



High-Performance Collaborative Storage for Flame 4K Workflows

THE NEED FOR SPEED—AND COLLABORATION

Autodesk® Flame® software users require ultimate performance to move quickly around the toolset to help enable the free-form creative process. For years, the only sure-fire way to get reliable UI interactivity and meet deadlines was with using workstations with speedy direct attached storage (DAS). But as clients' expectations have continued to rise, finishing resolutions and formats have increased in size and number. The more complex projects required more collaboration between artists, animators, and editors. Moving HD and 2K files to and from Flame systems via Ethernet proved to be time consuming and resulted in costly duplication of files. Tighter deadlines, smaller budgets, and competition make shared storage essential to the success of all businesses ranging from small boutiques to the larger post-production facilities.

While working in Ethernet-based NAS (networked-attached storage) environments provides shared access to large files, 4K and Ultra-HD formats require 4X the throughput of HD. Even bonded Ethernet technologies have struggled to provide the consistent interactivity required for client sessions. Move to larger "frame-per-file" formats such as DPX or OpenEXR, and artists will likely spend more time waiting for media than creating it.

TURNING UP FLAME'S SOFTWARE PERFORMANCE

Quantum's StorNext® File System has been a favorite in the Media and Entertainment industry for years because it provides the interactivity or direct attached storage, but in a shared, expandable collaborative environment. The Quantum StorNext 5 File System provides the industry's fastest per-stream performance over SAN infrastructure. Since 2008, the Autodesk Creative Finishing Professional Services team have been providing customized Quantum StorNext SAN to their customers. Today, Flame artists with StorNext SAN solutions are flying through multiple streams of uncompressed 4K, yet are able share and collaborate with ease.

ADD ON

Ethernet can be valuable in VFX pipelines when end-users are not bound by high-throughput requirements. The StorNext M660 metadata controller features intelligent Distributed LAN Client (DLC) support. DLCs allow applications that do not require Fibre Channel SAN speed to connect to StorNext environments, dramatically lowering connectivity costs. StorNext's DLC is also integrated into Apple's release of Mac OS X 10.11 (El Capitan), allowing Mac workstations running Autodesk's Flame Assist and Flare to connect to StorNext SAN environments with a simple Ethernet cable.

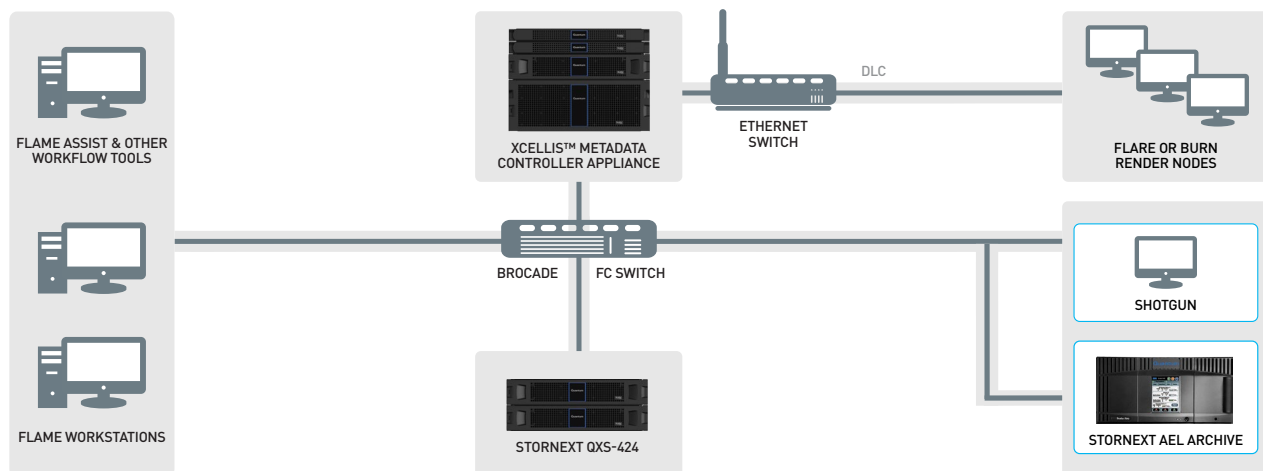


SOLUTION PROFILE

Components of the solution that will support a small workgroup of creative finishing professionals in a collaborative environment:

- Flame® 3D visual effects software
- Flame Premium, Flame Assist, Flare, Lustre
- StorNext M440/M660 Metadata Appliance
- QXS-Series disk
- HP Z840 or other high-performance workstations
- Mac Pro workstations
- ATTO Celerity HBAs
- Brocade switch
- Autodesk Creative Finishing Professional Services

Figure 1. Creative Finishing Architecture



CALL SHOTGUN

Many top post and visual effects companies use Shotgun, the renowned production tracking, review, and asset management software, for remote client review. Integrating with Quantum's entire line of tiered storage solutions, facilities can develop powerful, automated media management strategies. "Hot" work-in-progress (WIP) assets can be automatically moved to Quantum's affordable object-based archive storage, Lattus™, as they "cool," then eventually off to tape for long-term archive. Simultaneously, WIP can be encoded and securely moved to the cloud for review and approval.

INSTALLED BY AUTODESK'S CREATIVE FINISHING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TEAM

Autodesk's Creative Finishing Professional Services team has installed dozens of Quantum StorNext SANs across the world, each fully redundant with nearly 100% uptime. The Autodesk Creative Finishing Professional Services team can fine-tune Quantum solutions to make Flame "scream," and their support teams are thoroughly trained to support Quantum hardware and software* as if they were their own. Further, the Autodesk/Quantum partnership relationship has resulted in several engineering achievements, such as the ability to lay down DPX files sequentially on disk in order to help reduce disk fragmentation. Rarely do media and entertainment technology partner relationships provide such clear-cut industry benefits as does Autodesk and Quantum's. With 4K inching closer to widespread adoption, the timing couldn't be better.

The only real option for me was Quantum's StorNext SAN through Autodesk. We don't have an IT engineer and [we] needed a fully supported solution should something go wrong. Having experienced Autodesk Technical Support through our Flame subscriptions, we knew it would be second to none—it's rare to get such great support from any vendor and it really played a big part of the final decision to go with the Quantum SAN through Autodesk.

- Eugene Richards, The Refinery,
Melbourne Australia

* Autodesk will support hardware contracts until the end of their current contract period. After this time no renewals will be available as Autodesk no longer sells hardware. Please contact your reseller for more information.

ABOUT QUANTUM

Quantum is a leading expert in scale-out storage, archive and data protection. The company's StorNext® 5 platform powers modern high-performance workflows, enabling fluid, real-time collaboration and keeping content readily accessible for future use and re-monetization. More than 100,000 customers have trusted Quantum to address their most demanding content workflow needs, including top studios, major broadcasters and cutting-edge content creators. With Quantum, customers can Be Certain™ they have the end-to-end storage foundation they need to manage assets from ingest through finishing, and into delivery and long-term preservation. See how at www.stornext.com.

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