



CatDV Production Management



S Q U A R E B O X
SYSTEMS LTD

New in CatDV 8.1

CatDV is actively maintained and the latest version adds many useful new features, including:

- printing enhancements
- integrated spell checking
- support for camera RAW still image formats
- improvements to the Verbatim Logger tool
- mouse scroll wheel support
- automatically prompt the user for clip name and other fields when creating subclips
- a new player architecture improves stability when working with certain codecs or damaged media files.

When used in conjunction with the CatDV Enterprise Server, CatDV 8.1 adds the ability to:

- mark certain fields as being mandatory or locked,
- improvements to the way pick list values and other settings are managed on the server,
- better permissions control over which features a user has access to.

Final Cut integration

Achieve seamless Final Cut Pro integration and advanced co-operative workflows through the power of XML interchange and CatDV's "magic door".

Field Logger

Use the new CatDV iPhone app to enter log notes on location to automatically geotag all your videos and stills when you synchronise them in CatDV.

CatDV is an established cross-platform media asset management tool. With its highly scalable architecture, powerful logging tools, and an intuitive user interface, CatDV is the ideal application to bring order to the mass of media files we all have to deal with on a daily basis.

A mountain of media

When digital NLEs first appeared users were constrained by the available disk space and workflows largely followed those used previously for tape-based editing. The trend now is for larger and larger shooting ratios, larger and cheaper hard disks, and tapeless acquisition. This is creating a mountain of data that has to be managed – media of all types has to be “tagged” and “bagged” as quickly as possible.

With ever tighter time constraints on productions, new co-operative ways of working have to be developed to take advantage of the potential offered by shared storage and networked workflows. At the same time, media assets need to be repurposed to take advantage of new delivery methods and targets, whether broadcast HD TV, 3G phones, or video for the web, not forgetting issues like rights management or approval sign offs. All of this means it is essential to track and share information throughout a production facility, with the ability to tag assets with metadata at any stage.

CatDV provides many solutions to these challenges, but it recognises that every user is different and has their own workflow requirements so it tries hard not to be prescriptive or get in the way of a particular way of working. The key word is flexibility.

With its mature, scalable architecture, and benefiting from active and ongoing development, CatDV will grow with you and support you as you find your way in this brave new world.



Live Capture Plus

Using a ubiquitous FireWire interface, this innovative and low cost capture tool is ideal for quickly ingesting entire tapes:

- Scan a DV tape (or virtually any tape format using a deck such as the Sony J-30 with a FireWire interface) with automatic error retry and recovery
- Capture frame accurate proxies or full resolution files
- Leave it to capture unattended, or enter log notes describing each clip while capture progresses to build up a complete catalog of your assets at the same time.

Verbatim Logger

Use the Verbatim Logger to play a movie file and simultaneously type in comments or clip names. Press the “mark” button at any time to insert the current timecode so all comments are automatically linked to a specific scene.

Whether you’re creating a rough shot log or a detailed transcript, the Verbatim Logger is just one of many dedicated tools that CatDV provides to simplify the logging process.

Customisable views

As well as built-in metadata fields that automatically display things like the video and audio format, data rate, and other properties of a media file, you can create an unlimited number of user-defined logging fields and lay them out as required.

With the Enterprise Server you can manage field definitions and pick list values centrally, and any changes are quickly propagated to each user to ensure that everyone logs assets in a consistent way.

What is CatDV?

Import any kind of media file into CatDV to catalog and build up a searchable database of all your clips. Whether the file is HD, SD, DV, MXF, MPEG, or any other format, CatDV will intelligently harvest metadata in the file (such as the video format, audio sample rate, or copyright annotations) and store that in its database, together with thumbnail images and any log notes or other annotations that you enter.

Couple this rich set of metadata with the low-resolution proxies that CatDV automatically creates and powerful and easy to use searching functions, and retrieving those key shots you know you have somewhere becomes easy at last. You can be sure it’s the shot you want, even if the original media file is offline on a removable drive or archived to tape.

CatDV is flexible about what constitutes an asset. It works just as happily down to the level of individual scenes and shots on a tape or at the file level, and with stills and audio clips or other supporting files as well as video media.

CatDV has a powerful and intuitive graphical user interface that lets you view clips and their associated metadata in many different ways, as thumbnails, in a table, or as a film strip view for example. Automatic smart folders and other advanced filtering and searching options make it easy to browse and search your assets.

Once you have selected the clips you are interested in you can quickly arrange them in a sequence with simple drag and drop editing and export the results as a self-contained movie (using any of QuickTime’s many exporters or codecs) or send it to your editing software as an EDL or batch list for finishing – ideal for the producer who wants to create and preview a rough cut edit but without the cost or complexity of a full editing package. Exported movies can contain burnt in timecode or subtitles, or perhaps a copyright notice. You can also print catalogs, save them as HTML, import and export them to other applications, and much more.

Scalable architecture

If you work on your own, or want to start logging the day’s rushes when you’re out in the field, you can use CatDV as a standalone application, saving catalogs locally to a flat file. Or use CatDV with the CatDV Server software, built on top of an industrial strength MySQL or Oracle database, to share your media and log notes with others in the organisation and enable powerful ways of concurrent working.

CatDV is entirely software-based, so works with your existing infrastructure without tying you into hardware from a single vendor. It will work with media files stored anywhere, whether on a local hard drive, removable storage, an office file server, or a dedicated SAN, providing a consistent and intuitive interface to locate and manage your assets wherever they are stored. CatDV is cross-platform, and integrates with many different editing applications and file formats, so is the ideal tool for the mixed environment typical of today.

Together with optional components such as the CatDV Worker Node and the new Web Client, CatDV is capable of supporting and automating the most complex of workflows between Mac and PC.

CatDV Editions

Single User	Workgroup Edition	Enterprise Edition
Use CatDV Standard or Professional Edition as a low-cost, standalone logging and cataloging application that’s incredibly easy to get started with (but with the option to move up to a more complex networked installation later if required)	Basic networked operation for up to 5 users who want to share their media and log notes via a central database	Advanced multi-user operation with access control, powerful communication tools, and features to support multiple production groups



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All specifications are subject to change. Some of the features described may be optional components subject to additional costs or only available in certain products.