APPLIEDINFORMATIONSCIENCES

The Kennedy Center

CLIENT
The John F. Kennedy Center
for the Performing Arts

INDUSTRY
Arts

PROJECT NAME
National Symphony
Orchestra Archive

PROJECTED COST SAVINGS
Multiple man-months of work saved
on initial and future archivals.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The goal of this project was to digitally archive the entire collection of National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) recordings dating back to the 1920's. In meeting the requirements of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (JFKC), an out-of-the-box SharePoint 2010 feature set alone was not sufficient, thus requiring a customized solution to be developed and implemented by Applied Information Sciences, Inc. (AIS).

THE CHALLENGE

Electronically preserve nearly 100 years worth of NSO recordings originating in all manner of analog/digital formats with the following requirements:

- Content was to be organized according to a complex hierarchy of data fields with recording descriptions to be tag-able and searchable via an expansive array of querying options.

- Recording entry tags were to be sourced from third party databases.

- Archive entries were required to adhere to a workflow that allows for recordings to be digitally archived and entered into the system in batches over a period of years – with all source recordings being traceable to ensure their proper return after conversion and digital storage.

- AIS' proposed solution was required to be performant and supported by a disaster recovery (D/R) plan.

"Historically we had difficulty realizing accurate accountability of highly valuable artistic artifacts. We required a customized solution that fit within our budgetary constraints. AIS allowed us to implement a more efficient means of performing day-to-day operations, while reducing required man hours and adding capabilities once thought to be many years away – ranging from improved searches to added ROI through the monetization of our materials."

Alan C. Levine
Chief Information Officer
The Kennedy Center

THE SOLUTION

AIS designed a customized solution based on the Microsoft SharePoint 2010 platform, while also integrating Remote Blob Storage (RBS) – a technology that allowed for quick, reliable and efficient access to the vast amounts of data involved in the archiving of the NSO recordings.

- Out-of-the-box SharePoint features were utilized for Information Architecture. This allowed for the tagging of complex performance descriptions, and searches conducted using essentially any metadata field combination.

- AIS guided the evaluation of third-party RBS providers and ultimately selected Metalogix StoragePoint™ RBS to implement a solution that enabled the system to be performant and meet D/R requirements.

- To track JFKC's original recordings, SharePoint's barcoding system was utilized to uniquely identify the inventory of analog performances before being sent out.

- The system was designed to allow for the uploading of digital recordings in bulk, reducing the amount of time required to otherwise upload files manually, one by one.

- AIS developed multiple iterations of the system to provide JFKC with tangible results early and often, while concurrently refining each iteration until completion of the final build.

RESULTS

AIS' comprehensive and streamlined solution provides ease of use, allowing business users to facilitate the entire archival process. This relieves the need for additional IT personnel, while freeing up existing IT personnel for more vital tasks. Moreover, the system is completely safeguarded with a viable D/R plan in place.

Three man-days of work were avoided with every batch of 100 historical recordings loaded into the system. Based on the initial archival of 2,000 historical recordings, a total of two man-months and three calendar-months of work were saved. Moving forward, each future batch of performance archives will save an additional three man-days, which can be allocated to more strategic processes.

In addition, JFKC is now exploring the opportunity to create new revenue streams by providing subscription-based access to these archives by the public – an option that would not be possible without the flexibility, scalability and power of AIS' customized SharePoint and StoragePoint RBS solution.

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