

Case Study

POINT Storage Manager **Belgischer Rundfunk**



BRF

PoINT Storage Manager is helping BRF, a German-language broadcast center in Belgium, to meet the challenges of digitization. Until recently, BRF's broadcast center still held many old recordings on tapes and cassettes. Initially, this media archive was digitized entirely on hard disks, but as the amount of audio and video data grew and grew, the cost of

this approach started to cause problems. Instead, BRF now archives old content on tape once more – but now in digital format, with the help of the PoINT Storage Manager. PoINT's software integrates the tape library seamlessly into BRF's existing storage infrastructure, enabling transparent access to archived files.

Challenge

- Digitize large numbers of audio and video recordings
- Transparent access to archived recordings
- Scalable storage system as data volumes continue to grow
- Protect against hardware and software outages

Solution - PoINT Storage Manager

- Implement a hierarchical storage management solution with the help of the PoINT Storage Manager
- Integrate an LTO-8 tape library as the archive storage
- Automatically archive old recordings

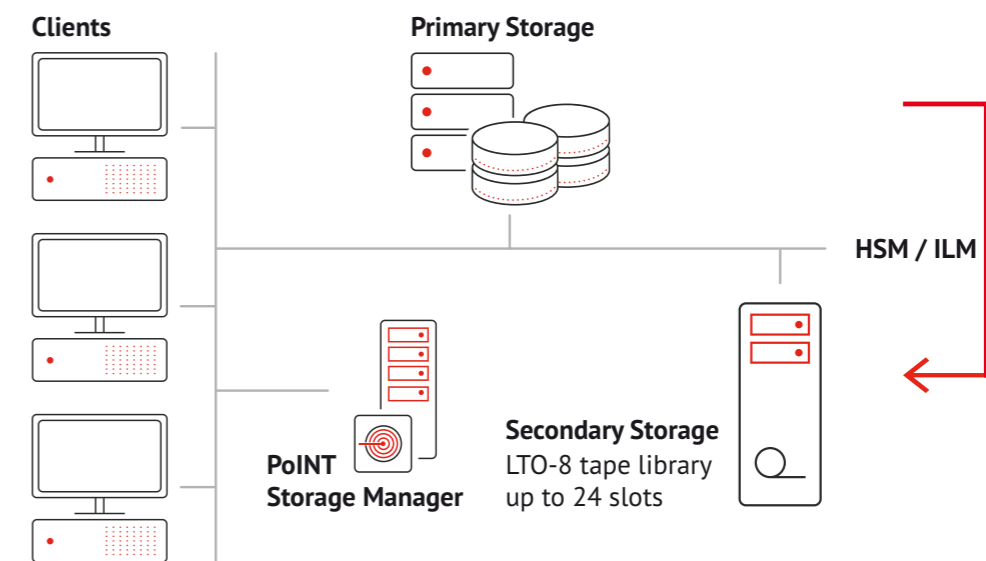
Benefits

- Reduced load on hard disk system
- Reduced costs using tape as the archive storage medium
- Solution can be expanded as data volumes continue to grow
- Reliable access options in case of outages

About Belgischer Rundfunk

The abbreviation BRF stands for Europe's smallest public service broadcaster. With around 70 employees the Belgian Broadcasting Corporation of the German-speaking Community is based in Eupen and has studios in Brussels and St. Vith. It offers three radio channels, one television channel and an internet portal.

The Belgian Broadcasting is the public service broadcaster of the German-speaking Community of Belgium and thus has a corresponding mission to accomplish. It sees itself as a medium that primarily has to inform: for and about the German-speaking Community, about Belgium, the Euregio, but also about international events.



BRF, a German-language broadcast center in Belgium, holds many old recordings on tapes and cassettes. As the quality of the tapes is degrading and there are fewer and fewer devices capable of playing back recordings in this format, BRF needed to digitize its old archive step by step. This results in the creation of audio and video files in a range of formats and sizes from a few megabytes to hundreds of gigabytes.

BRF faced a number of challenges in digitizing the material. For example, it quickly became clear that hard disk drives were not a viable long-term storage solution. As a result, BRF needed to find an alternative storage medium that was more cost-effective. This medium needed to be highly scalable, in order to cope with constantly rising data volumes. It also needed to guarantee fast, transparent access to the material in question: for one thing, audio and video recordings need to remain available for use in contemporary broadcasts. For another, all references in the broadcast database needed to be preserved, so that editors could still find the data without any new difficulties.

To meet these challenges, the BRF chose a two-tier hierarchical storage management solution using the Archive Edition of the PoINT Storage Manager. This software integrates an LTO-8 tape library with 24 slots and two tape drives into the broadcaster's existing storage infrastructure, allowing the library to act as an archive storage system. Tape

is a cost-effective storage medium that is ideal for archiving media files.

PoINT Storage Manager automatically moves data to the archive storage system. This relieves the load on the primary hard disk-based system. Files are archived in a standardized format, while retaining all file paths. The users access the archived files via the file system from the primary storage, so the files are still available for quick and easy use. Archiving the audio and video files on tape also improves data security and guarantees access even if other tiers of the storage infrastructure are experiencing errors or outages.

“PoINT's software meets all of our requirements, and it was the most cost-effective option,” said Marc Schiffler, head of production and technology. “The data is saved in a non-proprietary format and the system is fully transparent for the applications used to access the files. It does exactly what we need while still being easy to use.”

Because PoINT Storage Manager can integrate tape libraries from any vendor, it also enables the flexibility and scalability BRF needs in light of an expected future increase in data volumes.

About PoINT

PoINT Software & Systems GmbH is specialized in the development and distribution of software products for storage, management and archiving of data. Our data & storage management solutions offer an easy and efficient integration of different storage technologies and systems in consideration of enterprise requirements. PoINT products allow optimized usage of storage systems and help to reduce costs and issues caused by data growth.

The software solutions fulfil compliance and archiving requirements and provide independence from storage technologies and vendors.

Additional information and a trial version of the software are available at www.point.de.