Media Servers

By NookSchoenfeld

Media servers have certainly advanced in the two years since we last covered this category in *PLSN'S* Buyers Guide. Many now incorporate extra FX for manipulating live camera inputs, such as Notch and Video Dust. Many companies now offer software, and whatever hardware one chooses to install it on dictates your limitations. The addition of 3D import mapping as well as real-time UV mapping is a huge advance, and edge-blending is now a norm with many products. Another positive trend for users is the fact that more companies (such as disguise and Avolites) are now offering more compact, less expensive versions of their servers for those who do not require all the horsepower the big-gun servers have to offer.

Analog Way Picturall Pro

Operating System: Linux
Input Formats: SDI, DVI, HDMI 1.4 and HDMI 2.0
Output Formats: Up to 16 4K@60 4: 4: 4 10-bit outputs per server
Resolution: Image/Video Playback, both beyond 8K
Supported Layers: 200
Simultaneous Playback/# Layers: 24 x layers of full HD video or 4 x layers of 4K60 video or 1 x layer of 8K60 video
Control Protocols: TCP/IP, Art-Net and RS232
NDI Compatible: No
Stock Content Library: Yes
Support for Notch: No
Syphon/Spout Compatible: No
Edge Blending: Yes
Scenic/Automation Data Input Support: No
3D Object Import: No
Real-Time UV Mapping: No
MSRP: $28,465
More Details: Picturall Pro is part of the Picturall series of media servers, built for reliability on massive projects.

analogway.com

ArKaos 4K Studio Server

Operating System: Windows
Input Formats: 3G HDSI, DVI
Output Formats: DisplayPort 1.2
Image Playback Resolution: 4K
Video Playback Resolution: 4K
Supported Layers: 36
Simultaneous Playback/# Layers: 36
Control Protocols: Art-Net, MA Net , DMX , MIDI , Time-code
NDI Compatible: Yes
Stock Content Library: Yes
Support for Notch: No
Syphon/Spout Compatible: Yes
Edge Blending: Yes
Scenic/Automation Data Input Support: No
3D Object Import: No
Real-Time UV Mapping: Yes
MSRP: 18,865 Euros
More Details: ArKaos offers a wide range of HD servers from two to six full HD outputs. All servers come with a lifetime license of MediaMaster Pro.

arkaospro.com

AV Stumpfl RAW 8K

Operating System: Windows embedded
Input Formats: DVI, SDI, HD-SDI, 3GSDI, HDMI
Output Formats: DisplayPort 4K
Image Playback Resolution: Unlimited
Video Playback Resolution: 8192 x 4320 @ 60fps, or 4x4K @60fps
Supported Layers: Unlimited
Simultaneous Playback/# Layers: Uncompressed 4x4K (4: 4: 4) @60fps
Control Protocols: Timecode, Art-Net, DMX, RS232, MIDI, UDP/TCP, KNX
NDI Compatible: Yes
Stock Content Library: No
Support for Notch: No
Syphon/Spout Compatible: No
Edge Blending: Yes
Scenic/Automation Data Input Support: Yes
3D Object Import: No
Real-Time UV Mapping: No
MSRP: Depends on final configuration (input cards etc.)

avstumpfl.com

Avolites Q3

Operating System: Windows
Input Formats: SDI, DVI, DisplayPort
Output Formats: DVI, DisplayPort
Image Playback Resolution: 4096 x 2160
Video Playback Resolution: 4096 x 2160
Supported Layers: Yes
Simultaneous Playback/# Layers: 12
Control Protocols: Art-Net, MIDI, TCP, UDP
NDI Compatible: Yes
Stock Content Library: Yes
Support for Notch: Yes
Syphon/Spout Compatible: Yes
Edge Blending: Yes
Scenic/Automation Data Input Support: Yes
3D Object Import: Yes
Real-Time UV Mapping: Yes
MSRP: $20,000
More Details: Joining the world-touring media servers R8 and RX8, the Q3 packs power into a new 2U form-factor.

