Training Day 7 Report:

13 June 2024

On the seventh day of training at Doordarshan News, the focus was on the AP ENPS (Associated Press Electronic News Production System) and its integration into the newsroom operations. This detailed report covers the functionality of AP ENPS, its role within Doordarshan News, and the reasons for opting for this system over cloud-based alternatives. Additionally, it includes an overview of the MOS protocol, GV and Quantel Server management, and the WASP 3D Sting Server.

AP ENPS Integration at Doordarshan News

Connection and Access

- **ENPS Server Room**: AP ENPS at Doordarshan News is connected to a dedicated server room that houses the ENPS servers. Workstations within the newsroom access the ENPS via specific IP addresses using LAN cables. This setup ensures a secure and stable connection, crucial for real-time news production.
- **Security and Privacy**: Doordarshan, as a government organization, prioritizes security and privacy. Sensitive information such as election results and budget announcements require robust security measures. An on-premise system like AP ENPS mitigates the risks associated with cloud-based solutions, which can be vulnerable to cyber threats.

Usage by Various Roles

- **Journalists**: Journalists use ENPS for creating and editing news stories. The system provides a user-friendly interface for scriptwriting, research, and collaboration.
- **Graphic Designers**: Graphic designers integrate visual elements into news stories. ENPS allows them to manage and insert graphics seamlessly into the broadcast workflow.
- **Producers**: Producers use ENPS to manage rundowns, coordinate live broadcasts, and ensure that the news bulletin runs smoothly. They can adjust the rundown in real-time to accommodate breaking news.
- **Other Staff**: Various other roles within the newsroom, including editors and directors, use ENPS for content management, script approval, and scheduling.

Detailed Functionality of AP ENPS

Story and Rundown Management

- **Story Creation and Editing**:
    - **Scriptwriting Tools**: Journalists have access to comprehensive scriptwriting tools that include formatting options, spell check, and version control.
    - **Collaboration**: Multiple users can collaborate on the same story, ensuring that updates are reflected in real-time and all contributors have the latest information.
- **Rundown Management**:
    - **Organizing Stories**: Producers organize stories into rundowns, which define the sequence and timing of each segment in the newscast.
    - **Real-Time Updates**: ENPS automatically updates the rundown as changes are made, ensuring everyone involved has the latest version.
    - **Timing Control**: Tracks the duration of each story and provides warnings if the newscast is running over or under time.

MOS Protocol

- **Media Object Server (MOS) Protocol**:
    - **Integration**: The MOS protocol allows ENPS to communicate seamlessly with other newsroom systems such as video servers, graphics systems, and teleprompters. This integration ensures that all elements of a broadcast are synchronized and managed efficiently.
    - **Real-Time Data Exchange**: MOS supports real-time data exchange between ENPS and connected devices, allowing for instant updates and adjustments during live broadcasts.

Server Management

- **GV and Quantel Servers**:
    - **Functionality**: Grass Valley (GV) and Quantel servers are used for managing video content. These servers handle the ingestion, storage, and retrieval of video files that are essential for news broadcasts.
    - **Tools**:
        - **SQ Edit**: A tool for editing video clips stored on the servers. It allows journalists and editors to cut and refine video content.
        - **SQ Cut**: Used for trimming video segments to the desired length, ensuring that they fit within the allocated time slots.
        - **SQ View**: Allows users to preview video content before it goes live, ensuring quality and accuracy.
        - **SQ Play**: Manages the playback of video clips during broadcasts, ensuring that the correct video is played at the right time.

WASP 3D Sting Server

- **Graphics Integration**:
    - **3D Graphics**: WASP 3D Sting Server is used for integrating 3D graphics into broadcasts. This server allows designers to create, preview, and manage graphical elements.
    - **Preview and Management**: Users can preview how graphics will appear on screen and make adjustments as needed to ensure they complement the video content effectively.

Comparative Analysis with Other Channels

- **Private Channels**: Channels like NDTV and Zee News use similar systems such as Octopus. These systems offer comparable functionalities to AP ENPS, including story and rundown management, server integration, and graphics handling.
- **Social Media-Based Outlets**: Organizations like Newslaundry and Lallantop, which focus primarily on social media platforms, do not typically use comprehensive newsroom systems like AP ENPS or Octopus. Instead, they rely on simpler, more flexible tools that cater to their unique content creation and distribution needs.

Conclusion

AP ENPS is a critical component of Doordarshan News' operations, providing a secure, efficient, and integrated solution for managing news production. By leveraging on-premise systems and advanced server management tools, Doordarshan ensures the integrity and security of its broadcasting processes, which is vital for handling sensitive information. The use of the MOS protocol, GV and Quantel servers, and WASP 3D Sting Server enhances the overall efficiency and quality of the news production workflow, making AP ENPS an indispensable tool for the newsroom.
