GV STRATUS for Reduced Scale Media Production Requirements

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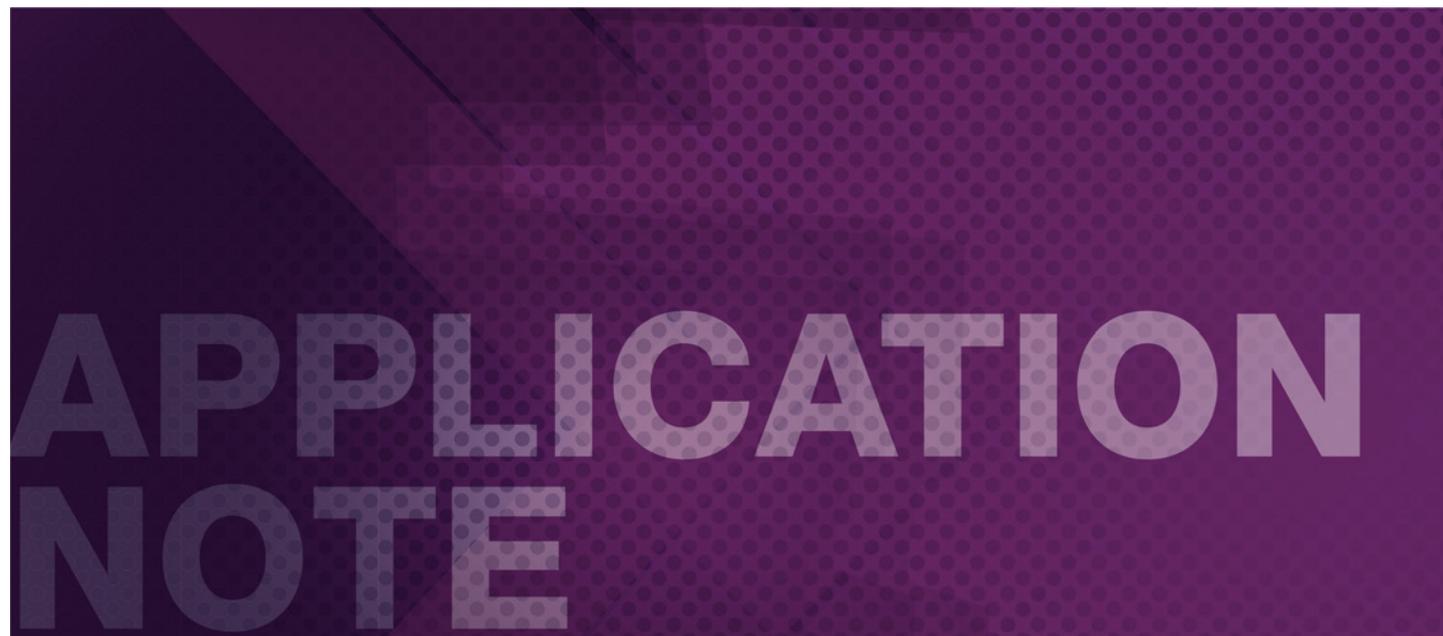
APPLICATION NOTE

Introduction

GV STRATUS, the nonlinear media production tools application from Grass Valley, A Belden Brand, offers exceptional flexibility when scaling to the size and complexity of a broad range of media production systems. Teamed with K2 series of media servers and SAN storage systems, GV STRATUS can be configured to meet the demands of even the largest broadcast and production facilities. Equally, GV STRATUS lends itself extremely well to deployments in smaller scale environments where large amounts of storage are not required, but speed-to-air and flexibility of distribution are of the essence.

In settings that do not require K2 SAN storage, GV STRATUS can be deployed in a variety of configurations with standalone K2 Summit and K2 Solo media servers, offering economical, yet powerful and highly adaptable systems.

Reduced Scale Applications

Smaller GV STRATUS-based solutions are typically configured with a standalone K2 system, a GV STRATUS Express Core Services server with the role of Proxy Server, and include one or more GV STRATUS client PCs with access to the proxy.