avolites.com

Catalyst

Operating System: Mac
Input Formats: SDI DVI
Output Formats: SDI DVI
Image Playback Resolution: 4K
Video Playback Resolution: Up to 27 mega-pixel movies
Supported Layers: 48
Simultaneous Playback/# Layers: 4 are recommended
Control Protocols: DMX, Art-Net
NDI Compatible: N/A
Stock Content Library: Yes
Support for Notch: No
Syphon/Spout Compatible: Yes
Edge Blending: No
Scenic/Automation Data Input Support: Yes
3D Object Import: No
Real-Time UV Mapping: Yes
MSRP: Contact dealer
More Details: Catalyst offers 48 layers, 36 mixes, 6 outputs

snp-productions.co.uk

Christie Pandoras Box

Operating System: Windows
Input Formats: SDI, DVI, HMDI, DisplayPort
Output Formats: DisplayPort / DVI
Resolution: Image/Video Playback, both 16K
Supported Layers: Unlimited
Simultaneous Playback/# Layers: No limit, dependent on codecs and resolutions
Control Protocols: SMPTE, Art-Net, sACN, DMX, MIDI
NDI Compatible: No
Stock Content Library: Yes
Support for Notch: No
Syphon/Spout Compatible: No
Edge Blending: Yes
Scenic/Automation Data Input Support: Yes
3D Object Import: Yes
Real-Time UV Mapping: Yes
MSRP: Based on configuration
More Details: Real-time video processing gives users control over the entire workflow, maximizing efficiency while unleashing creativity.

christiedigital.com/pandorasbox

Crescent Sun

Operating System: Windows
Input Formats: Supported
Output Formats: Limited by hardware spec
Image Playback Resolution: Unlimited
Video Playback Resolution: Unlimited
Supported Layers: 4
Simultaneous Playback/# Layers: 4
Control Protocols: DMX, Art-Net, OSC, MIDI, Keyboard
NDI Compatible: Yes
Stock Content Library: Yes
Support for Notch: No
Syphon/Spout Compatible: Yes
Edge Blending: No
Scenic/Automation Data Input Support: Yes
3D Object Import: No
Real-Time UV Mapping: Yes
MSRP: $4,299/year
More Details: Mapping/console integration lets users spend less time calibrating, more time designing shows with the included previz.

crescentsun.io

Dataton WATCHMAX

Operating System: Windows
Input Formats: DVI, VGA, HDMI, NDI, DisplayPort, VGA
Output Formats: DVI, VGA, MiniDP, DisplayPort, SDI, HDMI
Image Playback Resolution: 4096 x 2160
Video Playback Resolution: 4096 x 2160
Supported Layers: Unlimited
Simultaneous Playback/# Layers: Unlimited
Control Protocols: TCP, UDP, DMX512, RS232, MIDI
NDI Compatible: Yes
Stock Content Library: No
Support for Notch: No
Syphon/Spout Compatible: No
Edge Blending: Yes
Scenic/Automation Data Input Support: Yes
3D Object Import: Yes
Real-Time UV Mapping: Yes
MSRP: Various models, contact for pricing
More Details: The core of the Dataton system is WATCHOUT multi-display software.

dataton.com

disguise solo

Operating System: Windows
Input Formats: 3x HD-SDI or 2x 3G-SDI or 2x HDMI (1920 x 1080@60 max)
Output Formats: 1x DisplayPort 1.2 (GUI), 2x DisplayPort 1.4 (4096 x 2160 max)
Image Playback Resolution: 16K
Video Playback Resolution: 2x 4K
Supported Layers: N/A
Simultaneous Playback/# Layers: Unlimited, depending on hard drive
Control Protocols: Art-Net, OSC, Serial, MTC, LTC, UDP, MIDI, HTML5, BlackTrax
NDI Compatible: No
Stock Content Library: No
Support for Notch: Yes
Syphon/Spout Compatible: No
Edge Blending: Yes
Scenic/Automation Data Input Support: Yes
3D Object Import: Yes
Real-Time UV Mapping: Yes
MSRP: By request

disguise.one

Green Hippo Montane+

Operating System: Windows
Input Formats: SDI, DVI, DisplayPort
Output Formats: DisplayPort
Image Playback Resolution: Up to 16384x16384
Video Playback Resolution: Up to 16384x16384
Supported Layers: Unlimited
Simultaneous Playback/# Layers: Unlimited
Control Protocols: DMX, Art-Net, MA-Net, sACN, MIDI, OSC, TCP
NDI Compatible: Yes
Stock Content Library: Yes
Support for Notch: Yes
Syphon/Spout: Yes
Edge Blending: Yes
Scenic/Automation Data Input Support: Yes
3D Object Import: Yes
Real-Time UV Mapping: No
MSRP: $49,995
More Details: Montane+, offers the latest technology and graphics processing power for 3D Mapping and real-time generative content.

