

ELEMENTS

in collaboration with

DiFACTORY



Loving Vincent (Polish: Twój Vincent)

Most advanced technologies, fully automated? Mastered and perfected at DI Factory.



Cold War (Polish: Zimna wojna)

When DI Factory opened its doors in 2012 in the capital of Warsaw, the rise of a new star for state-of-the-art post-production on Poland's sky had begun. Starting off with smaller projects in the early days, the young company hit the bull's eye by getting the opportunity to work on the new movie by Paweł Pawlikowski, "IDA", that won the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film of the Year. With this lucky strike, and utmost ambitious team of DI Factory had reached their goal to become the number 1 go-to facility for high-end VFX and finishing for feature films and premium TV series – in less than two years! DI Factory quickly grew to a team of 20 people, and persistently pursued another big goal: Becoming not only the most advanced and persistently automated facility but the ultimate central hub for production and post-production to have their digital data professionally managed. Check. DI Factory achieved that as well.

Topic:
Fast storage via
Ethernet
Project:
DI Factory
Partner:
Janusz Rupik PVP
Location:
Warsaw (PL)
Challenge:
4K projects in NAS
environment
System used:
ELEMENTS ONE
60bay

With their branch reKino, dedicated to digital film restoration, DI Factory is part of a consortium for digital film restoration, ready to take on even the hardest digital restoration projects, capable of removing even the heaviest damages to film, such as heavy scratches and repairing and re-mastering ancient film material professionally, including grain management. In 2017, DI Factory won the award for digital restoration on Polish Film Festival in Gdynia.

Today, DI Factory provides the entire range of services – from on-set support to editing, color corrections, digital mastering for cinema, all the way to archiving assets. They can proudly state that they have worked on numerous international award-winning projects such as "IDA" by Paweł Pawlikowski (Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film of the Year), "Powidoki" by Andrzej Wajda, Oscar-nominated animated feature "Loving Vincent" by Dorota Kobiela and Hugh Welchman, Cannes Film Festival winner

"Cold War" by Paweł Pawlikowski (Best Director), Netflix's first Polish original series "1983" by Agnieszka Holland, Agnieszka Smoczyńska, Katarzyna Adamik and Olga Chajdas.

Project tide means everything needs to rise

As Poland's paramount facility for production and post-production companies to handle, manage and finish media assets for movies and TV series, project inquiries are constantly rising at DI Factory. Handling more and more national and international projects, the demands on both media storage and production storage capacities are increasing exponentially.

Not only the number of projects was increasing, but also the space every project requires is on the rise. "Nowadays, for each movie and premium TV series we post-produce, Jędrzej Sablinski", CEO + Co-owner of DI Factory states "we have to

finish 4K deliverables in multiple versions. Comparing that to 2K and HD, it requires at least 4 times more space!”



Jędrzej Sablinski,
CEO + Co-owner, DI Factory

“We handle more projects 4K than ever before. Hence, the requirements on storage space are increasing every day!”

Jędrzej Sablinski, CEO + Co-owner, DI Factory

With their existing SAN, based on a SpycerBox, DI Factory experienced certain limitations, mainly in terms of storage space, as they more and more often didn't have enough production storage available. To increase both performance and storage capacity to ensure sufficient space, an extension of the storage set-up was inevitable.

Outdated vs. state-of-the-art

Aside from mere space requirements, DI Factory also needed significantly increased bandwidth for both infrastructure and storage. DI Factory contacted Janusz Rupik PVP, professional system integrator and ELEMENTS partner in Poland, to inquire about a state-of-the-art solution that would fulfill their requirements.

“More capacity, more speed – ELEMENTS hit the mark for all of our requirements.”

Kamil Rutkowski, CTO + Co-owner, DI Factory

At IBC in Amsterdam Janusz Rupik seized the opportunity to introduced ELEMENTS to DI Factory, explaining the unique benefits ELEMENTS would bring to the table. As they have been working in a SAN ever since they opened shop, the experts at DI Factory were very much aware of and appreciated the benefits of a Fibre Channel environment. However, when Janusz pointed out that ELEMENTS provided the option to run both Fibre Channel and Ethernet connectivity for all workstations, including Avid, with one central media server and storage system, DI Factory was sold.

Time to replace and expand – the proper way

“We really liked the ELEMENTS interface – and the possibility to add our Avid workstations to it,” said Kamil Rutkowski, CTO + Co-owner of DI Factory.

In the course of the smooth and easy install of an ELEMENTS ONE 60bay, the existing 8Gb FC and 1GbE network was replaced with a 16Gb FC and 10GbE infrastructure, providing multiple



streams of throughput for 10 direct-attached workstations with Fibre Channel connectivity (16Gb and 8Gb) and 8 workstations connected via 10GbE.

use of the sophisticated media storage and server combo, DI Factory decided to expand the ELEMENTS system with adding a JBOD extension right away.



Kamil Rutkowski,
CTO + Co-owner, DI Factory

“The option to work in a SAN and NAS environment simultaneously gives us unprecedented flexibility.”

Kamil Rutkowski, CTO + Co-owner, DI Factory

With most of the media assets being produced from 3 editing (conforming) and 3 color grading suites, as well as mastering and data wrangling, that are now all stored in one central spot, no need to copy and move – simply exchanging the meta-data does the trick. This means massive time savings, not only during the process but also in terms of housekeeping and maintenance.

Form now on it’ll be smooth sailing

After only a few months working with their new ELEMENTS system, excited about both the performance and the ease of

“With ELEMENTS, we’re not afraid of expanding our storage anymore.”

Kamil Rutkowski, CEO + Co-owner, DI Factory

As always with ELEMENTS, the installation of the JBOD expansion was a breeze – no downtime and no data wrangling necessary.

With all workstations being connected to the central storage, the overall management of the network has been simplified significantly, including easy and fast user and file management.

“ELEMENTS works perfectly for our workflow!” said Kamil Rutkowski. **“The entire system is highly efficient, and we wouldn’t want to miss it anymore.”**



Afterimage (Polish: Powidoki)