Mobile Production

A practical example of this type of application would be live coverage of an outdoor event using an OB truck. With a low-cost, small-scale system consisting of a single K2 Summit 3G, a GV STRATUS Express Core Server and a couple of GV STRATUS clients, production companies can implement powerful workflows. With this configuration, users will be able to:

- Ingest live feeds using the GV STRATUS Scheduler, then search, catalogue and edit growing files.

- Import XDCAM/P2 content directly from the camera crew with GV STRATUS RMI: Preview, select and combine clips using a high-resolution client before import into the K2 Summit storage.

- Set up workflow rules, so that files delivered via file transfers, downloads or email can be automatically and seamlessly imported to K2 Summit while simultaneously creating low-resolution versions of the content being ingested.

- Edit-in-place content on the K2 Summit using EDIUS XS low-resolution editor, or an EDIUS Elite high-resolution client. Subsequently, users can conform final-edited assets ready for playout or send assets to other destinations.

- Orchestrate live playout by creating playlists and controlling K2 Summit ports, including background loops, bumpers and replays.

- Add a K2 Dyno replay controller to the mix to gain full access — through GV STRATUS clients - to all highlights and playlists created on-the-fly by the replay operator.

Reduced Scale Applications (Cont.)

News Production

However, GV STRATUS/K2 small scale configurations are not limited to mobile or live production. They are also highly applicable to other production requirements serving small user groups with reduced storage requirements and operating on tight budgets.

A small newsroom, for instance, can function on a system of similar size, including an ingest K2 Summit, and a playout K2 Summit, both under GV STRATUS control. Adding a Newsroom Computer System (NRCS) such as ENPS, Octopus or Annova OpenMedia will result in an end-to-end solution for news production that includes ingest, editing and playout, with live feedback to the producers and reporters working on their scripts and rundowns.
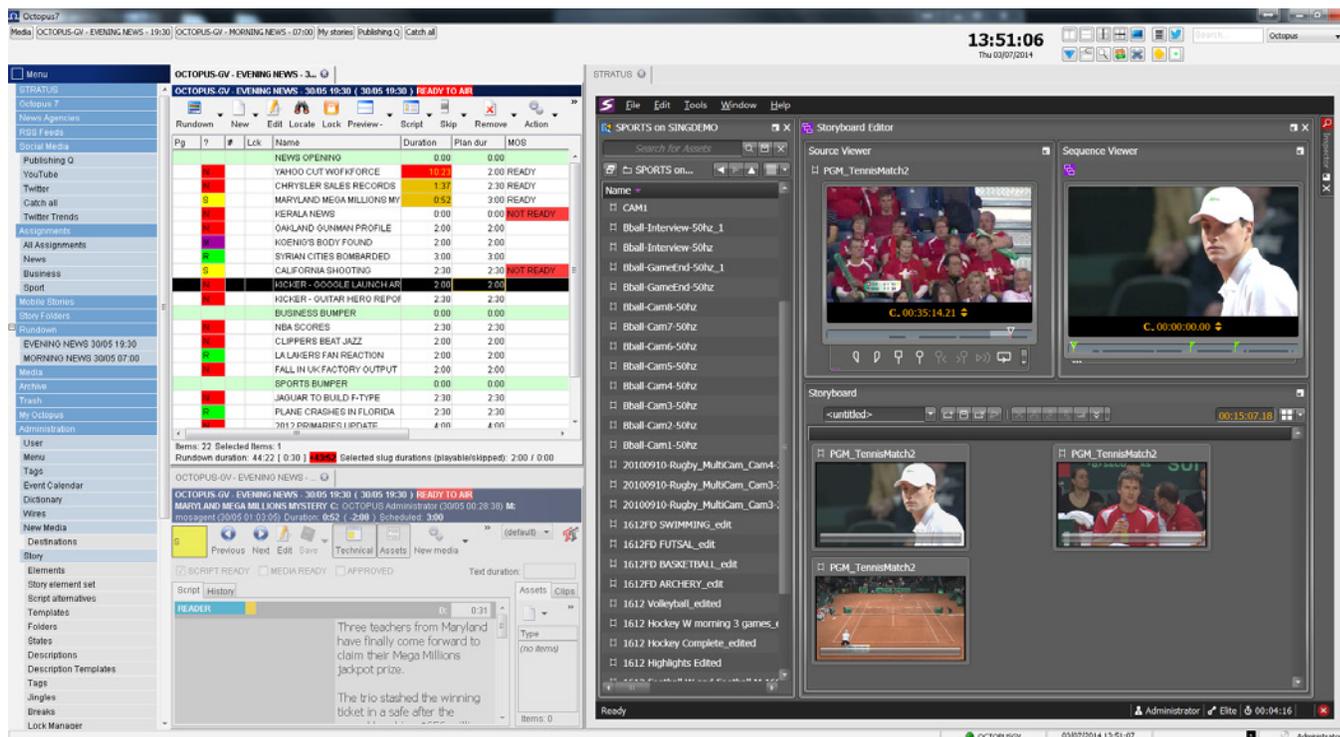
GV STRATUS plug-in within the Octopus NRCS.

