EditShare®

EFS Storage/FLOW Release Notes

Release 2021.3 and Release 7.2.4.5

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Contents

Storage highlights

The EditShare 2021.3.0 release builds on previous releases in three key areas:

- This version supports converting to software-based licenses from the hardware USB license dongles that EditShare has used until now.
- We have continued to improve EFS Control, our web-based management interface for Storage services. Improvement areas in this version include refinements to managing read-only access to spaces, functionality related to user groups, and more.
- AFP support has been removed. Customers using macOS can use Samba or EditShare's native EFS software to access media and project spaces.

In addition, EditShare 2021.3.0 provides a number of improvements and fixes.

The EditShare 7.2.4.5 release has a single change:

- Starting with versions 7.2.4.4, EditShare began actively monitoring the SMART firmware on RAID drives. This has proven unnecessary, so in this version SMART monitoring of RAID drives has been removed, while retaining monitoring of boot drives, and drives used for the Audit and Monitor (EFS File Auditing) feature.

Storage
Storage Improvements

Active Directory:

- Since version 2020.4, EditShare has overhauled our support for integrating with Active Directory Single Sign-On (ADSSO). Some of these changes broke backwards compatibility with ADSSO administrative behavior from prior versions. This release provides an ADSSO administrative workflow similar to the pre-2020.4 behavior, which is now described in the *EditShare Administrator's Guide* documentation, along with expanded documentation of the augmented AD integration we have continued to build upon in 2021 versions. Please refer to the *EditShare Administrator's Guide* for additional information.

EditShare Connect:

- *IMPORTANT: Due to an open issue with support for Apple Silicon CPUs in macOS 11 Big Sur, as of May 2021, you may have to use a beta version of Big Sur for EFS mounts to work on Apple Silicon equipped Macs, including models with the M1 processor. In our internal testing, beta versions of 11.3 and 11.4 allowed EFS mounts to work normally, but EFS mounts do not seem to work in the public 11.3.1 release. As of this writing, we expect a future macOS build to resolve this limitation.*

- EditShare Connect's installers on macOS and Windows now set up all components in such a way that users no longer are prompted for an administrator password when using the software for the first time.
  - *Note: With Apple's tightening security requirements for installing software on macOS, the installation process has become more complex, especially on macOS 11 Big Sur, and on Macs with Apple Silicon CPUs. Please see the EditShare Administrator's Guide for more information.*
- When EditShare Connect is unable to log in because of a license error on the server, ESC now shows a clear error message explaining the nature of the problem.

EditShare License Service (ELS)

- As part of the transition from USB license dongles to EditShare Licensing Service, the About screen for the legacy EditShare Manager administrative software no longer displays dongle-specific information for storage servers.
- It is now possible to use Role Assistant to set up a system that is not yet licensed, and then activate the license on the fully configured system.
- EditShare's software is changing how certain license fields are handled. In a small number of cases, license settings for Storage that were allowed under earlier versions will now result in an error. If you find that your system is unexpectedly reporting "The license on this EditShare system is invalid", please contact EditShare Technical Support for assistance.

EFS Control

- EFS Control's support for working with user groups has been greatly expanded in this release.
- EFS Control now supports exporting table views, such as the lists of Spaces and Users, as a CSV file.

EFS Storage

- Newly created EFS storage replication goals can now be used immediately for new Media Spaces, without requiring a reboot or a service restart.
- The default speed for EFS background rebalancing is now much faster, which allows operations like adding a new EFS storage node server to finish in a more reasonable period of time.

High Availability EFS (HA-EFS)

- HA-EFS now uses unicast networking, instead of multicast, for better compatibility with networks that are not configured to support multicast traffic.
- As of this version, EditShare is now running Hashicorp Consul for managing data in High Availability configurations. Consul runs on TCP port 8500, which may create a conflict for certain third-party products. In particular, if your system has been configured to interoperate with Archiware P5 backup software, it may be necessary to configure P5 to use a different port. Also, Consul in this version self-assigns IP addresses in the 172.16.0.0/12 range. If you are using the same IP range on your network, it will be necessary to contact EditShare Technical Support for assistance with configuring Consul to use different IP addresses. Please contact EditShare Technical Support if you have any questions.

Other Storage Improvements:

- After running the Network Config tool on a new server, it is now possible to run Role Assistant and join the server group without a reboot.
- Cloud configurations including EFSv and Seamless Proxy Editing are now compatible with AWS China.
- Starting with versions 7.2.4.4 and 2020.4, EditShare began actively monitoring the SMART firmware on RAID drives. This has proven unnecessary, so in this version SMART monitoring of RAID drives has been removed, while retaining monitoring of boot drives, and drives used for the Audit and Monitor feature.
  - ***Note:** This SMART firmware monitoring adjustment is the one and only change in 7.2.4.5.*
- Starting with this version, EditShare is making a list of updated software packages available as part of our release process.
- The Sync Tool software now has clearer error reporting.

