

Versio™

Disaster Recovery

Scenario

Operations seeking a high-quality, highly reliable backup system that's easily installed and maintained, and can come on air within moments of a main playout system disruption.

Overview

Disaster recovery infrastructure has become an increasingly important part of business planning for any broadcast or video playout operation. Even a temporary loss of signal can result in the audience switching to other channels or networks, and for that reason, operations must be able to recover from disruptions immediately, within seconds.

The standard approach to recovery — maintaining a mirrored playout system at a remote location — can be too complex and expensive for some organizations, especially given many facilities routinely play out 50-plus channels simultaneously. But, the low-cost solution — remote access to the existing playout facility — may not effectively maintain operation.

As a result, broadcast operations are looking for reliable, cost-effective and quality backup solutions that are easy to install and maintain, and come on air instantly when the main playout system fails. Ideally, this backup system would be synchronized and controlled by the facility's main automation system and feature premium branding graphics to ensure a virtually seamless transition from main playout to remote backup.

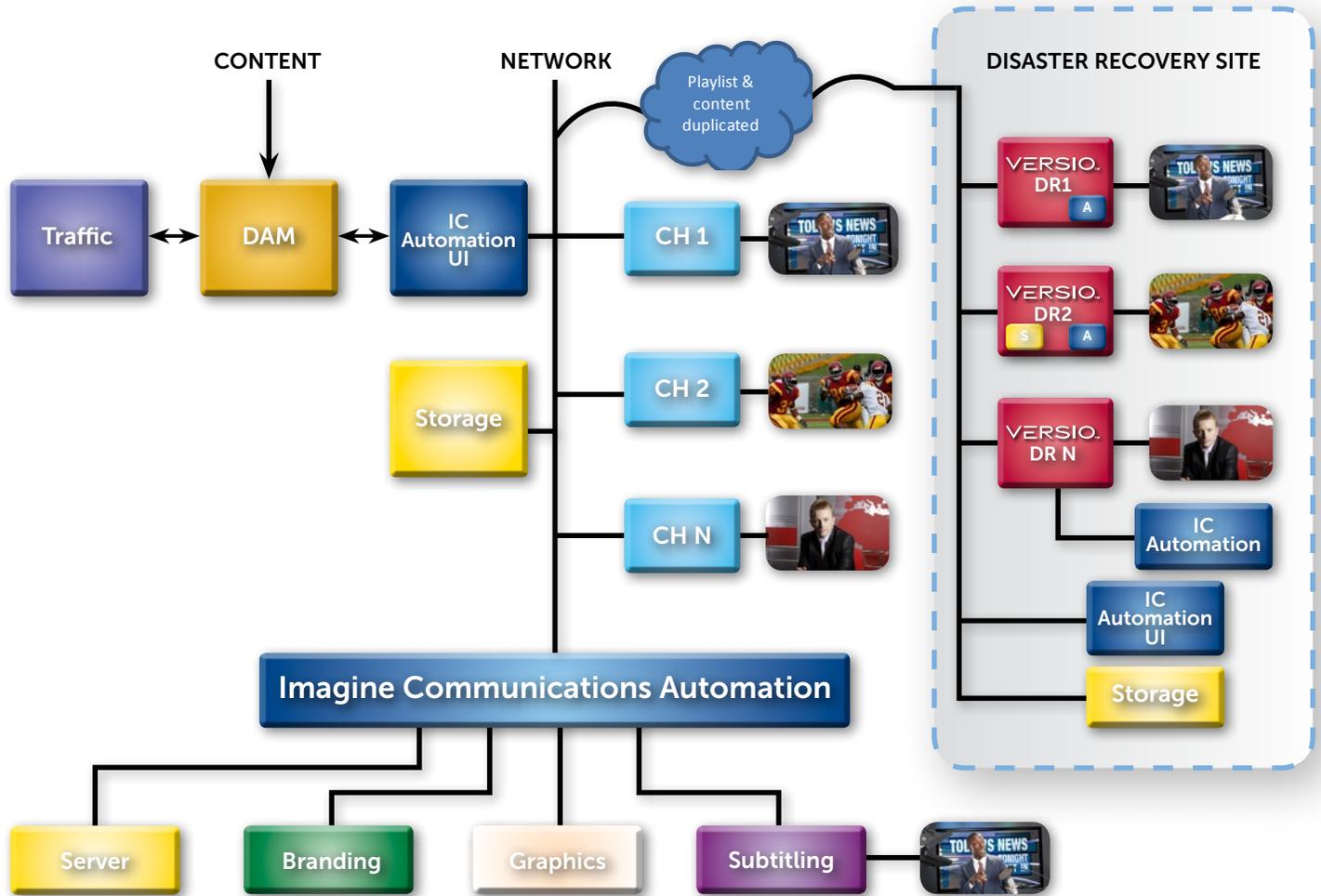
Solution Description

For disaster recovery solutions, it is assumed that scheduled clip and branding elements from the primary air systems will be replicated to the disaster recovery site. There are a number of ways that the disaster recovery site can be structured to provide a viable channel recovery scheme in the event of a failure in the primary air channels:

1. When channels need to be completely independent, a fully integrated Versio solution featuring customer's choice of SD or SD/HD playout channel, integrated Imagine Communications automation, branding and graphics can be used.
2. In situations where shared clip storage is desirable and automation control is still desired internal to each Versio solution, customers can utilize their choice of SD or SD/HD playout channel, integrated Imagine Communications automation, branding and graphics.
3. In situations where shared clip storage and external automation control are desirable, a Versio solution featuring the customer's choice of SD or SD/HD playout channel, integrated branding and graphics can be used. The automation control layer uses external device control hardware to centralize automation operations.

