

NEW

Distributed architecture

As we now offer multi-room solutions of EasyCast for large scale deployments, we can separate the recorder part and the reviewing/publishing part to several different machines linked in a network : respectively lightweight nodes to record and publish to a master unit which automatically centralizes recordings for post-production, metadata extraction and encoding. Content can then be published to a server unit containing UbiCast's WebTV for storing and streaming content.

In addition, a web interface codenamed "SkyReach" is released on the master unit to remotely manage and control the node fleet. This interface is able to start and stop recordings, launch maintenance sessions, install updates, shutdown or restart EasyCast, retrieve system information, take screenshots, schedule actions (supports iCal format), ... On the other side, the node can notify SkyReach of no-audio or saturation events and miscellaneous errors.

System

We have upgraded the base operating system, moving from Ubuntu GNU/Linux 8.10 to Ubuntu GNU/Linux 10.04 LTS with an up-to-date Linux kernel (2.6.32) with support for more devices and included better multimedia features. In addition, EasyCast units boot 50% to 60% faster and run smoother.

Device support

- HD Sony Ipela RH-124 PTZ camera (max. resolution 720p).
- Up to Full HD (1080p), 30 fps capture from DVI / VGA / HDMI (no audio) / YUV sources, up to 2 channels per unit. Requires specific hardware.

Automated updates

This version integrates a new automated updating system, enabling updates to EasyCast through HTTP without need for a support operation. Running maintenance sessions is now exclusively for tracking bugs.

Video editing software support

It is now possible to export any media to the .avi format, compliant with Final Cut Pro™ (native), Adobe Premiere™ and Windows Movie Maker™ (on Windows, requires installing http://www.morgan-multimedia.com/mjpeg_codec).

Speaker tracking

This new version introduces AutoCam (Automatic Camera System), along with an objects filtering tool. This new tracking process is done entirely in post-production, by performing digital Pan-Tilt-Zoom from high definition video streams, eliminating the risk of losing information when using mechanical tracking systems. Autocam is an EasyCast option and replaces the legacy ZoneTracker system.

ENHANCEMENTS

Recorder

Up to FullHD video capture is now supported, as well as 16:9 aspect ratios. Encoding settings are automatically defined if the device plugin provides this feature.

A recording duration limit can be defined to automatically stop a recording which has inadvertently not been stopped.

Live streaming

Adobe's RTMP protocol is now supported for live streaming (via Adobe Flash Media Server™).

Editing and publishing

Transcoded media and renderings can now be previewed (before publication), deleted or created. Then, files to use for export can be chosen.

The layout of a podcast is now customizable and supports FullHD rendering is video source is above or equal to 720p.

When publishing a webinar to Forimedia, a 720p podcast is also uploaded to Forimedia and used as the downloadable media [Amazon only] – especially in order to be transparently compliant with mobile terminals.

A logo, imported from a USB device plugged into EasyCast, can be added in overlay of any video or podcast.

Job management

Jobs are operations made on recordings in preparation for export. Network upload, video transcoding and USB copy are some of these operations. Whereas ongoing jobs were cancelled when a new recording was launched (to free system resources), the jobs are now simply paused, and resumed when the recording stops. Ongoing and paused jobs can be displayed at all times in EasyCast via the job control panel icon.

Minor enhancements

- Touch-screens are now calibrated on-the-fly.
- A built-in tool can be used to automatically fix corrupted recordings.
- Recordings can be automatically deleted (optional) according to different criteria : creation date, publishing status or upon reaching a critical remaining disk space.
- A dynamic debugging panel is available for RS232 integrations.
- The RS232 protocol is supported over TCP to be used through a network (with telnet for example).
- Iris and shutter speed can be controlled for Sony Ipela cameras.
- Sony Ipela cameras can be reseted to factory default from the station.
- Brightness and contrast can be changed for Epiphan's VGA capture devices.
- Forimedia address and credentials can now be changed in Forimedia settings.
- The chapter edition interface has been re factored.

