



Success Story

## Sveriges Television Transitions to All-Digital News Production with SGI Media Server™ and SGI™ Origin® 3400



Hawrys custom automation software serves the regions and SVT24.

Sveriges Television (SVT) selected SGI Media Server for broadcast for the Swedish public broadcasting company's all-digital news-production facility in Stockholm, bringing the total number of SGI Media Server systems used in SVT operations to 34. The facility is the first to be entirely designed around the SGI Origin 3400 server, which is being used as a central file server storing all the content and acting as the hub to all the other servers on the SVT network.

SVT has been rapidly replacing the tape-based system that had served four newsrooms in Stockholm. In mid-2001, SVT operations were based 25% on SGI Media Server, 25% on Avid® MediaServer™, and 50% on tape. In early September, the Stockholm facility became 100% based on SGI Media Server for broadcast—backed by the SGI Origin 3400 system—and now almost 90% of SVT News throughout Sweden is handled by SGI Media Server.

SVT has expanded its SGI™ news server system, moving SVT news, sports, and current events programming units (including national channels SVT1 and SVT2 and 24-hour national news service SVT24) into the new all-digital facility in Stockholm. The system installation, which was built in stages to keep all the services on the air during the transition, was handled by Sony (which built SVT24's original all-digital facility, including Sony® control rooms, in 2000) and is now fully operational with new studios and four control rooms—two with totally new equipment and two with existing equipment relocated from SVT24 and elsewhere.

“Sveriges Television is very pleased to have launched a new digital production system based on Internet technology. The new system was put to the test during the extreme news situation the first week of operation in early September and came through without failures,” said Niklas Krantz, project manager for SVT. “The networked system, where playout is done from seven SGI Origin 200 media servers, ingest is done from three four-channel SGI Media Server systems, and file transfers are directed through an SGI Origin 3400 server, covers the whole of Sweden: 10 newsrooms in Stockholm and 10 regional newsrooms around Sweden, connected on a network for faster than real-time transfers of video files. We have been able to do more than we ever thought possible with SGI Media Server.”



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— Niklas Krantz  
SVT Project Manager

## The New SVT News System

New editing rooms were outfitted with PC-based Avid® NewsCutter® Effects, which has new software to allow exporting of DVCPRO25.dif files to the network for storage into a central content store server, an SGI Origin 3400 system with 60 hours of storage. This file server, having only network connections, acts as the hub to all the other servers on the network. With the Gigabit Ethernet backbone in the new building, there is more than enough bandwidth to handle a large number of simultaneous transfers. This is especially important just before the start of a newscast when Avid NewsCutter is expected to transfer just-in-time edited pieces to SGI Media Server.

The new system also employs two ingest servers with a total of 12 video/audio-pair inputs and outputs for real-time video from such sources as the linear tape editing suites and news services, including Reuters and the Associated Press. The ingest servers also feed real-time video and audio to MPEG-I encoders for the low-resolution browse server.

Each control room has a pair of mirrored SGI Media Server systems assigned to it for play-to-air. The Hawrys automation software, developed by SVT and used for news on all three channels, has been updated to include

SVT uses SGI Media Server systems like the one shown here to transfer news stories as DVCPRO25.dif files between its headquarters in Stockholm and regional facilities. The systems are linked with an E-3 34Mb/sec microwave WAN.



mirroring functions, not only between servers in a single control room, but for servers in all control rooms. Every clip for every program is loaded into each control room's servers.

SVT enhanced the current IBM® tape robotic archive that is integrated with SGI Media Server into a media asset management system. Called Newsflow, it allows the user to search for metadata and keyframes in feeds, browse the archive and ingested material, and perform fast browse edits on every desktop. The system has a capacity for 6,000 hours of high- and low-resolution video.

## Cost Savings

By using the Distribute Data, View Video concept introduced along with SGI Media Server at NAB 2000, SVT has not only been able to preserve the data's integrity [there's no encode/decode generation loss when video is distributed as data], but has also significantly reduced contribution costs with the use of the data network. Expensive video/audio microwave and satellite links are now used only when absolutely necessary [such as when a remote guest appears on a live show]. This also improves the quality of the signal, since it does not need to be decoded and recorded, modulated and remodulated.



Niklas Krantz, project manager, SVT



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