



High Speed File Transfer Powers Collaboration During Post-Production

AT A GLANCE

Industry

Media & Entertainment

Challenge

Fast, streamlined and reliable transfer of massive media files globally between film post-production companies

Solution

Aspera *aspex*™ Server for secure high-speed file transfer and person-to-person collaboration

Results

- High-speed transfer of valuable digital assets during post-production regardless of file size, transfer distance or network conditions
- Significant time savings – set-up in two-three hours instead of two-three weeks
- Real-time collaboration for geographically distributed teams

Universal Pictures is one of the world's leading media and entertainment companies. Creating big visual effects films like *Snow White* and *Battleship* requires an army of post-production partners and facilities, all seamlessly working together to produce a top-notch final product. To facilitate the process, Universal Pictures counts on Aspera to quickly, easily and securely transport very large media files between multiple post-production companies around the globe.

CHALLENGE

Filmmaking today is a complex process involving many entities both inside and outside of the parent studio – everything from visual effects and computer animation firms to film labs, music studios and internal editorial suites. Each day during the post-production process, Universal Pictures creates large media files – between 15-30 GB – which must be transferred and manipulated multiple times over before combining into a finished product. It is critical that data transfer be fast, easy and secure.

In filmmaking, post-production teams are brought in with each movie, typically every six months to a year, depending on how long a particular movie takes to complete. Bringing

new teams up to speed can take time.

Over the years, Universal Pictures tried several solutions from various vendors for post-production digital content delivery, all of which fell short in delivering the required speed, ease-of-use and security at a reasonable price point. Some of the

“Digital workflow is the foundation for successful post-production work, and Aspera is a big part of that.”

*Director, Post Production Content Security
at Universal Pictures*

digital delivery methods required two-to-three-week set-up times, as well as extensive training for each new crew. Many solutions could not adapt to the different facilities' bandwidth constraints.

SOLUTION

Today, Universal Pictures uses the Aspera *aspex*™ Server as a high-speed and secure way to send, receive and share core digital assets internationally between production facilities, post houses and visual effects

BENEFITS

Ease of Use and Set-up: With the Aspera *fastpex* Server, set-up takes 2 - 3 hours as opposed to 2 - 3 weeks with other solutions. The intuitive web interface enables new post-production crews to start transferring files immediately without the need to learn a complicated system.

Efficiency: High-speed data transfer plus fast user ramp-up reduces production cycles. Aspera enables large data set transfers over any network at maximum speed, source disk to destination disk, regardless of network conditions or distance.

Flexibility: Delivery changes can be easily made on an as-needed basis, and the system's email notification system keeps team members up-to-date on content delivery status.

Security: The Aspera *fastpex* Server combines advanced policy-encryption during transfer and at rest.

partners. The Aspera *fastpex* Server provides an intuitive and efficient solution for individuals and groups located anywhere in the world to easily collaborate by transferring files of any size, over any distance, and any network condition.

Aspera is now the approved standard for transferring content around the world. With the Aspera *fastpex* Server, users can get set up quickly and start sending files right away, which greatly speeds up the post-production process.

Production teams now use the intuitive email-style interface for distributing and exchanging files and directories. Project-based collaboration can be done through both user and group management, and integrated email notifications let team members know that content was successfully delivered and downloaded.

“Aspera is our approved standard for transferring content around the world.”

RESULTS

By relying on the Aspera *fastpex* Server, Universal Pictures has significantly reduced production cycle times. Before Aspera, each time production started on a new film, the team had to spend a great deal of time setting up the system and training new crew members on the file transfer process. With *fastpex*, they no longer have to devote resources to training new people multiple times. Aspera's intuitive interface and set-up enables new users to simply go to a web page, click, drag and drop. The system can be quickly setup, used for the six month production lifecycle, and then cycled back into use as the next post-production teams need it.

The flexibility and collaboration inherent in the Aspera *fastpex* Server are also a plus. Aspera's email notification system keeps all team members informed as to the status of content delivery. If someone in London for example, is alerted at midnight to deliver a file to Paris instead of Los Angeles, the system allows for that one-off delivery change. As a result, Universal Pictures can trust that production stays on schedule and team members are always up to date on status.

ABOUT UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Universal Pictures is one of the world's leading media and entertainment companies in the development, production and marketing of entertainment, news, and information to a global audience. Universal Pictures owns and operates a valuable portfolio of news and entertainment television networks, a premier motion picture company, significant television production operations, a leading television stations group, and world-renowned theme parks.

About Aspera

Aspera is the creator of next-generation transport technologies that move the world's data at maximum speed regardless of file size, transfer distance and network conditions. Based on its patented FASP™ protocol, Aspera software fully utilizes existing infrastructures to deliver the fastest, most predictable file-transfer experience. Aspera's core technology delivers unprecedented control over bandwidth, complete security and uncompromising reliability. Organizations across a variety of industries on six continents rely on Aspera software for the business-critical transport of their digital assets.

Learn more at www.asperasoft.com