Reduced Scale Applications (Cont.)

Production for Web Distribution

Today's media content producers may not always be large broadcasters, but may also include companies which solely focus on content production for digital media distribution platforms.

In these applications, a small GV STRATUS system can provide a high degree of flexibility with extensive workflow capabilities, so that compelling content can more easily be produced and published. With a relatively simple system made up of a GV STRATUS core server, a couple of standalone K2 Summits 3G servers and a few GV STRATUS clients for low- and high-resolution work, a diverse group of producers, editors and directors can collaboratively and simultaneously work on the content.

Raw content can be readily imported into the K2 servers in high-resolution using GV STRATUS Import rules, which, if necessary, can have the media transcoded on ingest. Workflow rules can automatically send content and email a producer with alert that new content is being delivered. Using a GV STRATUS Express low-resolution client license, producers can review and pre-select content, creating rough edits before working with a video editor.
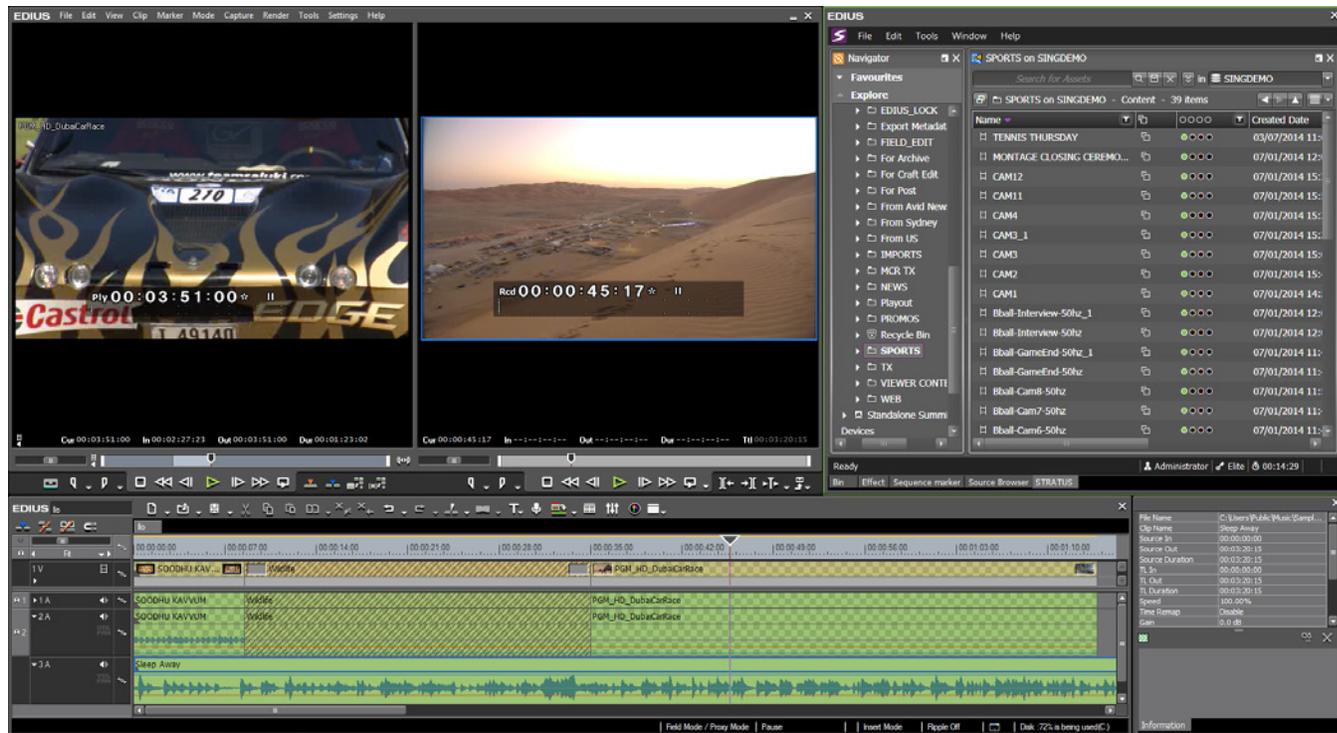
Whether using EDIUS XS or EDIUS Elite, a video editor can collect the producer's cuts and finish off the editing work adding audio, effects, color correction, titles, etc. The final copy can be automatically pushed to multiple platforms simultaneously, in the desired format — e.g., as compressed MOV files for mobile device delivery, and/or as high-resolution MXF files for web-based social media platforms or for video-on-demand web servers. This can be achieved with GV STRATUS Export rules, instructing the system to have media transcoded before the final output is delivered.

