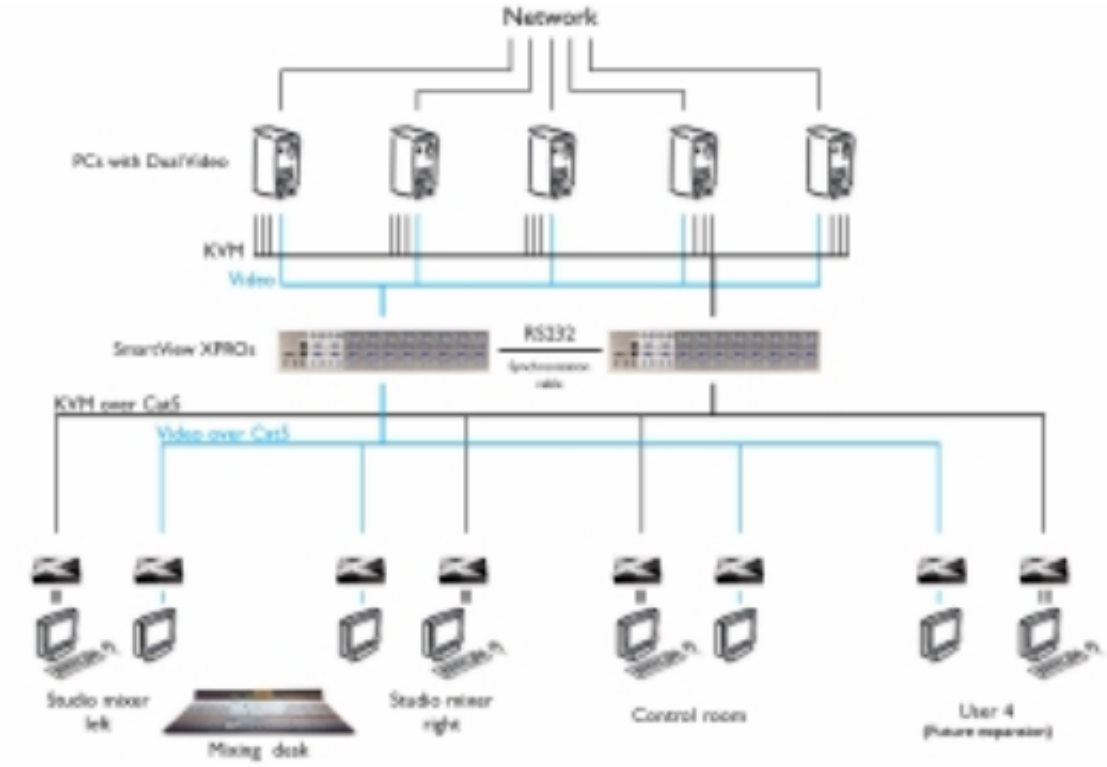
Twickenham Film Studios

Twickenham Film Studios are known throughout the world as one of the most established film production and post production facilities.



