x-dream-media's Workflow Solution
Special OEM edition of Signiant's Manager + Agents

The business process in modern media production environments is based on file-based workflows. It begins at the camera where video and first metadata assets are gathered. During the second step when such assets are ingested into the post-production chain more meta data is requested and first video file processing happens. Along the post-production chain, these sources are refined. So firstly an editorial review and selection happens, followed by cutting, if necessary animation and graphics, sound and any subtitling. Finally a finished asset arises to broadcast "on air".

Either already parallel to the linear distribution or shortly thereafter the content is provided as "CatchUpTV" or "VideoOnDemand" in libraries. For such offerings on the so-called "second screen" or "multi-screen" more meta data and essences are required. The libraries offer the least a preview and a brief content description. Often there is a trailer, a storyboard, a long description and a lot of information about the provided clip available. Very important for suppliers and its suppliers are also exploitation rights and pricing models.

So called aggregators are forming asset packages. These are sometimes processed in turn by other service providers and often made available to multiple propagators. The latter, in turn, usually have several suppliers.

The business processes described begins in the studio and ultimately ends on the devices of the viewers or users. At the beginning of the described process chain the focus is on the processing of video materials and towards the end outweighs the need for metadata aggregation and delivery. Basically it's always a file-based, automated, self-managing workflow.

x-dream-media's Workflow Solution

We consider media production environments process-oriented. Manual, fully and semi-automated processes are realized by our workflow system which is OEMed from Signiant. It provides the operators task-specific surfaces. It has links to all the relevant components in the production environment. These are controlled by it or video essences and metadata are transferred between the units. Our focus is on the Ingest into production or content management systems, post-production, the processing and the non-linear delivery. The archiving is another source or sink. The same applies to the broadcast "onAir".

1. Workflow Manager Light OEM

The Workflow Manager Light is an entry-level Solution for basic Workflows with the following feature set and limitations:

- Supports up to 3 Workflows
- Supports up to 10 Concurrent (Running) Jobs
- No Workflow Customization
- User Interface for Monitoring only
- Upgradeable to Medium or Full version
- Only available as full managed Solution with customized pre-configured workflows

Example Use cases:

- Expands the out of the box functionality of a transcoder/MAM etc. by making use of its APIs.

2. Workflow Manager Medium OEM

The Workflow Manager Medium acts as base for x-dream-medias Pre-Integrated Solutions:

- Only available as full managed Solution (including customized pre-configured workflows)
- Up to 10 Scheduled (e.g. „Watch folders") and 50 concurrent (running) Jobs
- Up to 2 Agents (Workers)
- Active Directory integration for accessing Job Reporting Pages
- Fully featured API for scheduling and generating Jobs (REST and SOAP)
- High Available Workflows by doubling the Manager
- Active-Active High Availability

3. Workflow Manager Full OEM

The Workflow Manager Full is recommended for large scale Workflow Integrations. On top of the Medium version it offers:

- Fully Customizable „generic" Workflows
- Up to 10 Agents per Manager
- Up to 80 Concurrent (Running) Jobs per Manager
- Unlimited number of Scheduled Jobs (e.g. „Watch folders")
- AD integration for Administration and User Management
- High Available Workflows by doubling the Manager
- Active-Active High Availability

4. Full Signiant Manager (non OEM)

Once you've build a production eco-system based on x-dream-media's Workflow Solution but need one of the following features you are entitled for an upgrade to the fully featured version from Signiant:

- Signiant UDP accelerated File Transfer
- Up to 15 Agents (expandable)
- Unlimited Scheduled Jobs (e.g. Watch folders)
- Up to 80 Concurrent Jobs
- Fully featured API, Active Directory
- High Availability (Active/Standby)

For more details please refer the product website at http://www.signiant.com/products/signiant-manager/

5. Comparison

The following comparison table gives and overview over x-dream-media's Workflow Solution and points out the differences to the fully featured but more cost intensive version from Signiant.

	Light Workflow OEM	Medium Workflow OEM	Full Workflow OEM	Full Signiant (non OEM)
File Transfer:				
UDP Accelerated Signiant				x
FTP/Windows/Linux copy etc…	x	x	x	x
Job Features:				
Job scheduling	x	x	x	x
Job Resource Management	x	x	x	x
API (submit Jobs)	x	x	x	x
API (all other)		x	x	x
Number of jobs:				
Scheduled	3	10	unlimited	unlimited
Concurrent	10	50	80	80
UI Features:				
UI for Admins (the Manager UI)			x	x
UI for Users (e.g. a single job view)		x	x	x
AD integration		x	x	x
Workflow editing			x	x
Other:				
Max. Number of Agents	0	2	10	15

5. Connector Components

The so called Components are PlugIns to the Manager & Agents. They are either the actors or the connectors to third party software products. That way they allow to retrieve audio visual content or metadata from ingest systems, archives, file systems, databases. They are used to control processing software like transcoders, re-wrappers, audio processors, standard converters, QC tools, file correcting tools, virus scanners etc. Once processed they enable the file transfer and checkIn to post-production environments. And finally they are used to upload the content to CDNs and the checkIn to CMS or alternatively to playout and archiving.

There is a continuously growing list of Connector Components from x-dream-media for Signiant's Manager + Agents as well as our Workflow Solution:

- Harmonic Promedia WFS and Carbon
- Telestream Vantage
- Capella Systems FTC Cluster
- Quantel/Snell Alchemist OD
- Dalet/Amberfin iCR
- Minnetonka Audio Tools Server
- Emotion Systems eNGINE
- Avid Interplay
- Quantel sQ *
- Interra Baton
- Vidcheck Vidchecker
- Textronix/Digimetrix Aurora *
- Cube-Tex MXF-Legalizer
- BBC BMX Tools
- AVG Anti-Virus
- Kaltura Backoffice
- Subshell Sophora
- Akamai CDN
- Alcatel Lucent Cloud DVR
- Aspera FASP

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