

Quantum.

2G Digital Accelerates High-Profile Post-Production Workflows with Quantum StorNext

2G Digital is a full-service post-production facility that caters to a wide array of clients, from prominent broadcast networks to the largest film studios. To meet rigorous project requirements, 2G Digital depends on Quantum StorNext storage. The Quantum platform delivers the low-latency performance, collaborative capabilities, and robust reliability that 2G Digital needs to support demanding workflows and a fast-growing business.

Located in the heart of Burbank, California, 2G Digital provides post-production services to some of the most familiar brands in the media and entertainment industry—from Apple, ESPN, and DIRECTV to Netflix, Sony Pictures, and Disney. Whether the facility is providing post finishing work, 4K re-mastering, localization, or video streaming, 2G Digital team members know they must deliver high-quality results within tight timelines.

“We work in a very fast-paced environment,” says Fernando Vazquez, vice president of engineering and technology at 2G Digital. “We need to address today’s customer requirements while also being ready to adapt to changing conditions.”

To meet rigorous demands and keep up with client expectations, 2G Digital needs robust data storage. Low-latency performance is critical for working with 4K ultra-high-definition (UHD) and high-dynamic-range (HDR) workflows. Team members need that performance whether they are working in one of 2G Digital’s edit suites or taking on projects from home. Reliability is also essential. “We’re a 24/7 facility,” says Vazquez. “We need to be sure our storage environment will be working around the clock.”

CASE STUDY



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VP Engineering/Technology
2G Digital



SOLUTION OVERVIEW

- Quantum StorNext® 7 File System
- Quantum H2000 Series
- Quantum H4000 Series
- Quantum Xcellis® Workflow Director
- Quantum QXS™ Disk Storage

KEY BENEFITS

Gained low-latency storage performance that helps accelerate demanding 4K UHD/HDR workflows.

Enabled seamless collaboration among teams with a single shared storage environment.

Empowered remote team members with reliable, low-latency access to files from anywhere.

Improved storage availability and reduced maintenance costs with a highly reliable storage platform.

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Choosing a Long-Term Solution with Quantum StorNext

When Vazquez joined 2G Digital more than a decade ago, he steered the management team toward the Quantum StorNext platform for storage. “I explained that we needed a more reliable storage backbone for the facility,” says Vazquez.

A team from the system integrator, Applied Data Systems, helped 2G Digital design and implement a Quantum solution. That core solution continued to serve 2G Digital for 10 years, even as the 2G Digital team implemented additional storage from another vendor. “We are always evaluating new technologies,

but the StorNext platform continued to prove itself,” says Vazquez. “We’ve had Quantum installed at 2G Digital for a decade, and it has continued to work.”

Recently, the 2G Digital team replaced 1 PB of storage from the other vendor and expanded the Quantum footprint. The facility now has H-Series high-performance hybrid storage, an Xcellis Workflow Director, and QXS disk storage—all powered by the StorNext 7 file system. The Quantum environment is integrated with the facility’s 100-Gb Ethernet backbone and its 32-Gb Fibre Channel infrastructure.

Delivering Low-Latency Performance for Demanding Workflows

The StorNext file system and H4000 Series deliver rapid, low-latency access to files and content, which helps maximize productivity for 2G Digital team members. “The Quantum StorNext platform delivers near zero latency,” says Vazquez. “When I hit play, the video plays instantly, regardless of the format type.”

The platform delivers that responsive user experience even as team members work with large, high-resolution files. “When I am working on color correction projects, I need to see changes in real time—even if I’m working in 4K with HDR Color Space,” says Vazquez. “With Quantum and a fast workstation, I can. It’s nice to just do your work and not worry about your storage capability and performance.”

Tech-savvy clients have been impressed with the facility’s storage performance. “Several years ago, we had a large customer that needed to work in 4K with uncompressed files,” says Vazquez. “We brought them into an editing bay and showed them how we could work without latency using Quantum StorNext. They were amazed we could provide such a responsive experience using a shared SAN.”

Faster storage performance helps 2G Digital meet tight deadlines. “Our customers always expect a quick turnaround. We can’t slow the workflow because data needs to be copied to a local RAID array before we can work on it,” says Vazquez. “With Quantum, we can access the files we need immediately.”

Enabling Collaboration with a Shared Storage Platform

The StorNext platform provides a shared environment that makes content available to multiple team members simultaneously. “We can provide shared

access to files from several rooms in the facility,” says Vazquez. “At the same time, we can make sure that client content stays secure and can only be accessed by authorized people.”

The storage environment remains highly available even when demand is high. “We might have 50 or 60 people working at once—many of them using the same Quantum shared storage environment,” says Vazquez. “Even when people are downloading multiple files or working on 4K, the Quantum solution keeps working and our teams stay productive.”

Bolstering Reliability and Minimizing Maintenance Requirements

With the StorNext solution, Vazquez can rest assured that teams can reliably access files around the clock. “We’ve looked at other solutions, but they do not offer the same reliability as Quantum,” says Vazquez.

Strong reliability coupled with responsive support from Quantum and Applied Data Systems mean that 2G Digital can reduce maintenance expenses and avoid lengthy troubleshooting sessions. “Quantum solutions do not require the expensive maintenance of some other solutions,” says Vazquez. “We can use our time and resources for starting new projects and onboarding new clients—instead of fixing problems and calling help desks.”

Empowering Remote Workers and Supporting Growth

Soon after the pandemic forced many organizations to close their offices, 2G Digital invested in remote-work technologies that could enable team members to work outside of the facility. “We had 80 or 90 percent of our people working from home,” says Vazquez. “Later, when it became safer to have

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people return to the facility, we continued to support remote work. We have been able to support all that remote work in part because the Quantum platform is so flexible and reliable.”

With help from Applied Data Systems, the 2G Digital team maintains exceptional storage performance even when users access content from across town. “We deliver a very high-quality stream with basically zero latency,” says Vazquez.

The remote work capabilities helped 2G Digital sustain its business during challenging times. While work might have slowed for other facilities, 2G Digital took on more projects and hired more people. “We grew by three times during that period,” says Vazquez.

Looking Ahead with Quantum

2G Digital continues to expand. In fact, the facility recently augmented its localization capabilities so it could more easily provide subtitling, dubbing, transcription, and other foreign-language services. After a decade of experience with Quantum, the 2G Digital team is confident that the company has the right platform to support the facility’s growth. “We don’t see an end to the growth—we’re taking on project after project,” says Vazquez. “But with Quantum, we’re ready to keep going.”

ABOUT 2G DIGITAL

Founded in 1994, 2G Digital is a leading post-production facility located in downtown Burbank, California. The facility offers a full suite of post-production services in a flexible and scalable boutique environment. Content owners and studios can also access the 2G Digital delivery pipeline to fulfill media requirements in any format to hundreds of worldwide distributors.

Quantum

Quantum technology, software, and services provide the solutions that today’s organizations need to make video and other unstructured data smarter – so their data works for them and not the other way around. With over 40 years of innovation, Quantum’s end-to-end platform is uniquely equipped to orchestrate, protect, and enrich data across its lifecycle, providing enhanced intelligence and actionable insights. Leading organizations in cloud services, entertainment, government, research, education, transportation, and enterprise IT trust Quantum to bring their data to life, because data makes life better, safer, and smarter. Quantum is listed on Nasdaq (QMCO) and the Russell 2000® Index. For more information visit www.quantum.com.

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