



New Features in Version 6.5

SCC MediaFactory
SCC MediaGrid
SCC MediaServer

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MediaFactory

Enhanced Folder Error Handling

Channels that receive input as files in an Input Folder now use a sophisticated procedure at the start of each processing cycle to determine if the Input Folder exists and is responding correctly. In the event that an Input Folder is not responding correctly, the channel is suspended for a period of two minutes, after which it repeats the check and will suspend again until the folder problem is corrected. Problems of this type can occur in a variety of situations, including when the Input Folder is physically located on a remote server and the network experiences intermittent failures. Similar error handling algorithms have also been added to most channel destination folders.

MediaSpan NewsML Channel (New Channel)

A new channel has been added that is specifically designed to handle the NewsML output from a MediaSpan JazBox editorial system. The channel extracts text and other data from the XML file components of the exported NewsML package, and associates this metadata with the full size component files, such as image, story, graphic, and PDF files.

Configurable Destination of Text from PDF, PS, and EPS

The Inserter Channel settings provide an option for the user to select the database destination attribute where the long text extracted from PDF, PS, and EPS files will be inserted. Prior versions of the channel directed this text to a specific attribute. Any text attribute can now be specified in the channel settings.

CCI NewsML Channel Enhancements

Support for UDP Command Synchronization: The CCI NewsML Channel has been enhanced to watch for a special UDP command received over the network from a remote computer (or the local machine), and to begin channel processing upon receipt of this command. This feature provides a mechanism to synchronize the channel's processing task with the actual export of the NewsML data from the CCI editorial system, or with any other system event. A command line application that can be embedded in a script is also provided that will generate the correct command.

Extracting and embedding full XML Source: The CCI NewsML Channel now supports extracting and embedding the full XML content of NewsML files into associated object records.

Minor enhancements include an automatic cleanup of the 'Not Processed' folder, a user option to turn on or off the processing of whitespace within the XML content, and improved detection and recovery from NewsML jump sequences that loop around themselves.

Improved Filename Generation

Many MediaFactory Channels are required to generate output files with unique filenames that are derived from certain base filenames. For example, a channel might generate an output file whose filename is derived from the input files base filename. If there is already a file with that name at the desired location, a new, unique filename will be generated. The old algorithm generated appropriate filenames for all but the most unusual and rare circumstances. The new algorithm is designed to cover all circumstances, first by attempting to generate an appropriately derived filename, and then by using certain globally-unique string generation routines that are guaranteed to produce a unique filename in every situation.

Canon and Nikon Support

SDKs (Software Developer Kits) available from Canon and Nikon are used by MediaFactory to read the proprietary RAW camera file content. These SDKs were updated to the latest versions available, thereby providing support for certain new cameras. Also, XMP data is now extracted from Canon and Nikon RAW files.

Support for New Project Features

Projects, a feature available to the MediaGrid user, have been enhanced significantly with project ownership, user-controlled item ordering, locking, and other features, as well as a new user interface. Similarly, enhancements have been made to MediaFactory to support these new Project features. Included in these enhancements are changes to the

Replication Channel to replicate the project ownership data, special overrides for MediaFactory channels to the ownership restrictions, and enhancements to the Maintenance Channel.

Support in Replication Channel for MediaMaker Updates

MediaMaker now inserts special event packets into the Replication Events table, and these events are processed by the Replication Channel to ensure that changes made to a records data source by MediaMaker are replicated to the subscribers.

Extraction of EXIF Data by the Inserter Channel

The Inserter Channel extracts EXIF data from JPEG, TIFF, and the supported camera files. Extracted EXIF data is then used to populate the object's metadata fields.

Support for RAW Camera File Rotation

The Image Processing Channel will rotate a RAW image file according to the orientation flag found in the EXIF data.

Support for EXIF XMP Attributes

The Image Processing Channel extracts the XMP attributes that are from the EXIF definition.

MediaServer Express Enhancements

Several new features and enhancements to existing features are related to support of the new MediaServer Express system. MediaServer Express is the new, smaller edition of MediaServer that uses Microsoft SQL Server Express Edition.

Stored Documents Maintenance Channel (New Channel)

The Stored Documents Maintenance Channel is a new channel designed to help manage stored document files and high resolution preview files. This channel is designed to run at scheduled times, usually overnight, and will identify object records in designated libraries that meet specific criteria, such as objects that are older than a certain age based on insertion time or last modification time. All objects meeting the criteria are processed by the channel. Processing includes moving the stored document file and/or the high resolution preview file to a new location while updating the database references. The channel can also be used to efficiently change a library's stored documents configuration from the use of a data source path to the new data source container facility. The channel can be setup to tag each processed object with specific metadata changes through the use of MediaFactory's AutoFill mechanism. Some advanced features include the ability to configure the channel to leave the original file behind as a full copy set, or to simply delete all stored documents and high resolution preview files of objects that meet the criteria. All changes to the database are performed by the channel in such a way so as to not interfere with the integrity or validity of any object, so this maintenance operation can be scheduled while users are connected and using the objects.

