

MPEG-1, 2 & 4



VBrick EtherneTV-NXG2 Video on Demand Release Notes Version 2.0.0.4

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Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide release notes for the EtherneTV-NXG2 VOD server. It contains:

- Overview
- Compatibility guidelines
- Features
- Caveats

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Overview

The EtherneTV-NXG2 Video on Demand system supports live-stream and stored file access through the EtherneTV-MCS access portal. This state-of-the art EtherneTV deployment supports many advanced features, including scheduled playback, VCR-like control of playback, true Video-On-Demand and more.

Compatibility

This release is compatible with:

- VBrick 1000 and 3000 series of MPEG-1 Encoders (Release 2.4.0 and higher).
- VBrick 4000 and 6000 series of MPEG-2 and MPEG-4 Encoders (Release 2.1.0 and higher). MPEG-4 is supported with release 3.0.1a and higher.
- EtherneTV-MCS release 1.0.2
- Release is based upon redhat V8.0 and XMP 7.2.0, and the installation script contained in vbrick_kasenna_dell-7500-0125-0000.tar

Features

This platform delivers both live and stored file streaming. The EtherneTV-MCS control server is required for operation. This access interface will provide:

- Watch TV - Provides access to live VBrick Streams
- Video-On-Demand - Provides access to stored VOD files
- World Wide Web - Provides access to the Internet

Access to the user interface for the EtherneTV-NXG2 VOD server is accomplished by pointing your web browser (such as Internet Explorer) to the location of the EtherneTV-MCS control server (for example):

<http://MCSControlServer>

Additional instructions are available in the Quick Start section of the EtherneTV-NXG2 Quick Start Guide.

Caveats

Release 2.0.0



WARNING: Ingested files are stored in the root area of the EtherneTV-NXG2 Video-On-Demand server. If this area becomes filled, it can overwrite and corrupt system files causing a catastrophic failure. Please monitor the amount of disk space remaining at all times and frequently remove unnecessary files.

Adding content to the server

1. Spaces and quotes (both ' and ") cause system instability problems. All spaces and quotes must be removed from MPEG file names before they are transferred to the EtherneTV VOD NXG . Also, do not use spaces or quotes in the video name field of newly added video content.
2. Content can be added to the server by recording a stream directly to the server, by ingesting a pre-recorded file into the server, or by recording a stream from the EtherneTV-STB. Recording an MPEG-4 stream directly to the server is not supported at this time.
3. Since recording of MPEG-4 streams directly to the server is not supported at this time, VBrick MPEG-4 streams should be recorded using VBrick StreamPlayerPlus or EtherneTV-STB and then FTP'd so that they can be ingested into the EtherneTV-NXG2 server. The MCS also supports MPEG-1, 2, and 4 recording.
4. To ingest a pre-recorded MPEG-1, 2 or 4 file the asset must first be placed onto the server through FTP. All MPEG files should be removed from the FTP staging area after they are ingested to prevent the staging area from becoming full. If the staging area becomes full, the EtherneTV-NXG2 server will catastrophically fail. As an alternative to FTP, the asset can also be ingested directly from a remote directory other than one on the server using Samba. VBrick recommends using the Samba Application rather than using FTP to eliminates the risk of filling the staging area. Please refer to the application note at <http://www.vbrick.com/support/faq.asp>
5. All assets that are installed into the server should have backup copies available in the event of disk corruption. This will allow for an easy restoration of the system.
6. The number of simultaneous records from the EtherneTV-STB should be limited. When more than 4 simultaneous records resulting in large files are performed, some ingestions may fail.

