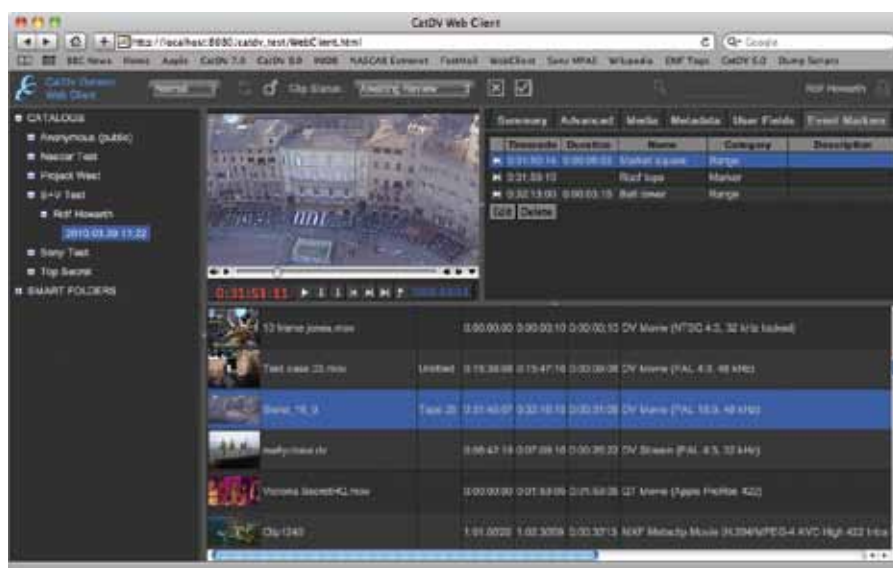
Talk to us if you have customised software development requirements, or use your own developers if you need to integrate CatDV into your own systems. CatDV is based on open standards and extendible technologies throughout, such as Java, QuickTime, MPEG4, SQL, HTML5, CSS and XML.

CatDV Web Client

The CatDV Pro desktop client application provides an intuitive user interface that gives access to the full set of CatDV features, including media analysis and metadata extraction, transcoding media files, advanced logging tools, sequence editing, and integration with video editing applications.

For many users, a simpler, web-based interface may be more appropriate however. The new CatDV Web Client extends access to the CatDV database to anybody with a web browser. There is no need to install special software on the desktop, making it easy to deploy to a large number of users.

In a typical scenario, advanced users such as loggers and editors might use the full CatDV Pro application, to import new assets to the system and prepare clips for editing, while others in the organisation, who might only need occasional access to the library, can search and browse assets using the new CatDV Web Client.



A rich and intuitive user interface is provided, using the same advanced technology that companies like Google use for their own web applications. Just as in the desktop application, users can browse the database by catalog or perform queries to find clips of interest. You can also define smart folders, so users can quickly find all clips that are assigned to a particular person or that were uploaded in the past 24 hours for example.

A list of matching clips and their thumbnails is shown. Select a clip to view its details and play the video (assuming a suitable web proxy has been created). If you have permission you can edit the clip, by adding log notes, changing the status, or marking IN and OUT points to create event markers highlighting portions of the video.

The Web Client supports access control. Users log on with the same user id and password they use when connecting to the CatDV Enterprise Server, and have access to the same production groups and catalogs they have with the full client application, though you can also configure the server to allow anonymous access to public catalogs if you prefer.



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