In each of these situations, customers can then choose from additional software-licensed keyed options to enable live input, DVE functions, baseband ingest, scheduled record and codecs, as well as a variety of external device control options and workflow tools. Available workflow tools are reflected by the customer's choice of internal or external automation control. The types and variety of workflows are greater when using external automation control and asset management tools. Multiple channels can be controlled and monitored under a single automation user interface.

For disaster recovery scenarios that do not require replicating content from the primary playout system, but instead use evergreen or pre-selected content, customers should refer to the Imagine Communications Versio Single-Channel Launch solution brief. Versio: Simple and Reliable Disaster Recovery



Versio is a cost-effective, highly reliable, software-based solution that's easily installed and maintained, and can come on air within moments of a main playout system disruption. Versio meets all the critical performance criteria playout facilities desire in a disaster recovery solution via a 1RU model that integrates server, automation, branding and graphics, and playout capabilities. This criteria includes:

- Reliable, quality playout signal
- Instant availability for seamless transition to backup
- Premium built-in branding and graphics, providing impactful imaging consistent with the primary playout channel
- Cost-effective off-site disaster recovery infrastructure, fully compatible and synchronized with the main playout site

- A low-maintenance, single-platform design, as well as space- and energy efficiency that lowers operational costs
- Seamless integration with the Imagine Communications station automation system, eliminating the need for a separate process to bridge operations between main site and backup
- A mix of main and backup channels in one site for diverse and resilient disaster recovery

Versio eliminates the need to invest in a backup system that mirrors the main playout system.

Versio: Improved Quality and Reliability

Since the core of the Versio system is based on existing automation, graphics and branding, and server technology, video and graphics image quality is maintained. And since the exceptional stability and reliability of Imagine Communications automation and asset management systems are part of the solution, there are no compromises to the performance levels operators have become used to in their existing infrastructure. Customers also have access to the much larger scope of playout and media workflow thanks to Imagine Communications automation's vast integration support for all areas related to the business of play to air.

Versio: Superior Flexibility for a Variety of Requirements

Versio is highly reliable, and the flexible architecture's rapid switching and instant availability provides near-seamless transition to backup.

Versio can be a standalone recovery system with its internal server playout or an integrated system component via material transfer from the main playout site's server. Broadcast playback facilities can customize the Versio setup to meet specific disaster recovery needs.

For basic, low-cost disaster recovery protection, Versio can internally play out previously ingested evergreen material with quality branding and graphics to keep a channel on-air until the main system returns to operation.

For a more complex solution, workflow tools can feed the Versio content ingested at the main site, ensuring no additional overhead. Additional processes, such as transcode and automatic quality control, can be built in at the disaster recovery site if the operation is looking to reduce storage costs or ensure quality at its remote location. This configuration ensures content required to back up the main channel playout is always available.

At the highest level of recovery, the Versio solution can connect the automation elements to the main site. With this infrastructure, comprehensive schedule syncing and programming updates are automatically fed to the Versio system, either driven by traffic or manually instigated. Playlists are preserved, and advertising is played out in sync with the main system — without additional operational overhead and minimizing the effects of main system downtime. If operators make playlist changes, those changes are automatically relayed to the backup system.

Versio: Cost-Effective Disaster Recovery

Versio provides disaster recovery protection without increasing operational costs. Management of the backup system is invisible to main site operators. Whatever happens on the master playlist is reflected immediately in the backup system — in the event of main system disruption, the switch is seamless and up to date.

Versio eliminates the costs of building out and coordinating a backup system because it provides the same level of disaster recovery. The solution features a compact chassis, so it takes up minimal space at the facility and is engineered to be energy-efficient for low power costs.

Versio: Unmatched Compatibility

Because it seamlessly integrates with Imagine Communications automation, Versio functions transparently in the background, reducing operator and training costs. Operators and schedulers can continue to work as usual while the Versio system receives automation commands and schedule changes — no operator interaction is necessary.

Summary

While other “channel in a box” solutions offer some synchronization through automation, only Versio has the transparency and responsiveness for seamless backup without disruption of established workflows.

To prevent the fallout of dead air — lost viewers, lost revenue — playout facilities need a solution with a high level of flexibility, automation and integration capabilities, low cost of operation and reliability. Versio provides seamless disaster recovery and peace of mind for any playout operation.