# **ASTRA digitization of VTR archives**



## **File-based Workflows**

File-based Workflows are the everyday's reality. All new content is immediately digitized as it comes into the facility. In many cases, with today's file based cameras and file transfer services, it is already in a digital format and all that is needed is to import its metadata into a media asset management system.

However what about the hundreds of thousands of hours of existing content that most facilities have stored away on VTR tapes? The indexing system for this content may be as basic as hand written ledgers and may be on many different formats as old as 1 inch tape. Recovery of this content relies on finding a workable machine and even then, the tape may be in bad shape.

## **ASTRA Ingest**

Recovery of this content is expensive and labor intensive but the sooner it is started, the higher probability that the content can be preserved.

To make the workflow streamlined and cost effective, ASTRA Ingest automates the whole digitization process.

## **Features:**

- Migrates metadata from the current database, if any
- Automatically records all content on an analog tape
- Identifies areas where the quality of the recording is suspect for further investigation
- Enables the user to enter key metadata about the content
- Breaks in content can be treated as individual files or stitched together as one file.
- Restripes timecode for each file
- Generates a low-res proxy



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#### **Metadata migration**

VTR archive may be catalogued in various historic ways, such as spreadsheets, barcodes, as well as various databases. We migrate all the available metadata to the ASTRA database and standardize the metadata structure.

## **Priority driven ingest**

All tapes shall be digitized, but some are needed sooner than the others. ASTRA integrates with traffic systems and workflow control systems to identify media required in the near future and digitizes those with priority.

#### **Tape analysis**

Each tape shall be verified by an operator to validate timecodes as well as quality of recorded signal. The signal processing equipment helps to optimize the output and to normalize and re-shuffle the audios as required by the house standard. ASTRA stores the setting of the signal processor in its database, it will be used during ingest.

### Ingest

Tapes are inserted into a cart machine. ASTRA then automatically digitizes all media from tapes to a central storage. To optimize the process multiple cart machines and large pools of ingest ports can be used. For each individual ingest ASTRA sets up the signal processor properly. A subsequent workflows can apply automatically, such as stitching movie segments from multiple tapes together as a single clip.

## **Quality Control**

The QC is an integral part of a fully customer defined workflow and consists of several steps. During ingest ASTRA listens to the VTR error messages and stores the timecodes and error descriptions in the database. Next step is file based QC by 3rd party QC software packages, fully integrated into ASTRA Ingest. Those assets who fail are handed over to manual quality control and manual postprocessing.

## Publishing

Assets who pass the QC are published in ASTRA database and the information is passed on to all relevant 3rd party systems. Proxy file is generated for low resolution browsing. ASTRA can archive the asset to an integrated LTO archive, as well as export it to various destinations in various file formats.

## **File formats**

ASTRA is format independent. The assets can be digitized by using any compression, starting from a lossless jpeg2000, and any wrapper, such as mxf.

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