



DIGITAL TELEVISION UPGRADE Whitewater Community Television

In a small community of a little over 13,000, Alan Luckett is the one-man operation running Station 13 for Whitewater Community Television, a shared cable access channel serving the public, education, and local government (PEG). With the assistance of part-time students and volunteers, Alan manages to keep Channel 13 on-air. Alan handles all aspects of the station, from video editing to negotiating franchise agreements with the local cable operator. Being a shared channel, the station's programming originates from all of Whitewater's PEG sectors. The programs vary in content and length and are often distributed to the station on videotapes and DVDs.

Public Access

Members of the Whitewater community utilize Station 13 to share local events and ideas with the rest of the city. Festivals, concerts in the park, and other local events are shot on location while many community organization programs are studio produced. Still other contributors, like the local churches, send uncut programming to the station for rebroadcast.

Educational Access

Station 13 gives all of the Whitewater community a window into the local schools. Public school athletics, plays, concerts, and more are given playback time on Channel 13. Students also produce and submit programming, including a biweekly, short school program. School board meetings are broadcast live and then rerun throughout the week to give everyone a chance to learn about the latest in Whitewater education.

Government Access

The Whitewater government also uses Channel 13 to keep the local community informed. Whitewater Community Television frequently replays city council and planning commission meetings.

A Sensible Video Server Solution

With all of these different programming demands to contend with, Alan decided it was time for Whitewater Community Television to take advantage of the efficiency and convenience of digital video. LEIGHTRONIX was right there with the perfect solution, the all-in-one NEXUS digital video server/system controller. The NEXUS is now Whitewater Television's on-air server, providing an affordable, reliable, and easy-to-use digital solution.

Why the NEXUS?

Alan was already very familiar with the value, quality, and support for LEIGHTRONIX products, having relied on the company's PRO-8 Event Controller and PRO-BUS device interfaces since the mid 90's for playback automation. While the NEXUS provided a reasonably priced solution for Whitewater's small budget, the city was able to save even more by reusing the infrared PRO-BUS interfaces from the PRO-8 system with the NEXUS system. LEIGHTRONIX value and reliability combined with the NEXUS system's intuitive, easy-to-use interface made the server/controller the only sensible choice.



The NEXUS serves as the central command center for Whitewater's on-air operations.

The unique, all-in-one design allows the NEXUS to occupy minimal rack space while still providing everything required for successful television operations, including system automation, digital video playback and recording, device control, and video/audio signal routing.

"easy to use for a single person operation"

—Alan Luckett

“with the NEXUS handling playback, things are guaranteed to playback right” —Alan Lockett



**Non-Linear
Editing Suite**

**Mobile Video
Production**



All-Digital Program Playback

Programming recorded by the NEXUS is encoded as highly compatible, industry standard MPEG-2 files. NEXUS digital files can be easily moved from online storage to the station's non-linear editing suite for clean up and the addition of titles. Programming can also be exported from the editing suite as MPEG-2 files and transferred directly to NEXUS online storage for immediate playback. Once digitized, Alan broadcasts programming from his first NEXUS MPEG output and without interrupting on-air playback, previews programming on the second NEXUS decoder.

Alan has found the NEXUS video server incredibly convenient and reliable, so he takes full advantage of the NEXUS automated video ingest feature to digitize videotapes and DVDs. Using ingest, Alan easily creates MPEG-2 files from media in the DVD players and VCRs connected to the NEXUS internal switcher. And, as the DVD players and VCRs are controlled by Integrated IR (infrared) and PRO-BUS control schemes, Alan may still directly broadcast DVD and videotape as needed.

The transition to digital has not only increased playback reliability and improved Whitewater's on-air signal, but has also simplified the task of managing the channel's playback schedule. The NEXUS media library organizes all of the station's resources, including digital, DVD, and videotape titles. The Station 13 staff just drags and drops media resources onto the NEXUS scheduling interface, which provides conflict checking and reporting to aid users in creating error-free broadcast schedules.

Emergency Messaging

As Whitewater is located in Wisconsin, snow is often a threat to the safety of area residents. Early on, Alan discovered the ease and power of the NEXUS emergency messaging feature and quickly generated and broadcast an urgent school closing message during one of Wisconsin's classic snow storms. Alan now relies on the NEXUS Web interface and graphic and text overlay feature to quickly and easily broadcast emergency notifications over the cable channel.

Video/Audio Switching

The NEXUS internal switcher greatly simplifies the overall system, providing manual and automated source input selection without the need for external hardware. External sources (DVD, VCR, bulletin board) are easily routed to the output for broadcast or to the built-in NEXUS video encoder.

Smooth Operations

The majority of Alan's time is spent in the edit suites, painstakingly and single-handedly piecing together the next video production. With little time to waste, the NEXUS has provided Alan with a sensible, easy-to-use system and a much needed and appreciated digital playback system upgrade. Alan's confidence in LEIGHTRONIX, and the fact that many other systems "cost twice as much," has made Alan yet another LEIGHTRONIX return customer.

Dramatic reductions in the cost of professional digital video equipment have allowed Alan to design a new video server playback system to complement the station's powerful field production and editing equipment. With its digital upgrade, Whitewater Community Television now produces digital quality rivaling commercial television operations.

About the NEXUS

The NEXUS has become one of the most popular station automation solutions for local cable access television operations. Designed for the needs and budgets of noncommercial television stations, the NEXUS delivers digital video performance at a price within reach of nearly every television operation.

About Alan Lockett

Alan Lockett has been the Coordinator for Station 13, Whitewater Community Television, since 2000. Station 13 is a community active cable TV station that records and airs local current events. Alan focuses on keeping Station 13 user friendly as well as a great educational stepping stone for future TV and video producers.

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, leightronix.com

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