Reduced Scale Applications (Cont.)

Small Studio/Production Facilities

Market forces dictate that smaller production facilities need to sustain particularly efficient operations while running a busy and prolific production schedule. This in turn drives reliance on production technology and systems that can be easily reconfigured and that enable fast, collaborative workflows, with wide-ranging automation of routine tasks, freeing the users to focus on creative work.

For example, a production studio may need to produce several studio pieces throughout the day, both live and as-live. GV STRATUS, together with a couple of standalone K2 Summit servers, can deliver a range of ingest capabilities, including multicam recordings. Within seconds of the studio feed being recorded, all GV STRATUS users can access and view the media, either in low- or high-resolution, and start immediately editing with EDIUS or other mainstream editor such as Adobe Premiere Pro CC, Avid NLEs or Final Cut Pro.

During studio recordings, producers and researchers can start cataloguing the content, using GV STRATUS metadata logging tools, adding markers, descriptions, even sub clipping and creating basic edits.

While the show is in live production, an editor may be taking highlights and putting them together for a promo or bumper before the end of the show, and have them ready within minutes to be sent to playout for live replays. In the studio, a GV STRATUS client will allow the director to pick and choose their own bumpers, background content and loops, and create basic playlists to play live during the show production. In these types of studio applications, speed is of the essence, and GV STRATUS powered by the K2 system can truly deliver within seconds.

Reduced Scale Applications (Cont.)