Image Processing Channel Attribute Merging

The Image Processing Channel extracts metadata from numerous locations and formats throughout the input files. The main metadata attribute set is established by the channel from the input file's SCC extensions, XMP Metadata, or Photoshop FileInfo, among other data. Once the main attribute set is established the channel begins to augment and append the attributes using numerous other optional sources, such as EXIF, AP Preserver data, side car files, and so forth. Prior to this version, the channel searched the input file in a specific order for one of the main metadata sources (SCC, XMP, FileInfo,...). Once any one of these was encountered, it was extracted, then used to establish the main attribute values, and the remaining locations were ignored. This new version will optionally continue to extract data from each of the designated metadata locations and in the designated order, and values from each of the locations can be merged into the extracted attribute set.

Settable FTP Channel Timeout

A timeout setting was added to the FTP Channel so that the user can configure the timeout behavior of the channel. Previously, the channel would always employ a 30 second timeout.

New Daily Folder Options for Inserter Channel

When inserting stored documents into Daily Folders, the Inserter Channel now provides new folder naming schemes. Folders can be named with a number representing the 'day of the year', as a subfolder nest using the hierarchy YYYY\MM\DD, or using the subfolder nest of YYYY\Day of Year. In each case, there is the further option of appending an 'AM' or 'PM' to the folder name while dividing the files into pre-noon and post-noon folders.

Support for MPEG, MPEG4, and AVI files

The Inserter Channel now recognizes the MPEG, MPEG4, and AVI video files and is able to extract a thumbnail frame from these files. Previously, these files could be inserted as 'foreign files', but no thumbnail would have been extracted.

MediaGrid

Slideshow Feature

A full screen mode is supported via the Compare Window. Users can make an image selection from the thumbnail grid and display these selected images in the Compare Window using the optional full screen mode. On Windows, the images are displayed across the full width and height of the screen. On the Macintosh, the images are displayed on the entire screen, except that the menu bar remains. This feature produces very high quality displayed images when there are High Resolution Previews available.

Compare Window Corner Flags

The same corner flags that can be displayed in the thumbnail grid are now displayed in their respective corners of the images in the Compare Window.

Improved User Control Over Thumbnail Cell Size

Using keyboard equivalents, the user can now quickly increase or decrease the size of the thumbnail cell by increments, or can, in one keystroke, expand the size of the thumbnail cell to match the current thumbnail grid window size and then collapse it back to the original size in a second keystroke. These new features, in conjunction with other keyboard navigation features in MediaGrid, are useful for rapid control of the thumbnail view.

Cell Sliding

Cell sliding refers to the action of moving one or more cells up, down, to the left, or to the right of their original position in the cell ordering. This is an action that can be performed when ordering a Marked Set, or when using the new project ordering features (see below). Reordering can be performed by dragging cells to their new locations; however the new cell sliding feature provides a keyboard-only, fast and easy method of cell reordering.

Attribute Restriction Sets for Searching

The MediaGrid Autonomy Search and SQL Server Full Text Search interfaces support the new 'Attribute Restriction Set' feature. Sets of attributes over which a user searches frequently can be predefined and placed in a list. This list of Attribute Restriction Sets can be used to quickly select the multiple attributes over which the next search should take place. Previously, for example, to perform an Autonomy search for 'president' in 'Caption', 'Headline', 'Credit', and 'Story', user was required to enter the search query "president <in> (Caption, Headline, Credit, Story)". This new feature simplifies the syntax to its minimum, requiring the entry of only "president" while selecting the predefined "Caption, Headline, Credit, Story" Attribute Restriction Set. The query is subsequently 'restricted' to the predefined attribute set.

Improved 'Project' User Interface

The MediaGrid user interface for Projects has been greatly improved. Searches can be constrained to one or more projects simply by clicking a checkbox next to the project name in the project tree displayed at the left of the

MediaGrid watchspace window. A Favorite Projects List is now available. New visual cues are provided to indicate whether the search is being constrained to a project list, and to which projects.

Project Locking and Reordering

In a manner similar to that supported by Marked Sets, the items in a project can be given an arbitrary ordering. This user-defined ordering can be used to control the display order of the items in the project. Used in conjunction with the new Slideshow feature, users can click through the frames of a custom slideshow, in which the objects in the slideshow and their order are controlled by the user.

To ensure that more than one user does not attempt to reorder the same project at the same time, projects can now be locked. A locked project can be reordered only by the user than has it locked.

Project Ownership

Ownership properties can now be assigned to individual projects. Each project can be owned by a specific user, owned by all the users of a specific role, or not owned by any user. Owned projects can be assigned access restrictions such that a project can be viewed only by its owner(s), can be locked and sorted only by its owner(s), can have items added and removed only by its owner(s), and can be duplicated only by its owner(s).

