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LIVE  **PRODUCTION**

DIRECTORY

2016 **UHD | 4K**

ENHANCING SOUND STUDIO FLEXIBILITY AND PRODUCER EFFICIENCY



COMBINATION OF AVID S6 WITH IHSE DRACO TERA KVM SWITCH

The revolutionary Pro Tools | S6 control surface is the ultimate tool for audio professionals. Its modular and flexible architecture allows operators to design the perfect mixing surface for individual workflows. For even greater functionality and convenience, the Draco tera KVM switch has been integrated into the Pro Tools | S6 system. With this combined solution any Pro Tools workstation can be placed on any screen and instantly accessed by a simple button press.

The ability to construct sound studios with all equipment in a centralised location is a highly attractive proposition; offering the possibility of accessing and sharing editing tools between separate studios. With a central KVM switch connected to banks of editing workstations, content storage devices and audio tools individual studios can be assigned to projects rather than dedicated roles. Equipment can be nurtured and maintained more effectively and expensive software licences assigned as needed, rather than for each individual studio.

Editors and sound mixers can use the most suitable room, which greatly enhances the deployment of valuable resources and makes studios re-assignable: a boon to facilities that operate on an hourly-fee basis. In today's multi-national production industry, this solution allows multi-national post-production organisations that operate on a global basis to construct all facilities to the same standard. It means instant familiarity to producers who can cross the globe, knowing that they will meet the same set-up and system configuration everywhere and immediately resume work on individual projects in any editing suite, in any studio, in any country.

The absence of local computer hardware with accessible input and output ports enhances security: rogue software cannot be loaded or valuable content copied and removed. The content itself can be more rigorously controlled and backed-up and editors can be sure they are accessing the latest and correct versions.

Like the S6 itself, the Draco tera compact switch acts and feels like an extension of the Avid editing software. Delivering instant response and complete flexibility, the Draco tera switch is an essential element of every professional audio mixing installation. It allows operators to focus on the job in hand, rather than become distracted by the equipment. Studios can be built to operate with utmost flexibility and efficiency.

Deluxe Entertainment Services Group

Deluxe currently operates studios in 25 regions throughout the world, employing over 7,000 of the most respected artists and technologists in the industry. Beginning as a film lab in 1915, Deluxe has established a legacy as a trusted partner for top content owners, creators and brands. Its comprehensive suite of global digital delivery solutions enable clients to move, manage and monetize content, and it offers world-class creative services that underpin some of the most ground-breaking and meaningful projects in entertainment and advertising.

The Deluxe facility on Seward Street in Hollywood was designed around Avid | S6 Consoles and Pro Tools | HDX, which, as Doug Higgins, Deluxe director of audio services explains, delivers significant advantages: "At the core of our operation is the ability to be dynamic and flexible, seamlessly moving Pro Tools sessions between mix stages with minimal setup and turnover times. Keeping all of our work and automation recallable across any of our mix stages from the temp mix to the final print master is invaluable. We have to be able to move quickly and an Avid infrastructure efficiently facilitates most workflows. The learning curve on a S6 mixing surface is generally faster and easier because our teams and clients know Pro Tools. From an internal facility maintenance and support standpoint, having a modular mix console throughout our infrastructure eliminates nearly any stage down time.

Deluxe global approach

Adding a KVM matrix switch to the infrastructure delivers additional flexibility of equipment and studios: "Having a central machine room and controlling systems from anywhere in the facility gives great flexibility. All systems are on an IHSE Draco tera KVM switch, through which we can completely dynamically allocate any system to any room rather than the older model of 'being directly connected'. It also means that we can quickly reallocate systems without any downtime should a failure occur."

The approach adopted by Deluxe globally is to standardise all studios on a common format. Higgins says, "We knew that customers needed to be able to come in and out of Deluxe with their audio content and not have any lost time in lengthy recalls or setups.



Draco tera compact KVM switch



With the shrinking budgets and timeline compression, efficiency is more critical than ever. We need to quickly move projects and mixes around the world on a uniform platform, not just from our own facility, but Deluxe and our partners worldwide.

Recent installation

The recent upgrade at the Deluxe audio facility in north-west London reflects this approach with equipment supplied and integrated by Scrub, a division of HHB Communications. In an intensive 10-week integration period, Scrub, the UK's leading Avid Pro Tools | S6 solutions partner, installed and commissioned a 10ft-wide dual operator Avid Pro Tools | S6 M40, one of the largest S6 control surfaces in the UK, at the heart of the site's flagship room: Theatre 1.

Combining two M40, 24-fader configurations controlling multiple Pro Tools | HDX systems, the S6 also benefits from the addition of two Pro Tools | S6 Joystick Modules. Scrub supplied an IHSE Draco tera | S6 KVM switch at Deluxe's request. Devin Workman, of Scrub was impressed by the

solution: "Draco extender products provide the highest quality DVI video transmission. For enhanced flexibility, Deluxe chose to add the Draco tera | S6 switch, enabling any Pro Tools system to be placed on any screen. The Draco switch integrates directly with the S6, making it possible for the console-mounted DVI screens and USB devices to follow whichever Pro Tools workstation is selected from the console."

Separate quotes:

"Everything has to be very dynamic to move quickly and an Avid infrastructure is key to what we're seeing now and where we think workflows are going."

Doug Higgins, Deluxe.

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Devin Workman, Scrub.

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