General notes

1. In order to view an MPEG-2 multicast file from the EtherneTV-NXG Video on Demand server, using a VBrick MPEG2 6200, packet ordering must be enabled. Packet ordering is set in the VBrick in Configuration: Decoder – Network settings.
2. Core dumps may occur when changing the system name of the EtherneTV-NXG2 server. It is recommended that these files be removed from the server. The core files are located in / or a subdirectory under /usr/mbase/coredir. These files will be automatically deleted if they are present for more than 1 week.
3. In order for the time to appear correctly in the EtherneTV-MCS user interface, it may be necessary to set the time zone (depending on the installation location). Directions for changing the time zone are in the Quick Start section of the EtherneTV-NXG2users guide.
4. EtherneTV-NXG2 server multicast port numbering starts at 5000. VBrick Multicast port numbering ranges start from 1040 to 65535, and the default is 4444. The VBrick default

- multicast port number should be changed to a value of 5000 or larger if the VBrick encoders and decoders are being used as a source (record) or destination (playback) by the EtherneTV-NXG2 server.
5. For MPEG-1 recordings, the audio doesn't work for EtherneTV-NXG2 server playback if the file was recorded using VBrick -xxx0 hardware encoders with the audio is set to Mono (Left to Stereo). All other VBrick encoder Audio modes work.
 6. Spaces and quotes (both ' and ") do not work. All spaces and quotes must be removed from MPEG file names before they are transferred to the EtherneTV-NXG2.
 7. The Client Test Tool does not work correctly on Linux. It displays the connection to the client of the active file being played, but disconnects during the ping test.
 8. A user must close the browser after logging out from the EtherneTV-NXG2 server. The A4 Authorization check does not succeed when a user logs out and logs back in as a different user within the same browser session.
 9. When external storage is configured, content may be ingested onto the external storage until it is full before content is ingested onto internal storage.
 10. On systems configured with external storage, attempts to record files larger than 2 Gigabytes may fail when there is more than 2 Gigabytes of space available on one of the filesystems.
 11. If the mbsnmp service is turned on, core files may appear in the root directory. Turn off mbsnmp to avoid this.
 12. On the NXG-2, streaming at or below 125Kbps is not supported. Rates of 128Kbps or higher are recommended.
 13. The "find videos" query on the mediabase admin pages will display a maximum of 1000 assets. For installations that exceed 1000 assets, the use of folders and keywords is recommended. Queries can be performed by keyword, or assets can be viewed by traversing the folder heirarchy.
 14. The mediabase managed filesystem configuration parameter "Removal Enable" has no effect. Assets can be removed regardless of the setting of this parameter.
 15. Removal of MPEG4 assets may intermittently fail.
 16. After restoring the operating system disk drive from the recovery CDs, it is necessary to run the VBrick installation script contained on CD number 5. Failure to perform this installation step will prevent the system from booting the next time it is restarted.
 17. The EtherneTV-NXG2 doesn't support stream rates less than 125Kbps.
 18. For the StreamPlayer client to work properly, the client PC cannot have the Cisco VPN enabled.
 19. On the Monitor Service Status screen, it is normal for the IP Multicast Routing Daemon "LED" to show up as red.
 20. The STB cannot play MPEG1/2 sequence files from the NXG, though a PC client can.
 21. Cannot do MPEG1 and MPEG2 live capture at the same time (SCR347)
 22. Cannot start mediabase from the web based management interface. Telnet into the server and type **/etc/init.d/mediabase start** instead.
 23. When connecting external storage, only use VBrick approved SCSI cables rated U320 with a maximum length of 3 feet.
 24. Cannot schedule a simulated multicast of an MPEG4 asset
 25. On the content pages on the mbase/admin management interface, assets are listed in random order. Use keywords to make finding assets easier.

26. - The content pages on the mbase/admin management interface cannot list more than 1000 assets. Use keywords and a search to narrow the number of assets listed at a time.
27. - Assets can be deleted from a filesystem regardless of the setting of the "Remove Enable" flag.

If you have any questions regarding installation or operation, please contact your authorized VBrick reseller from whom you have purchased this product. You can also obtain on-line support for EtherneTV-NXG2 FAQs at:

<http://www.vbrick.com/support/faq.asp>

Or visit our technical support page at:

http://www.vbrick.com/support/technical_support.asp