


BACKUP VTR SYSTEM

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1.1.1. Backup VTR

Even in a fault tolerant environment a lot of stations require to have a backup VTR.

The main reason is to be sure that a multiple fault in Automation or video server, or simply an operator fault, cannot stop the transmission.

Historically the VTR has a good reputation as a reliable system, and all the operators have a good confidence about it. Also the operators are expert in VTR manipulation.

1.1.2. The approach

To insert a VTR in the main automation chain is not a good solution for the fault tolerance for the following reason.

The VTR must be inserted in one chain, Main or backup, and if it fails the VTR cannot be used.

Inserting VTR in both chains means to have a double copy of all the tapes, with a lot of dubbing work involved.


If the fault is not on the Video server, but on the automation, or the scheduling system, the operators are not able to manage it.

1.1.3. Etere Solution

So **ETERE**, analyzing customer request, creates the Backup VTR extension.

The main advantages of ETERE approach are:

- A system completely independent from automation, so a fault in the automation engine has no influence on the backup.
- A simple system that can be used for any operator
- An assisted system more than an automatic system, to help the operator to be 'aware' of the running video.
- Used with the object reel production it allows a backup system using only 2 or 3 VTR even with a complex scheduling.

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1.1.4. How ETERE backup system works

When a tape is cached inside the server ETERE keep track about the time code difference from the Video server and the VTR, so ETERE is able to produce both Video server time code scheduling and VTR time code scheduling


The VTR time code scheduling can be printed in any time

Print Preview

With this diagram any operator is able to run manually, note that for the events included in the SPOT/Object Reel, the relative TC is included.

Etere backup VTR system starts from I.E. (Instant Editor), this is Independent from the Automation real-time controller.

The Operator can activate the Backup VTR pressing Cue on the VTR where he insert the backup VTR. He can select any VTR from the VTR bar.

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- If the event is not running it Cues the tape to the correct frame
- If the event is on-air it align the VTR with the video server, this function help the operator if he insert the tape in the VTR after the vent is started.

Important: the Play command and the router switching are manually performed by the operator.



The operator can decide to run the backup system for one event or for all, it's up to him to keep the VTR play out in sync with the main & clone play out.

Another big advantage of this approach is that it's able to play any tape, event if it's not inserted in the database if they are cued manually.

Requirements:

The I.E is suggested to have a P4 CPU to avoid that excessive CPU loading can freeze the standard counters.

A VTR play out driver for any VTR used as a backup is required.

The system is compatible only with VTR with a BVW75 compatible protocol.

Secondary device control (a/V router, logo, CG, etc.) is not supported

VTR sharing between different channels is not supported.


Selecte

TC

J&S

Cue/recu

VTR

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