

CHANNEL 6
community television



DIGITAL TELEVISION UPGRADE

A Digital Television Success Story for the Cities of St. Clair and Marine City

With great passion and dedication, Paul Dingeman runs the television operations for St. Clair and Marine City communities. With only the help of volunteers, over the past 13 years, Paul has been required to act as the television operation's producer, director, talent, technical and public relations director, and chief negotiator for the franchise agreement with the local cable operator.

Getting Started

When the original franchise agreement established in the early 1980's came up for renewal in 1994, Paul stepped in to make sure the currently unused channel allotment was put to good use, serving the community as it was intended. Starting with a camera, microphone, S-VHS playback deck, and Paul, Channel 6 was born to provide television programming about and by the St. Clair community. As the only paid staff member at Channel 6, Paul clearly needed to make the most of his time. Manual station playback was not something he wanted to dedicate time to and instead invested in a LEIGHTRONIX MINI-T Event Controller. The MINI-T provided scheduled control for VCRs and an internal video/audio switcher for 24/7 channel automation.



The First System Upgrade

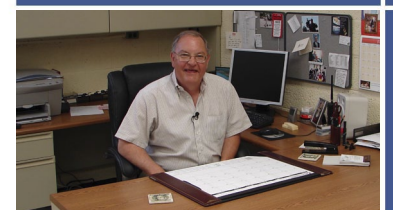
Prior to 2004 the cities of St. Clair and Marine City were operating independent cable channels on separate cable systems, each serving their own community. However, the two cities shared the local East China School District, leading to some duplication in program coverage. In order to consolidate franchise incomes, and provide programming support for the common school district, the two television operations merged and Paul assumed the responsibility for both. Paul was now responsible for a two channel operation, clearly more than the single channel MINI-T Event Controller was designed to handle. Paul again turned to LEIGHTRONIX to upgrade his playback operations, moving to the TCD/IP Network Managed Video System Controller, providing the merged television operation with control capabilities that easily handled the playback demands for both channels.

Community Programming

Under the merger, each city channel still carries unique programming such as coverage of its local government activities in addition to programming shared by both cities. St. Clair Channel 6 airs programming shot and produced at the St. Clair Studio, such as "Focus with Paul Dingeman," a weekly program hosted by Paul that covers local news and events. Programming shared by both channels includes "High School Sports," a show providing highlights and coverage of sporting events in the local East China School District.

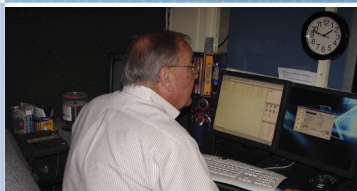


Serving two municipalities, St. Clair and Marine City cable television channels originate from the East China Education Center. The Education Center provides space for Paul's office, a studio, and television operations. Both channels are controlled by and originate from the NEXUS video server.



"it's been a pleasurable experience to work with LEIGHTRONIX over the years"
- Paul Dingeman

The NEXUS video server eliminates the need for videotape. Programming may now be output directly from the non-linear editor, exported as MPEG-2, and transferred directly to the NEXUS for playback.



THE DIGITAL UPGRADE

The next logical step for Paul's television operations was a digital video server. The video server would eventually replace videotape playback, and provide a sensible solution for easily managing unique and shared content on two channels. In early 2007, Paul attended a demonstration on the NEXUS and was immediately convinced. Paul's experience and confidence in LEIGHTRONIX immediately sold him on the NEXUS.

Why the NEXUS?

SMOOTH TRANSITION

Paul wanted a server that would allow him to smoothly transition his television operations from tape to digital. The all-in-one capabilities of the NEXUS video server/controller impressed Paul, allowing him to upgrade his system without bringing his station operations to a halt. The NEXUS machine control features enabled Paul to maintain playback from the bank of DVCAM videotape machines previously controlled by the TCD/IP system while also giving him the option to digitize his videotapes for playback on the NEXUS internal MPEG players. Being more than familiar with LEIGHTRONIX automation systems, Paul quickly learned use the NEXUS control and management software to accomplish his goals without investing a lot of time in factory support.

ONSCREEN GUIDE

Another deciding factor for Paul was the dynamic onscreen program guide. The NEXUS program guide feature pulls information from the NEXUS broadcast schedule and overlays the program titles and times on a background slide template. In addition to the onscreen program guide, Paul intends to also integrate the WebNEXUS dynamic online program into the Cable 6 Web site.

TAPELESS WORKFLOW

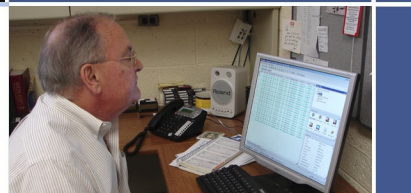
An eventual departure from videotape requires a properly configured edit and playback system interface. Fortunately for Paul, his Adobe Premiere Pro edit suite is already capable of exporting industry standard MPEG-2 program files that are easily transferred to the NEXUS for layout.

About Paul Dingeman

Following a 13-year career in radio, Paul became involved with cable television in the early 80's. Paul used his expertise to help establish St. Clair's first cable television franchise and continues to serve as a founding member and Chairman of the City of St. Clair Cable Commission. In 1994, Paul signed on as the Executive Producer and on-air talent for St. Clair's municipal television station. Since that time, Paul has managed all programming, scheduling, and production for the Channel 6 Community Television operation.

About Cable 6

The Cable 6 television studio is located in St. Clair, Michigan, approximately 50 miles northeast of downtown Detroit. For more information, visit the Cable 6 Web site: www.cable6.org



Paul controls the NEXUS from his office desktop. The NEXUS remote capabilities provide access via the Internet for schedule status, emergency messaging, and slide management.

"The NEXUS impressed us. It gave us much more capability to transition from video to the MPEG world."

"I would highly recommend [the NEXUS] to any user in the community television situation. . . this is a product you can rely on."

— Paul Dingeman

About LEIGHTRONIX

Specializing in television automation and digital video servers, LEIGHTRONIX offers a wide range of sensible solutions that include the popular NEXUS video server/system controller.

For more information, please call us at (800) 243-5589 or visit our Web site: www.leightronix.com

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