

RAID Inc. Provides Digital Rich Media Solution to Library of Congress

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) of the Library of Congress has chosen RAID Incorporated, a Massachusetts-based storage platform developer and managed storage services company, to configure, install, monitor and support a digital rich media solution for its in-house recording studio.

The mission of NLS is to make library materials accessible to the blind and physically handicapped community. As part of its movement towards digital technology, the NLS studio has completely revamped its operation from recording books on audio tape to recording to digital files.

The studio operates multiple recording booths. The older process involved shuttling removable "swap" drives in and out of a bulky chassis and hand carrying them to the next workstation chassis. A few concerns created by this process were severe workflow constraints and occasional degradation of media.

After gaining an understanding of the Library's Digital Audio Development initiatives, RAID Inc. provided a detailed analysis of NLS' storage and infrastructure needs. RAID Inc., with the help of their Advanced Storage Group, pre-configured a digital rich media solution and put it through a rigorous interoperability testing and qualification process in their laboratory in Lawrence, MA. RAID Inc. was able to recreate NLS' environment including the exact ProTools application and compatibility testing with NLS' specialty applications such as Jaws and Window Eyes programs used by NLS staff members who are blind.

RAID Inc. then configured and installed the solution at the NLS facility in Washington, D.C. The SAN eliminated many problems inherent in NLS' existing storage process. It provided enough storage capacity to house all of the existing books in all three phases of the production cycle, and has room to grow.

"Our ability to support their Network at the application level, made RAID Inc. the logical choice for NLS," says Matt Goulet, RAID Inc.'s Director of Worldwide Sales." The solution has dramatically increased the efficiency of the Studio's staff, and our StorageWatch Monitoring and Service Platform has allowed NLS to significantly reduce Automation resources dedicated to supporting the Studio."

By implementing the solution, all of the National Library Services Studio's audio files and digital talking books are immediately and simultaneously available to all twelve record and review workstations on the first floor, as well as six quality assurance workstations and two automation workstations on the second floor. The SAN provides for multiple administrators to log on and change privileges from any and all workstations on the SAN. Users benefit from having simultaneous access to projects for recording and reviewing. The SAN prevents media corruption by locking access to volumes and allows for dynamic expansion without bringing down the network.

About NLS

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), Library of Congress, administers the free program that loans recorded and braille books and magazines, music scores in braille and large print, and specially designed playback equipment to residents of the United States who are unable to read or use standard print materials because of visual or physical impairment. NLS administers the program nationally while direct service to eligible individuals and institutions is the responsibility of cooperating libraries in the various states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. Service is also extended to eligible American citizens residing abroad.