Storage Fixes

- In some configurations, the landing page did not display the correct tiles to provide links to EFS and FLOW services. The links on this web page should now accurately align with the available services in each server group.
- In some cases, the Daily Health Report's "Removed ADSSO Users Check" was reporting a misleading "Can't contact ADSSO server" error message that did not necessarily indicate a real problem. This false reporting issue is now resolved.
- Daily Health Report no longer reports an error on MegaRAID systems set up with hot spare drives.
- Fixed a regression that interfered with setting up the High Availability EFS Master role when there was an existing EFS Master server.
- Resolved an issue that could interfere with relaying alert emails through the Admin server.
- Fixed a problem introduced in 2020.4.0 that could prevent Diagnostics from being able to collect RAID information.

Storage Known Issues and Roadmap Items

Important Notices

- Now that EditShare's support for Active Directory Single Sign-On (ADSSO) is becoming more mature, we intend to phase out support for our original AD implementation, which was based on synchronizing account passwords with the AD server. If you are administering a server that is configured to use AD password sync, you are encouraged to contact EditShare Technical Support to discuss the process of converting your system to ADSSO.

- EditShare plans to remove support for creating new Traditional Avid media spaces, and new Universal media spaces, by the end of the year 2021. Existing spaces of these types will continue to be supported, but customers using these are strongly encouraged to consider migrating to AvidStyle media spaces, which offer a much simpler workflow. Please contact EditShare Technical Support with any questions.

- There is a possibility that Audit and Monitor could lose up to a day's worth of efs-audit data after applying the 2021.3.0 update. This issue self-corrects at midnight, but audit data in the period between the update and the start of the next day may be lost. EditShare Technical Support can provide assistance with verifying whether this issue has occurred on your system, and how to recover from it.

Ark

Fixes

- Fixed an Ark error that prevented backup verification from running when the number of tapes in the library happened to equal the number of tapes required for a restore job.

FLOW highlights

- FLOW Scan: H.265/HEVC decoding support
- FLOW Panel: List View
- FLOW Control: User groups for metadata templates, project and channels
- FLOW Control: Force logout of users
- FLOW Control: Live video previews for SDI & NDI sources
- FLOW Control: Metadata mapping of R3D & MXF files from sample file import
- FLOW Scan: Metadata mapping sidecar XML support for non-video assets
- FLOW Ingest: NDI recording support(Beta. Contact sales for info)
- FLOW Transfer: LTFS support with Archiware integration
- FLOW Story: Multicam drag & drop support for AAF & XML
- FLOW Automation: Mobius AI update with support for facial recognition

FLOW Clients

AirFLOW

Improvements

- Created subclips now appear in the bin the user is working in.
- Ability to search for 'Approved' status in markers added.
- Date time custom fields tooltip now specifies format.
- Added trash icon beside sequences and bins for Single Project View to delete items.
- Updated Japanese translation.
- New projects are no longer public to all users.

Fixes

- Project panel no longer requires refresh for new or deleted sequences.
- Fixed issue with wrong timecode value when scrubbing AirFLOW sequences.

FLOW Automation Web

Improvements

- Support individual folder scans in the Scan Task.

Fixes

- Blocked autocomplete password inputs in Components Tab.
- Corrected messages and status icons for jobs in Monitor Tab.

FLOW Adobe Premiere and DaVinci Resolve Panel

Improvements

- List View
  - Can now view storage spaces as a folder hierarchy.
  - Remembers the user's chosen folder hierarchy when switching between List View and Folder View.
  - Columns can now be automatically resized in List View.
  - Item Selection can now select multiple items including folders and media via SHIFT/CMD/CTRL keys and select all via CMD/CTRL-A.
  - Sorting.
  - Columns, hide, show, size, autosize, and sort.
  - Context menu added to perform common actions on Media (for example: delete, import, and so on).
  - New storage icons added to indicate the status of Mediaspaces (for example: mounted/archived).

- Folder View
    - New storage icons added to indicate the status of Mediaspaces (for example: mounted/archived).

Fixes

- Marker Types selection (via double-clicking a Marker's icon in the Markers List of the Media Preview window) no longer appears behind the Timeline.
- DaVinci Resolve no longer shows unavailable codecs on Windows machines when importing media to the NLE.
- Media Preview hotkeys (keyboard shortcuts)
    - Addressed several issues where hotkeys wouldn't work -

FLOW Control Web

Improvements

- Group support for metadata templates, projects, and channels.
- MXF/R3D metadata mapping improvements including allowing the import of R3D and MXF samples.
- Sidecar XML mapping for non-video assets.
- Add the ability for admins to force user logout from client applications.
- User Groups - FLOW System Administrators will be able to create, delete, and edit groups that users can be assigned to, and in turn granted permissions to items in the FLOW system.
- Added new live streamed video previews in I/O tab (see streaming service).
- New option added in FLOW Ingest service settings, in System tab: *Add clip to project on Ingest*.
- UI enhancements in the Users tab → Summary table.
- Displaying the list of all users and groups in Channel tab, even if they do not have SDI/FBI permissions.
- Removal of IP Address field in User details section and added a separate Clients section which displays the list of app(s) that selected user is currently logged in.
- Upon deletion of a media space through Flow Control, the users will be removed of all permissions for the deleted media space - (*This enhancement is ONLY applied for EditShare storage/space*)
- Re-enabled public checkbox for Deleted Space.

