

## How is DVC different to other systems?

### Generally

Generally speaking, DVC is a more up to date and modern system than most, delivering many more features whilst saving your school money.

DVC is a *technology backbone* that will grow and evolve with your school, providing other features and functionality, such as Digital Signage (School Message Board), Camera Management, Video Editing and much more.

Most other systems use older TCP/IP technology. This is not ideally suited to video playback which means that other systems often have to deliver in chapters/chunks; therefore, teachers have to wait for files to upload before being able to play them.

DVC utilises *RTSP Uni Cast* and *Multi Cast*, amongst other technologies. Therefore, DVC is considerably less bandwidth-intensive, so delivery of video is absolutely instant.

### Open Standards and Open protocols

DVC uses open standards and open protocols. DVC can play all of the following video formats:

MPEG1

MPEG2

MPEG4

H.264

ASF/ASX

WMV

Other systems often only play one format, which in some cases is their own proprietary format. As a result whatever data you record in their system needs to be played back in their own software. With DVC, you can playback content in any player, such as Windows Media Player, VLC etc. DVC does not lock you in.

DVC has a built in transcoder, which transcodes content to H.264. This is the latest and most advanced video codec available and is being adopted by many companies such as Apple, Sony, Polycomm etc. This transcoder delivers DVD quality video, but at an eighth of the file/stream size and an eighth of the storage size.

## Content

DVC has a very different approach to content than most.

DVC comes with a great starter pack of 5000 Australian curriculum based educational titles. From there it's all about being able to build your own content library, 95% of the time, *for free*. DVC provides automatic tools such as single click Electronic Program Guide etc to help you to build your content library yourself.

In the past DVC used to bundle Marcom Digital content with the system. Schools would then have to pay \$3 per student per annum to rent this library. This business model was abandoned because it was found that schools did not wish to rent a video library year-in year- out, only to find that they are only utilising 10-20% of it.

33 years of experience has shown us that over a period of time, schools will build their own library of content. A good example is Newcastle Grammar School who has been using DVC for 2 years and now has 14,000 titles on their system.

If a school misses a recording, they can request it from us for free.

## No On-Going fees with DVC

DVC is purchased outright with no on-going fees. DVC comes with an un-limited site license for all software and automatic updates for life. Other systems that rent software and content may appear more cost effective initially, but end up costing schools much more money.

## Foxtel

DVC will add value to your Foxtel subscription, as the built in CommBox control technology allows the DVC system to control your Foxtel, Sky or Austar box. What this means is that DVC allows you to record

multiple programs overnight, over the weekend and over the school holidays, once again helping to build your content library for free.

Other systems are not able to do this.

## Recording from free to air

This is a major feature of DVC and no other system worldwide comes close in terms of features and simplicity.

DVC has a built in Electronic Program Guide. This gives users between 1-2 weeks of TV listing information in a highly graphical way. A user can set up a recording at a single click. Meta data such as title, synopsis etc is automatically added. DVC provides other features such as:

- 'Record this program on any channel'.
- Keyword and title automatic recordings.
- Automatically add x minutes to beginning and end of program.

Once the time off air has passed, this recording is instantly available to teachers without any extra work by a DVC administrator.

DVC includes an extra integration of an Enhanced TV Education Only TV guide to help further identify educational programs.

## Digitising existing content libraries (DVD/VHS etc)

DVC has built in unique features that means that recording or digitizing existing VHS tapes and DVDs is really easy. You can instantly record or even schedule tapes and discs to record overnight. DVC actually manages and controls the DVD players and VHS players, so when you hit 'Record Now' in your simple DVC software, DVC will send a play command to the DVD player or VHS player. It will even stop the player at the right time and even rewind the tape if you wish.

## Hardware etc

DVC only needs a server to run. Set Top Boxes are not required as DVC usually runs on either a laptop or a PC (**Yes, DVC has Windows, Mac and Linux players**).

Set Top Boxes are used for either Digital Signage or for installations, such as universities, where other functionality such as lecture hall control is needed.

DVC only needs one server for storage, live streaming, capture and wireless. Other systems often need multiple servers costing schools more money and increased support.

In practice, we have found that it is better for schools to have a dedicated media server, such as DVC, for improved reliability and bandwidth. It also allows schools to access other great features of the *technology backbone* such as Digital Signage, Video Editing and Camera Management.

The DVC server is an extremely high grade server which comes with a 3 year on-site warranty. As a result DVC works out of the box and for several years to come, DVC is automatically updated across the WWW.

## Editor

The first difference of the DVC editor is that it is extremely simple to use - in fact people are amazed at just how easy it is.

Secondly, the editor is very fast. Normally, when you edit a video file it needs to be re-rendered. A half hour movie will take approx half hour to re-render even on a fast computer. DVC takes minutes.

Simplicity and speed are exactly what is needed for educational usage.

## Backup

DVC comes with various back up utilities/options:

- 1- Back up meta data only
- 2- Back up all content to a fully redundant server provided by DVC
- 3- Back up to a backup storage server provided by DVC
- 4- Back up to your own server

Backup is very important, as after 5 years the real value in any system is in the content that you have been building.

DVC back up is very extremely flexible, allowing scheduling of both incremental and full backups.

## Integration to CommBox control systems

CommBox is a control system that has been installed in many schools around Australia. It is the Standard control system for NSW DET Connected Classroom and the Building Education Revolution funded Science Centers and Language Centers in schools. CommBox has been installed in 1000's of schools (and is currently being installed in EVERY government school in NSW).

DVC integrates with CommBox perfectly. Other systems do NOT integrate with CommBox.

## Live Streaming

Importantly, the main difference with DVC Live Streaming is that teachers can actually play, stop, pause, rewind etc a video file that is being streamed live.

Other systems do not do this. A DVD or VHS can often be streamed live, but it cannot be controlled. This is an important requirement in a classroom application.

## Digital Signage (School Message Board)

DVC has built in digital signage functionality, allowing administrators to push content live, or schedule content to be played on TVs, Plasmas, laptops, IWBs etc around the school. Even Principle Cam is possible. DVC is a full commercial digital signage system.

A unique and value-add feature of DVC.

## Camera Management

DVC allows you to stream IP cameras around your school, control them and record them.

Another unique and value-add feature of DVC.

## Home View

DVC allows students to view content from home. Some other systems do offer this feature, but with DVC it is built in to the up front cost.

## Integration with Active Directory

DVC has seamless integration with Active Directory and ELDAP however complex those structures may be.

## Integration with library systems

DVC will integrate with most library systems providing very simple reports that allow you to integrate your DVC data base with your library data base providing a single reference point.

## Conclusion

DVC really is a *technology backbone* that not only offers you much more now, but will also save your school considerable money overall. DVC is a system that will grow and evolve with your school, providing further features and technologies as they are developed in the future. DVC offers true ownership of hardware, software and content and will never lock you in.

For more details, see our web:

[www.commandsystems.com.au](http://www.commandsystems.com.au)