If required, a nearline archive or digital tape library can be added to the system, whereby high-resolution content can be archived/restored by the GV STRATUS system. The low-resolution files and metadata are kept online within the content management system, allowing users to efficiently search, review and restore content as needed.
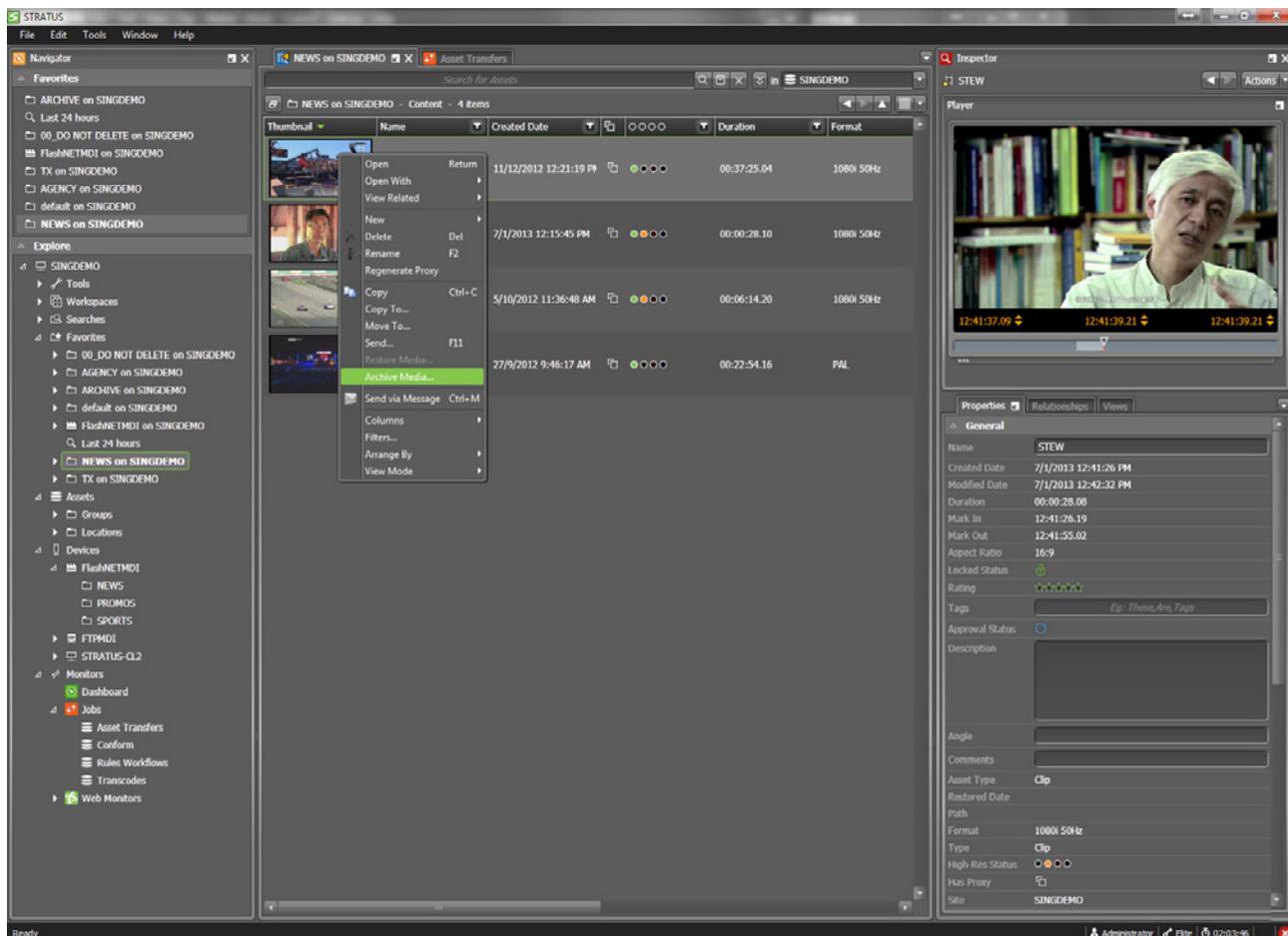
Reduced Scale Applications (Cont.)

Academia and Media Schools

The up-and-coming wave of content producers and broadcasters need to be trained on the use of the latest technology and become fluent in digital production workflows. GV STRATUS is an ideal vehicle to provide low-cost, extremely efficient solutions to universities and media schools, featuring industry-leading tools that help prepare students for their careers in nonlinear media production.

Using a single standalone K2 Summit 3G server or a small K2 SAN — contingent on space and bandwidth requirements — academic facilities can deploy and configure a number of baseband ingest/playout channels. Additionally, the ChannelFlex option on the K2 Summit server allows for up to eight simultaneous multicam recordings with a single K2 Summit.

Teamed with a GV STRATUS production and asset management system running on a single Express Core server, this solution features a wide range of tools and capabilities, such as:

- Scheduler tool for crash record and scheduled ingest, and RMI tool for XDCAM and P2 file import using a high-resolution GV STRATUS client.

- EDIUS XS low-resolution editor, providing a wide range of editing capabilities, in concert with all media management tools offered by GV STRATUS such as metadata logging, searching, provisioning of workflow rules, etc.

- EDIUS Elite editors for editing in high-resolution, including many advanced editing capabilities such as effects, audio mixing and color correction. If desired, the school/training facility may also choose to incorporate any combination of mainstream editing tools, including Adobe Premiere Pro CC, Final Cut Pro and Avid NLEs, which can all edit-in-place content on K2 storage and are closely integrated with the GV STRATUS application.