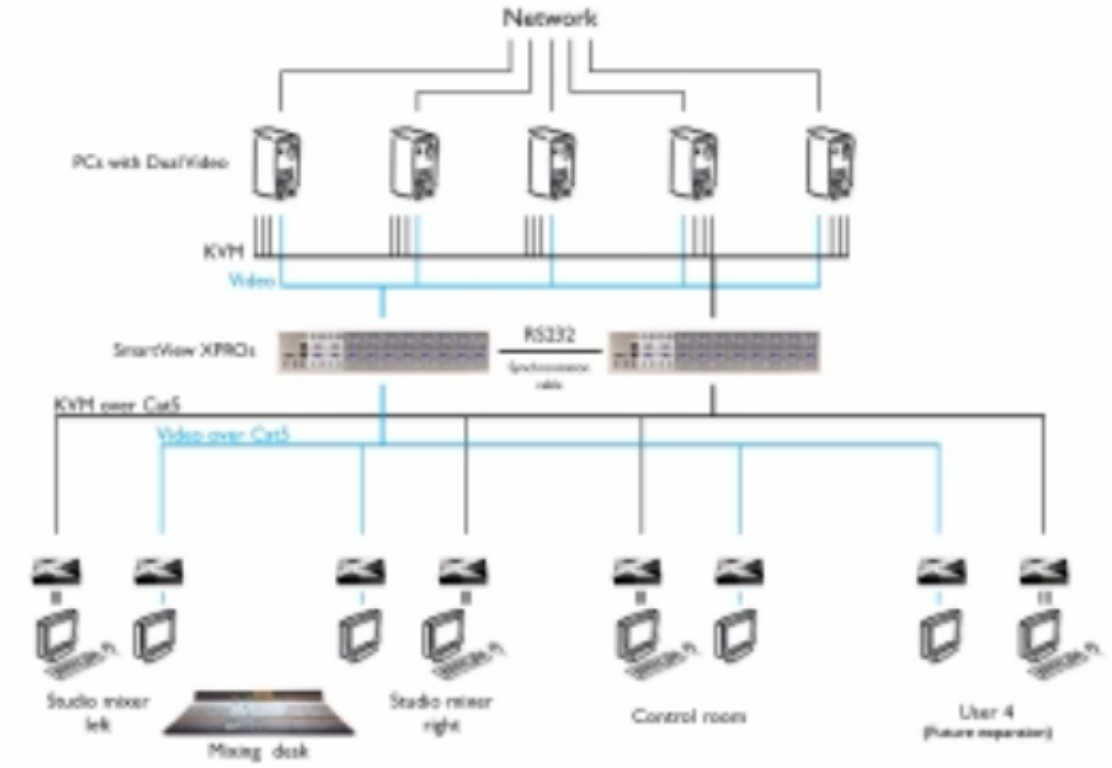
CHALLENGE

Amongst the facilities found at Twickenham, are re-recording stages (or dubbing theatres). These are small cinemas, where a film is shown and sound recordings such as speech, special effects and background sounds are matched to the pictureand recorded onto a master. The desks used for this can mix up to 320 separate sound channels.

Like many things audio-visual, technological advances have meant that these sounds can be sourced from and recordedonto digital mediums. The queuing and manipulation of these sounds is then carried out by computer with the aidof mixing desks.

As a result of this shift from analogue to digital, TwickenhamFilm Studios recognised the need for a specialised solution for controlling multiple computers. All computers neededto be located externally from the studio, and the applicationsoftware being used required 2 monitors per recording or playback machine.

2 sound engineers and 2 machine operators each equipped with 2 screens and a single keyboard and mouse needed to be able to access any of the 5 dual video equipped PCs from a separate room. Future expandability also needed tobe provided for so that more PCs and access points in other theatres could be added in the future.



SOLUTION

Adder’s SmartView XPro KVM switch allows up to 4 users simultaneous access to any one of 16 attached PCs.The additional requirement of enabling each user to switch two video feeds is solved by synchronizing two XPros. Thismeans that when user 1 on switch 1 selects a port to be controlled by his keyboard, video and mouse, a command issent to a second XPro to ensure that the correct ‘video only’ port is displayed on their second monitor.

Keyboard, dual video and mouse signals are extended from the switches to the users via Adder’s XSeries KVM over UTP extenders and the SmartView XPro’s built in extender ports.

RESULT

“Adder’s KVM switches and extenders have enabled us to simplify a complicated system and have providedus with a reliable, user-friendly solution,” comments Graham Nieder, Chief Engineer at Twickenham Film Studios.

“The engineers can easily access multiple computers from their single keyboard, mouse, and dual monitors, with the added benefit of having the computers themselves located away from their desks”.

“I can see us using Adder’s KVM technology more and more throughout the studio complex as it allows us tohave a completely flexible approach to the access and control of a wide variety of applications.”

“I spent a great deal of time researching KVM manufacturers, and Adder was the only company witha ready made solution to meet our requirements. It was crucial that we found such a solution or wesimply would not have been able to use our digital sound processing system.”