

ELEMENTS

in collaboration with

BLUESPIRIT



Arthur and the Children of the Round Table

Award-winning animation expert Blue Spirit leverage ELEMENTS



Frantz Delbecque, Deputy GM (Directeur Général Adjoint)

Even “cute characters” need high-performance in media storage for production and post-production

If anyone in the world of animated feature films and TV series has an outstanding name, it is without a doubt Blue Spirit. Headquartered in France with studios in Paris and Angoulême, France’s “balcony of the southwest”, and their Canadian branch in Montréal, Blue Spirit have brought countless animated characters to life. Building a superior reputation for almost 15 years, every project they touch ultimately seems to reap the most prestigious awards. After the world-famous feature film “My Life as a Zucchini” left the gifted hands of the French animation experts, it not only outrivalled all competitors at the 2017 César Awards for Best Animation and Best Adaptation, but scored an Academy Award nomination, was selected at the Cannes Film Festival, and received countless additional accolades at various international festivals.

Other projects Blue Spirit successfully breathed life into include the remake of the cult series “The Mysterious Cities of Gold”, “Loopdidoo”, “Emilie”, “Little Chicks”, and Jean-François Laguionie’s feature film “The Painting”.

Topic:

Fast storage via Ethernet

Project:

BLUE SPIRIT PRODUCTIONS

Location:

Paris (FRA)

Challenge:

4K projects in NAS environment

System used:

ELEMENTS NAS

The full package for animation wonderland

With their entities Blue Spirit Productions in Paris, Blue Spirit Studio and Blue Spirit Lab in Angoulême, and the offspring Blue Spirit Studio Canada in Montréal, the powerful enterprise is well set up to not only tackle projects of any scale but approach project from various angles.

While the Blue Spirit Group successfully creates animated series and feature films as producers, they also act as executive producers for projects developed by other French - and international - production companies, covering the entire production and post-production process for third party projects: From pre-production, to film editing, all the way to finalizing.

“When you provide full-service for production and post-production, you need to

overcome unique challenges.”

Frantz Delbecque, Deputy GM (Directeur Général Adjoint)

Always thriving to continuously achieve the best possible quality in terms of the writing as well as the imagery, Blue Spirit applies the same exceptional diligence and accuracy to both their own creations and to projects they take on as executive producers. This high-quality approach really pays off for them, as in 2018, two series produced by Blue Spirit landed in the top 5 most screened programmes at Mip Junior, the number one marketplace for children’s television: “Alice&Lewis” was the 3rd most screened show at the famous event and “Arthur and the children of the round table” landed on spot 5.

Perfect workflow – challenged by 3D in 4K

Over the years Blue Spirit have developed

a streamlined and fire-proof workflow that perfectly suits their needs across the various locations – the only thing missing was a reliable and future-proof infrastructure that would allow them to work at fast pace.

Several new projects, such as the series “Arthur and the Children of the Round Table”, “The Borrowers”, and “The Baker Street Four” as well as Jean-François Laguionie’s new film, “Le Voyage du Prince”, required to be produced entirely in 4K which posed a new challenge to the existing hardware infrastructure. Frantz Delbecque, Deputy General Manager (Directeur Général Adjoint) of Blue Spirit Studio & Blue Spirit Lab, knows that rendering objects and entire scenes in 3D with textures requires a lot more bandwidth than other projects.

“A central storage to handle all 3D assets – from textures to fully rendered sequences - was a must.”

Frantz Delbecque, Deputy GM (Directeur Général Adjoint)

A reliable partner to the rescue

Frantz called Post Logic in Paris, a highly experienced solutions provider and integrator – and ELEMENTS’ preferred partner in France for many years. Jean-Pierre Fournier, Operations Manager and dedicated technical whiz kid at Post Logic, was asked to design a tailored solution that would provide the required performance for the upcoming projects –

without breaking the bank.

After thoroughly assessing the situation and the imminent future requirements at Blue Spirit, the professionals at Post Logic dared a bold proposal: Despite the fact that Blue Spirit requested the highest possible performance, Post Logic suggested to move away from Fibre Channel – and go with an Ethernet-only solution.

“ELEMENTS NAS is not an entry-level solution! It delivers Fibre Channel-like performance - via Ethernet.”

Jean-Pierre Fournier, Operations Manager, Post Logic

While the upcoming projects at Blue Spirit require exceptional bandwidth and enormous IOPS, there was no need for real-time access. Hence, Post Logic suggested the 60bay version of ELEMENTS NAS - to provide ample storage capacity right off the bat - but still with room to grow.

Proof of concept – passed with flying colors

Hesitant that a mere Ethernet solution would actually deliver the necessary performance, Blue Spirit requested to test the ELEMENTS NAS under real-life conditions. Post Logic installed a POC (proof of concept) at the facility in Angoulême, connected via 40GbE.

After the test period was completed, Blue Spirit was certain that ELEMENTS



My Life as a Zucchini

“Amazing performance – continuously and with enormous IOPS.”

Frantz Delbecque, Deputy GM (Directeur Général Adjoint)

NAS wouldn't let them down. Delivering massive IOPS, excellent bandwidth, and utmost stability, it was a no-brainer for Blue Spirit to make ELEMENTS NAS their new team member.

It doesn't have to be Fibre Channel anymore

The final set-up at Blue Spirit consists of an ELEMENTS NAS 60 bay, providing 360TB of raw storage space, and a 32-port performance switch (1/10Gb Base-T plus 2 dual ports 40GB). ELEMENTS NAS delivered steady performance, not only in terms of speed but also regarding bandwidth and IOPS, regardless of the number of clients hammering the system.

The high level of flexibility ELEMENTS provides in terms of hardware customization, allowing them to deploy 10GbE and 40GbE simultaneously, enables Blue Spirit to connect all clients to the central storage. With all available resources of the workforce bundled, Blue Spirit is now able to determine much better.

Great collaboration – in every regard.

Just like for all users of ELEMENTS solutions, the workflow enhancement

tools embedded in every ELEMENTS system are an invaluable asset for Blue Spirit: Easy administration and management of projects, users, rights, workspaces and everything else that needs attention on a daily basis through one single, highly intuitive, and efficient GUI simplifies recurring tasks tremendously. Also workflow automation becomes a breeze with ELEMENTS integrated task manager.

“ELEMENTS’ simple, clear and efficient web interface makes all administrative tasks so easy.”

Frantz Delbecque, Deputy GM (Directeur Général Adjoint)

But the benefits of great collaboration didn't stop there: ELEMENTS took care of the entire pre-configuration and installation of ELEMENTS NAS at Blue Spirit – and the close relationship and well-oiled synergy between ELEMENTS and Post Logic made the whole installation process fast and easy.

Bottom line: another happy ELEMENTS customer, a happy ELEMENTS partner, and WE are happy anyway.



“The reliability of ELEMENTS NAS enables us to predict the time-to-completion very precisely.”

Frantz Delbecque, Deputy GM (Directeur Général Adjoint)