- The powerful workflow and rules engine of GV STRATUS enables extensive automation of media movement. For instance, once students finish their editing projects, they can push finalized files to their course instructor. The course administrator can set cleanup rules that delete practice content at the end of each term, and/or rules can be enacted to archive the best course work of the course/year, and so on.
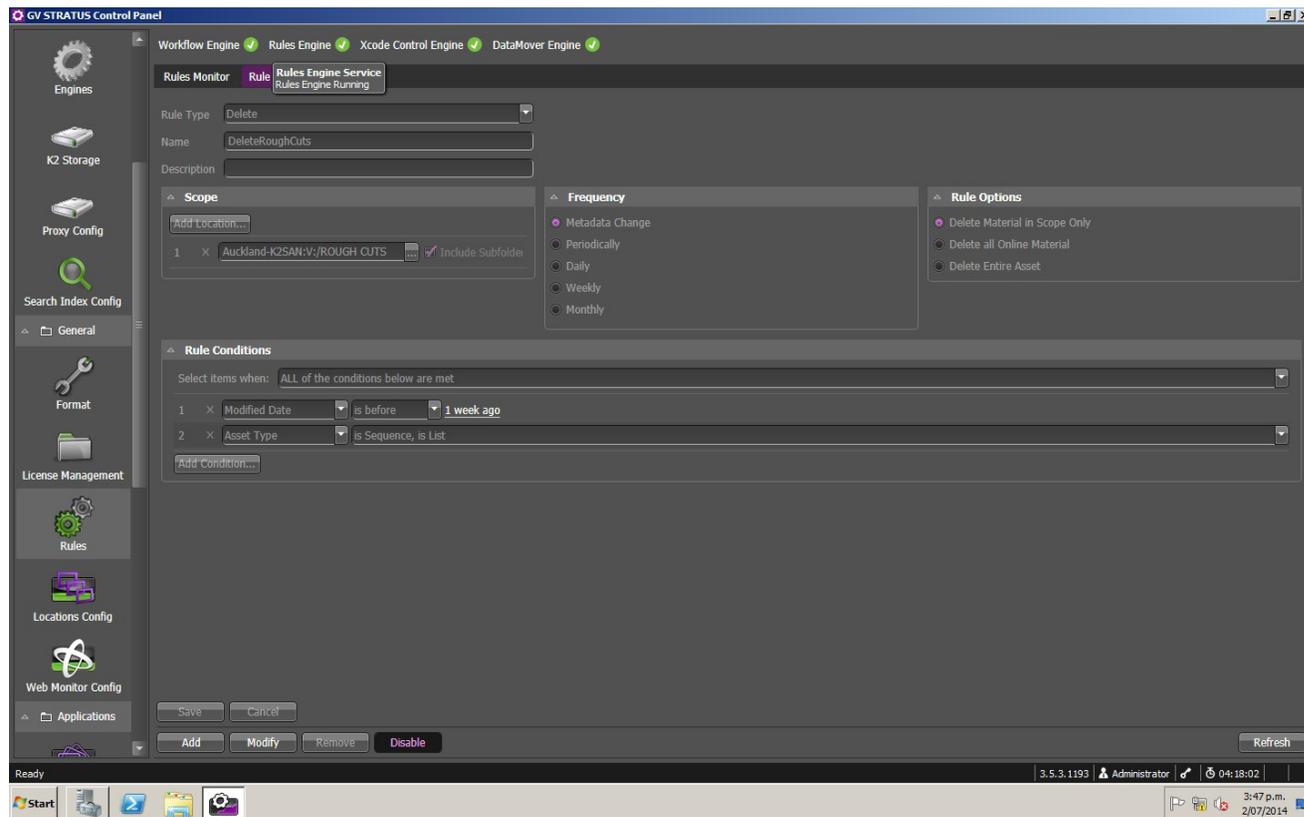
Summary

Proven at serving large and complex broadcast and production requirements, GV STRATUS is equally adept at catering to the needs of smaller scale production environments in cost-efficient way. Combined with K2 media servers/storage, GV STRATUS provides the most complete toolset, adaptable to a diversity of production environments where turn-around speed and operational efficiency are vital.