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REPRINTED FROM JANUARY 10, 2007 WWW.TVTECHNOLOGY.COM

USER REPORT

HOM-TV Revamps Ops With Leightronix

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OKEMOS, MI

HOM-TV is Meridian Township's award-winning government access station located in the Meridian Township Municipal Building. The station's name is derived from Haslett and Okemos, the two major communities comprising Meridian Township. It is pronounced like the word "home," to emphasize the station's focus on locally produced programming.

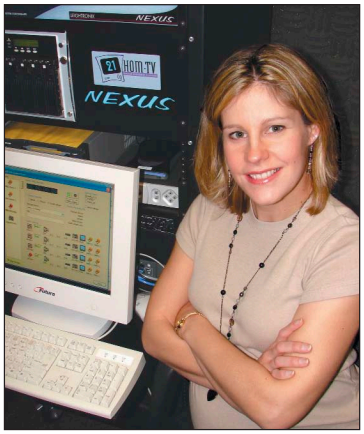
Our programming schedule is comprised of all locally produced programming, such as a weekly live news show, in-depth interviews, police and fire programs, children's programs, community information and activities, digital messaging and live events.

We broadcast exclusive gavel-to-gavel coverage of various city meetings. Locally produced programming is shot and produced by a team of interns and HOM-TV staff with a focus on the people of Meridian Township and the community.

HOM-TV began broadcasting in 1980 and for over 20 years ran playback operations manually. In 2001, we implemented our first automated playback system through a robotic videotape unit controlled by a Leightronix MVP-2000 system controller and digital video player.

In 2006, the decision was made to move toward a digital playback system, as the mechanics of the robotic videotape system had become unreliable.

Key considerations for the transition included the new system's ability to provide reliable digital server playback, legacy control, hardware-based encoding capability, multiple source switching and automation scheduling. Typically, a long wish list will equate to a prohibitively expensive solution. Then we discovered the Leightronix NEXUS.



Lynn Meikle

The NEXUS offered everything necessary, including two video server playback channels, a record channel, fully integrated video/audio switching for airing a fallback bulletin board system and a live studio feed, and device control for media ingest.

SERVER PLAYBACK

This past October, we made the switch to server playback. Live programming is captured using the NEXUS record (encoding) channel. Programs from the MacIntosh G5 and iMac edit suites are exported as MPEG video/audio files and transferred over the internal network directly to the NEXUS terabyte RAID 5 storage device.

The move to digital has streamlined the management of the channel and has moved us away from videotapes. All programming is stored online for immediate use and is organized and scheduled by the WinNEXUS software.

Programming is organized in user-defined folders and easily placed into the schedule with a simple drag-and-drop interface. The error checking refuses to allow anyone to make mistakes.

HOM-TV now has a seamless, reliable playback system that's digital; no more moving parts, no more worries about tapes not cueing up properly or our station being in black.

Customer service is key to a successful product and Leightronix provides that service for its customers. We at HOM-TV appreciate the superior customer service Leightronix has always provided.

The NEXUS has given us a great return on investment and is a cost-effective, reliable system that will work for us for years to come. HOM-TV has never looked better or run more smoothly.

Lynn Meikle is the cable coordinator for Meridian Charter Township and the station manager of HOM-TV, Meridian Government Television, in Okemos, MI. She may be contacted at meikle@meridian.mi.us.

For additional information, contact Leightronix at 800-243-5589 or visit www.leightronix.com.

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