

QUESTION ITU-R 112-1/6

Guidelines on functionalities of facilities based on the use of digital servers in broadcast programme recording, archiving and playout

(2004-2007)

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

considering

- a) that in the past, television broadcasting has used specialized recording equipment, such as broadcast-quality video tape recorders or digital video disc recorders for programme recording, editing, archiving and playout;
- b) that general-purpose digital servers originally designed for Information Technology (IT) applications are now also being used in broadcasting facilities for programme recording, editing, archiving and playout applications;
- c) that important operating benefits are expected from the use of facilities based on digital servers for broadcast programme production and transmission including recording, post production, archiving and playout, such as faster programme creation, exchange and repurposing, exchange of multi-version content, ability to immediately search, browse and retrieve essence data, simultaneous access to essence on the part of multiple users, etc.;
- d) that the functionalities of digital servers to be used in television programme production and broadcasting transmission facilities are often different and sometimes more demanding than those required for their general-purpose IT use;
- e) that various television production and broadcasting organizations have undertaken studies on the functionalities required in facilities based on the use of digital servers in order that they may be used to best advantage in facilities for broadcast applications;
- f) that broadcasters would benefit from guidelines on the functionalities that general-purpose digital servers should desirably provide in broadcast facilities for recording, editing, archiving, and playout of television programmes, and if possible in their harmonization,



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decides that the following Question should be studied

1 what guidelines should be provided to television broadcasters on the preferred technical requirements of digital television facilities based on the use of digital servers, e.g. in terms of:

- file types and formats;
- picture and sound quality levels (e.g. full quality, browse quality, etc.);
- metadata;
- data capacity (e.g. for short-term archiving, medium-term archiving, etc.);
- multichannel access and throughput;
- latency (e.g. in terms of the time needed to read out programme segments after their recording);
- interoperability and scalability;
- reliability, availability and maintainability?

2 What guidelines should be provided to broadcasters on the basic operating requirements of such digital television facilities, e.g. in terms of:

- key operating functions (e.g. ingesting, indexing, archiving, retrieving, browsing, etc.);
- automatic data management;
- data transfer (e.g. streaming through SDI/SDTI or file transfer, etc);
- interfaces, including interfacing to telecommunication channels;
- flexibility (e.g. capability to simultaneously feed several users and several video format platforms)?

further decides

1 that studies on guidelines for digital television facilities based on the use of digital servers should be performed in close cooperation among the Working Parties concerned within Study Group 6;

2 that those studies should, as far as possible, take account of existing operating models and formats for the storage and transfer for audio, video and data files;

3 that the results of the studies should be reflected in a Report and/or one or more ITU-R Recommendations;

4 that the studies should be completed by the year 2011.

Category: S2