



leostream

Remote Desktop Access Platform

Case Study

Revolutionizing Remote Editing Workflows The RPL and Leostream Partnership

Customer Profile



In the world of episodic television and feature film editing, the traditional setting has long been the edit bays nestled within studio lots or the offices of production companies and dedicated post-production facilities. This workflow remained largely unchanged for decades until the unexpected arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. With post-production teams suddenly confined to their homes, producers desperately needed an alternative method to complete their shows. This is where remote video editing, a groundbreaking technology produced by Remote Picture Labs (RPL) introduced, emerged as a game-changer.

RPL's co-founder Noah Gusdorff, CTO Erik Beauchamp, and their experienced team embarked on a mission to create a system that could match the video quality and user experience synonymous with traditional editing environments. Leveraging their extensive knowledge of digital production workflows, they collaborated with leading technology vendors, including Leostream, to build a virtualized collaborative editing solution that outperforms many in-house systems. This marked RPL as one of the pioneering vendors ushering in the era of remote workflows, offering greater flexibility to editors and producers within the media and entertainment industry.

Building a Secure Entry Point

In the initial stages of development, Gusdorff and Beauchamp recognized the pivotal role of a remote desktop connection manager in user authentication and session monitoring. After evaluating multiple options, RPL chose the Leostream™ Platform to facilitate desktop connections, address complex content security requirements, and meet auditing needs.

The user experience begins with robust authentication. Delivering optimal picture, sound, and pixel quality to high-performance workstations, especially those running resource-intensive editing software like Avid Media Composer and Adobe Premiere Pro, requires meticulous orchestration in a virtualized environment. Leostream supports various mechanisms for confirming a user's identity and authorizing access, including Active Directory, Azure AD, multi-factor authentication, and integration with identity providers supporting the SAML protocol. Furthermore, it seamlessly integrates with multiple remote display protocols, ensuring a secure and responsive editing environment, as exemplified by Teradici PCoIP-based connections.

Gusdorff explains, "The Leostream technology doesn't get in the way of the creative process. The only interaction users have with Leostream is entering their username and password, and then Leostream does all of the hard work in the background. It doesn't slow anything down; it's seamless to the user."

Upon login, Leostream activates the workstation and connects all required services. From the client's perspective, the machine is ready for operation, though it is technically offline until Leostream swiftly brings it online. This near-instantaneous process is invaluable to editors working under constant time constraints.

Enhancing Producer Flexibility

In television series production, producers oversee multiple episodes simultaneously. RPL's solution empowers them by presenting a list of available resources upon login, allowing for separate connections and work on various projects in dedicated editing environments. This resource allocation is dynamic and can be modified instantly to accommodate changes in personnel or access policies.

RPL has implemented several authentication methods within Leostream, ensuring compliance with content security regulations in the media and entertainment industry. Integration with Active Directory, a RADIUS server for two-factor and multi-factor authentication, and a strong Microsoft Windows foundation create a comprehensive security chain, with Leostream as the linchpin that synchronizes everything.

Automation and Monitoring

Beyond authentication, RPL relies on the Leostream Platform for session monitoring and task automation. The platform's versatile features, including pools, plans, and policies, enable seamless resource allocation without manual intervention. As RPL expands, it plans to leverage the Leostream API to enhance its automation infrastructure further.

Monitoring tools within Leostream help RPL track user connections, usage patterns, locations, and more, with real-time metrics and an audit log that aids in identifying potential security threats and ensuring a smooth client experience.

Gusdorff emphasizes the importance of audit trails and reporting, especially when dealing with major studios and media corporations. Leostream's real-time tracking of user activity provides detailed insights into connections and actions, a crucial aspect of content security.

Adapting to the Pandemic

During the COVID-19 pandemic, RPL's solution was put to the test, particularly in hybrid post-production environments that combined at-home and in-office workstations. Editors could seamlessly transition between different workstations, maintaining continuity in their projects, regardless of their physical location.

RPL ensured minimal system downtime during this challenging time, partly thanks to its partnership with Leostream. Beauchamp underscores the rapid response of the Leostream engineering team in helping integrate their solution into the production environment without disrupting ongoing work, which was critical for meeting tight deadlines.

Remote Work Is Here to Stay

Remote and hybrid workflows have become integral to post-production editing, and RPL's solution continues to provide a robust, agile, and studio-like experience to creatives working from various locations. The Leostream Platform's vendor-neutral nature and capacity to simplify workflow complexity make it an essential component of RPL's success.

In an industry that faces significant challenges with remote work, RPL has created a powerful and flexible solution that faithfully reproduces the in-studio experience. Leostream's contribution has been instrumental in crafting this seamless, high-performance remote desktop environment for post-production professionals in Hollywood.

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"Leostream is really the glue that synchronizes and ties everything together."

- Noah Gusdorff, Cofounder, Remote Picture Labs



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