green-hippo.com

Mega Systems ImageCue

Operating System: Custom Linux Kernel
Input Formats: None
Output Formats: HDMI, DVI
Resolution: Image/Video Playback: 1920x1080
Supported Layers: 4
Simultaneous Playback/# Layers: Single layer transitions with up to three "layers" playing at the same time during a transition.
Control Protocols: DMX512, RDM
NDI Compatible: No
Stock Content Library: Yes
Support for Notch: No
Syphon/Spout: No
Edge Blending: No
Scenic/Automation Data Input Support: No
3D Object Import: No
Real-Time UV Mapping: No
MSRP: $995
More Details: Provides control of HD videos with only 12 channels. Can instantly (and randomly) play videos without preloading onto layers.

megasystemsinc.com

PRG Mbox Designer v4 (Software)

Operating System: Mac
Input Formats: Depends on hardware
Output Formats: Depends on hardware
Image Playback Resolution: >4K
Video Playback Resolution: >4K
Supported Layers: 24
Simultaneous Playback/# Layers: 24
Control Protocols: Art-Net, sACN, OSC & MIDI through Mbox Director
NDI Compatible: Yes
Stock Content Library: No
Support for Notch: Uses Video Dust (similar program)
Syphon/Spout Compatible: Yes
Edge Blending: Yes
Scenic/Automation Data Input Support: Yes
3D Object Import: Yes
Real-Time UV Mapping: Yes
MSRP: $7,500
More Details: PRG also offers Mbox Studio and Mini with scaled-down versions of Mbox "media server" software. Also, Mbox Player, for single-layer, crossfading media playback.

prg.com

Resolume Arena

Operating System: Windows and Mac
Input Formats: All Blackmagic, Datapath, AJA capture cards
Output Formats: All GPU outputs, all Blackmagic, Datapath, AJA output cards
Image Playback Resolution: Size of composition and media limited by size of video card
Video Playback Resolution: Depends on computer
Supported Layers: Unlimited
Simultaneous Playback/# Layers: Unlimited
Control Protocols: MIDI, DMX, OSC, SMPTE
NDI Compatible: Yes
Stock Content Library: Yes
Support for Notch: No
Syphon/Spout Compatible: Yes
Edge Blending: Yes
Scenic/Automation Data Input Support: No
3D Object Import: No
Real-Time UV Mapping: No
MSRP: $940

resolume.com

Show Sage Show*Server

Operating System: Windows
Input Formats: HDMI, DVI, SDI, NDI, DisplayPort, VGA
Output Formats: DisplayPort, Mini DisplayPort, HDMI, DVI, VGA, SDI
Image Playback Resolution: Unlimited
Video Playback Resolution: Unlimited
Supported Layers: Unlimited
Simultaneous Playback/# Layers: No system limitations
Control Protocols: TCP, UDP, DMX, RS232, MIDI
NDI Compatible: Yes
Stock Content Library: No
Support for Notch: No
Syphon/Spout Compatible: No
Edge Blending: Yes
Scenic/Automation Data Input Support: Yes
3D Object Import: Yes
Real-Time UV Mapping: Yes
MSRP: Contact company
More Details: Show*Servers are optimized to run Dataton WATCHOUT multi-display software, and can be customized to fit individual requirements. Show Sage provides a range of models to fit various needs and budgets.

showsage.com

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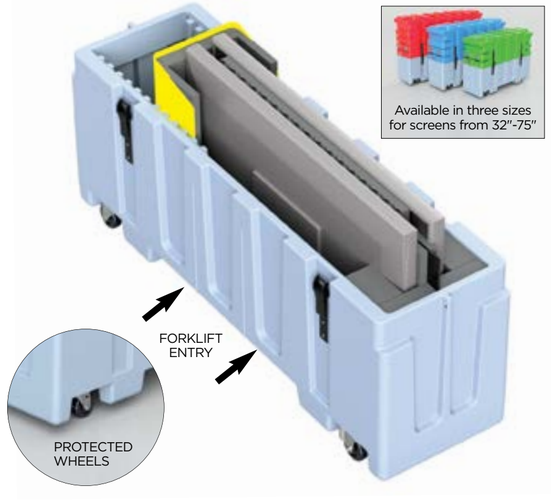

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