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Aurora integration with FileCatalyst

Integrating Aurora file-based QC into the FileCatalyst® accelerated file transfer solution, ensuring the quality of media files before distribution
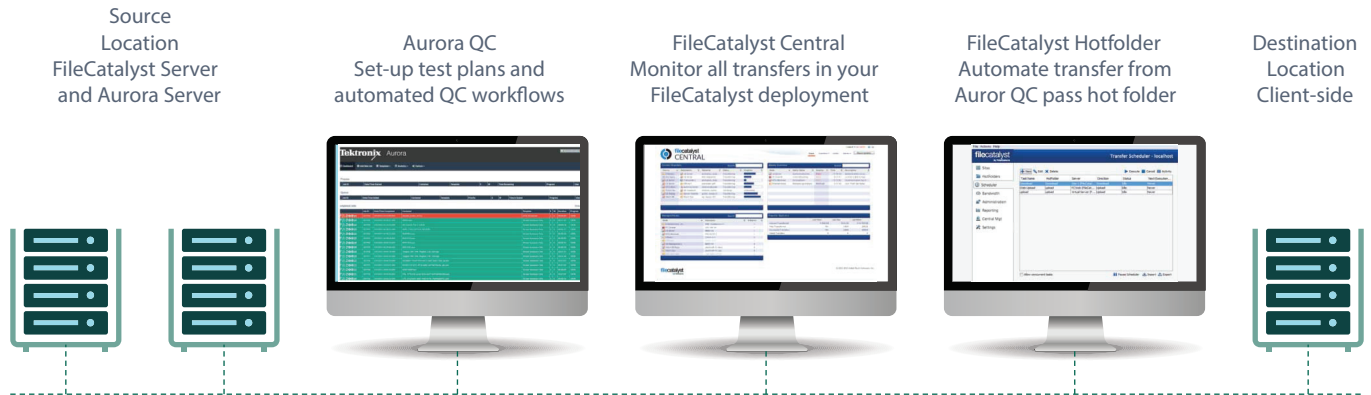
AT-A-GLANCE

Tektronix®

ABOUT FILECATALYST

FileCatalyst is designed to accelerate and optimize file transfers across global networks.

AURORA

Visual artifacts that can be detected by Aurora include Macro-block Noise/Cloud, Up-conversion, Comb Artifacts, Field Order Swaps, Tape/Digital Hits, Perceptual & Film Artifacts, Black/Freeze Frames, Letter-boxing/Pillar-boxing, Color Bars, PSE/Flash Detection, and Cadence Change. Audio artifacts that can be tested include Silence, Drop-outs, Peaks (dBTP, PPM, dBFS), Average Levels (R128, ATSC, ARIB), Clipping, Snaps/Clicks/Pops, Test Tones, Phase Swaps and Hiss/Hum.

Traditional methods of file transfer, like FTP, HTTP, or CIFS, are unable to keep up with today's large media files. Due to the underlying issues with TCP, these methods are impeded by latency and packet loss.

FileCatalyst® provides users with the ability to send digitalcontent at accelerated data transfer rates, meaning file transfers that previously took hours or days happen in minutes,regardless of size or format. FileCatalyst's UDP-based filetransfer technology executes digital media transfers at maximum rates regardless of network impairments, such as latency and packet loss. To ensure the quality of files after ingest and before distribution, FileCatalyst integrates with Aurora file-based QC from Tektronix.

Aurora is the automated file-based QC tool you can rely on in your FileCatalyst® file transfer workflow to identify any visual, audio, or metadata issues after ingest and before distribution. The Tektronix focus on minimising false positives and a high degree of correlation to human perception means test reports highlight just the issuesyou need to address. Our architecture delivers guaranteed QC capacity and unrivalledspeed of QC analysis - complementing the unrivalled speed of FileCatalyst® file transfer solutions to meet the file QCand transfer demands for whatever your size of broadcast ormedia operation.

Solution Architecture and Workflow Overview

Source
Location
FileCatalyst Server
and Aurora Server

Aurora QC
Set-up test plans and
automated QC workflows

FileCatalyst Central
Monitor all transfers in your
FileCatalyst deployment

FileCatalyst Hotfolder
Automate transfer from
Auror QC pass hot folder

Destination
Location
Client-side

FileCatalyst Direct is a point-to-point file transfer solution consisting of the FileCatalyst Server and client-side options. Because FileCatalyst is at both endpoints, it provides a superior file transfer experience. As well as being a standaloneproduct, FileCatalyst Direct can be seamlessly integrated within an FileCatalyst Webmail or FileCatalyst Workflow solution. FileCatalyst HotFolder is one of the desktop applications that can be installed on the end-user's machine and allows the creation of scheduled, automatic tasks.

Aurora file-based QC is typically included in the FileCatalyst file transfer workflow before distribution at the source location (although it can be placed at reception at the enduser location). Files to be transferred can be placed in a watch folder, automatically tested by Aurora, and then only placed in the FileCatalyst HotFolder if they pass the QC test. Operators can be automatically emailed when files fail QC, with PDF copies of the QC test reports attached. In addition, files coming in from the field can be ingested into a FileCatalyst Server and then passed off to Aurora for QC.

Aurora VUs (verification units) are installed on separate standard IT hardware servers, blades or fully virtualized infrastructure. The quantity of VUs installed and the number of servers depends on the number of concurrent QC tasks and the speed of QC analysis required. One or more Aurora Controllers are installed to manage QC job queues, allocating QC tasks to the next available VU instance. Each VU tests one file at a time with dedicated CPUs and GPU acceleration for guaranteed QC capacity.

An overview of an entire FileCatalyst deployment, enabling the viewing of ongoing transfers in realtime, digging into transaction histories, and checking or clearing alarms, is available using the FileCatalyst Central web application. From one central management console, you can inspect connected nodes and remotely control FileCatalyst Server and FileCatalyst HotFolder instances.

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