Scrollable Attribute Dialogs

An option is now available to display and use Attribute Dialogs in scrollable, resizable windows.

High Resolution Image Printing Override

Users with permission to print using the High Resolution Preview data may, in fact, want to use the lower resolution data in order to get a quick printout when good image quality is not required. An override option has been added to the Print Dialog that gives the user that choice.

Corner Markers Reflecting Project

It is now possible in MediaGrid to define a corner marker that reflects whether or not an item is contained in a specific project.

Active Directory Logon

MediaGrid now supports logon by trusted connection when connecting to a Windows MediaServer. Users no longer need to provide a username or password, provided they are currently logged into a Windows account that has permissions to logon to MediaServer.

SQL Server Full Text Search

In addition to the Autonomy full text search capability, MediaGrid now supports the new SQL Server Full Text Search capability available with MediaServer v6.5.

Automation Enhancements

‘Add To Project’ is now included in the Automation script options.

A new feature called ‘Automation Variables’ provides a way to define a path, a project name, a project suite, and so forth, in an Automation script as a variable name. When the Automation is executed, the variable value replaces the variable in the script.

Delivery Drop Palette Target

A delivery drop palette target has been added, allowing a user to configure a drop palette target that will deliver a object when that object is dropped on it.

Terminal Services-Aware

MediaGrid is now 'terminal services-aware' in the sense that MediaServer can now distinguish between a user logged into the same account as another user but from a different remote machine. Previously, if two users were logged into MediaServer using the generic account 'Editors' and both were connected through terminal services, both users appeared to MediaServer as the same user. Therefore, MediaServer was not able to distinguish between the two users, and the sophisticated object locking mechanisms in MediaServer could be fooled. Version 6.5 of the server and the MediaGrid client use the Terminal Services API to resolve this problem. Terminal Services users are now assigned a session ID equal to the ID assigned to their terminal services session.

MediaServer Express

SCC MediaServer Express Edition is a fully equipped multimedia content management system with a feature set similar to SCC's high-end product MediaServer, now called MediaServer Enterprise. MediaServer Express is designed to install over Microsoft's SQL Server 2005 Express Edition with Advanced Services, which is a free, downloadable, easy-to-use, and lightweight version of SQL Server 2005 with a maximum database size of 4 GB. This 4 GB database size is sufficient to hold 300,000 to 400,000 objects in an SCC MediaServer Express Edition system. MediaServer Express is targeted at the smaller application market, which would include sites with fewer user and long term storage requirements, sites that are to be remote satellite sites to a larger central site, or larger sites that need to start small before upgrading to the enterprise system. MediaServer Express is 'package priced' with a fixed set of licenses and modules.

MediaServer Active Directory Support

MediaServer for Windows v6.5 is fully integrated with Active Directory. Not only are login authorizations managed through Active Directory, but the entire User Management function has moved into the Active Directory user interface. A MediaServer snap-in for MMC has been developed so that a MediaServer tab appears in the tab set of each Active Directory user. This is similar to what you see, for example, with Microsoft Exchange user properties. Clicking the MediaServer tab provides access to all MediaServer user permissions, for all MediaServer libraries, and so on. MediaServer roles, as well, are created and configured within the Active Directory user interface.

An important characteristic of the way this Active Directory feature has been implemented is that it does not store any MediaServer user permission data within the Active Directory schema, nor are any other AD schema changes required. AD schema changes are best avoided. Instead, all user permission data is stored in SQL Server tables and accessed through the Active Directory user interface transparent to the administrator.

MediaServer Web Module

Active Directory Support

Windows domain accounts configured for MediaServer access may log into the Web Access Module with their Windows domain account rather than supplying a separate set of SQL Server credentials.

User Selectable Thumbnail and Preview Size

An enhanced image preferences feature has been added, allowing users with the appropriate HiRes Preview permission to specify image size preferences for Result, Detail, Report and Crop Tool pages. A subset feature exists allowing any user to specify Result page thumbnail image sizes up to 512x512.

Results Page Tooltip Feature

A tooltip feature for grid Result pages has been added. Specified attributes will appear in a dynamic tooltip frame when the user hovers over an image.

MediaGrid-style Corner Markers

The popular Corner Markers feature of MediaGrid has been added. Corner Marker indicators appear on Result page objects.

SQL Server Full Text Support

Web client users now have both Autonomy and SQL Server Full Text search options, where licensed and authorized under the permissions.

Customized Layout in Details Page

A feature has been added providing for a customized layout of an object's attributes and image in the Details page.

Enhanced Sentence 'Mushing'

The attribute used in sentence processing and display is selectable via the configuration page.

Support for Tabbing

The user is now able to use the tab key to navigate through the controls on the Results page. The specific controls (image, checkbox, etc) that are tab-able can be specified via configuration.

Keyboard Accelerators

Detail page record browsing supports navigation via specific keystrokes rather than mouse clicks.