Fixes

- Ingest settings: Add option to enable Ingest to Project.

FLOW Story

Improvements

- Further addition of Multicam functionality within Story.
  - AAF Export of Multicam.
- Preserve Path option on Restore and Archive.
- Display of Image Sequence range in locations field.
- Ability to Eject Users from Story.
- Default Project Permissions are now set as restricted to the Project Creator.
- Publishing of XML to FLOW server now happens alongside Sequence Publishing.

Fixes

- Changes to Sequence state Re-Sync with FLOW Server during segment moves.
- 'Modified' Column Header now allows the user to organise by Modified Date in Treeview.
- Fixes to Metadata Marker Values in Story.

FLOW Browse (Classic)

Improvements

- Eject users from FLOW Browse.

Fixes

- Fixes to stop the occasional Crash upon a Metadata Batch Update from within Browse.
- Fixes to occasional issues when User is in Browse mode.

FLOW Services

FLOW Admin

Improvements

- Enhancements for user groups support around: administrators/disabled/suspended.
- Change log retention policy based on the size of the `/var/log` partition so we keep less when there is less space available.

Fixes

- Fix for automatic database updates not running.
- Ensure deleted media spaces are not available for editing in the 'Manage' tab in FLOW control.

FLOW Automation Service

Fixes

- Subclip transcode from Master clip.
- Shown as being down after upgrading to 2021.3.
- Monitor tab warnings are not displayed in sub-tasks.

FLOW Daemon

Fixes

- Fix for sometimes not restarting services correctly.

FLOW Ingest

Improvements

- Add WebRTC streaming, to monitor incoming SDI signals.
- Add support of NDI streams as ingest sources (beta - currently only accept signals in the local network).

Fixes

- Issues with Axxon RS-422 interface can crash service at startup.
- EWC DNxHD captures cause service crash.
- Failure to start/complete a SDI ingest scheduled days before, due to the input signals not being connected.

Notes

- Support of Avid Uncompressed 1:1 8 bit codec in MXF has been disabled, prior to being retired in future releases.

FLOW MediaFramework

Improvements

- Support of decoding HEVC / H.265 files for scanning and as source for file ingest.

FLOW Metadata

Fixes

- Sequence - NLE ID preserved on creation.

FLOW Scan

Improvements

- Support scanning H265 / HEVC files.
- In-progress, or queued scan are resumed after service restarts
- Scan status reporting after a failed proxy creation has been improved.

Fixes

- Fix for renamed / deleted media spaces cannot be removed from a scheduled scan job.

FLOW Search

Fixes

- Fix for media space search returning duplicate entries.
- Fix for search on subject:description pair in tabular metadata.

FLOW Streaming Service (new)

Improvements

- New FLOW Streaming service with WebRTC module to support low-latency video streaming from FLOW Ingest sources.

Notes

- Streaming previews cannot be viewed in Firefox.
- Audio previewing planned in 2021.4.

Basic troubleshooting

- In FLOW Control > System > Services summary page
  - Check to see if FLOW Streaming service is enabled and healthy.
  - Open browser's console to note any errors.
  - Test in different browsers (Firefox is not supported yet).
- Inspect/capture /var/log/flow/flow-streaming.log.
- Verify UDP traffic is whitelisted over firewall/vpn.
- Browse to https://INGEST-IP:12294/webrtc.html?test for extra troubleshooting.
- Chrome (and other webkit browsers): Inspect chrome://webrtc-internals.

FLOW Transfer

Improvements

- Integrate with Archiware P5 V6.1 for LTFS support.
- When archiving to Archiware display the full file path beginning with tape barcode id where available.
- Allow automation to specify source location instances used for copy.
- Improve performance when copying large image sequences.

Fixes

- Reinstate sgl-mount-prefix setting for use with FlashNet in HA systems.

Notes

- Port 8500 required for Consul. This conflicts with a previous recommendation to use Port 8500 for Archiware. Please update Archiware to use port 8600.
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Third Party Integrations

Improvements

- Integrate with Archiware P5 V6.1 for LTFS support.
- When archiving to Archiware retrieve the tape barcode id and add to metadata and file location path.
- Update Mobius AI SDK (v2.0.2) to support new features including Mobius Face Recognition.

Fixes

- Reinstate sgl-mount-prefix setting for use with FlashNet in HA systems.

Known Issues

Important Notices

- Support for Harmonic Media Grid does not work in this version. Please do not update if you use this integration with FLOW.
- You need to re-run Role Assistant on systems with Matrox ingest hardware after updating.