

Simplifying Data Security for Media Companies

Andy Copeland | Dell Principal Solutions Architect, Media and Entertainment

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Having worked as a Systems Engineer for some of the largest names in VFX and Video Game Development, I understand the challenges associated with information security. The cybersecurity landscape is becoming more volatile and trying to stay on top of growing threats can seem overwhelming. At the same time, workflows are evolving, and the amount of creative content is expanding. Studios are tasked with managing all of these challenges simultaneously. That is why I am always looking to share ways to improve and simplify pipelines and processes while strengthening security posture.

With the abundance of creative content being produced and stored every day, media companies need a reliable and scalable storage solution that can handle their growing data needs. As a systems engineer, [Dell Technologies PowerScale](#) storage was my “go to solution,” and I’m excited about the new feature enhancements with the latest release, [OneFS 9.5](#). This latest operating system release for Dell PowerScale storage touts many upgraded features, including enhancements to security and QoS as well as significant performance gains to the all-flash F600 and F900 PowerScale nodes.

A continued offering on OneFS is “Access Zones”, which provide a flexible and scalable way for media companies to segregate their data and create isolated, secure namespaces within a single PowerScale cluster.

Access Zones on PowerScale OneFS do three main things:

1. **Connect to a directory service**, such as Active Directory, NIS, or LDAP. Your directory service stores user and group information along with their passwords and other relevant account information.
2. **Authenticate users and groups**, to verify the user’s identity and triggers the creation of an access token that contains information about that identity.
3. **Control access to directories and files**, by comparing the information in their access token with the permissions associated to a directory or file resource and either granting or denying access to it.

All of these functions take place inside of an access zone, which is a virtual security context to control access on an incoming IP address and provide a secure ring-fenced storage location. On initial creation, a cluster has a single access zone by default, which is called the system access zone.

A key benefit of this feature is the ability to control access to data based on different users, groups, or applications. This means that when you’ve just won a bid from a production house that needs strict

compliance you can quickly and easily ensure that their content is only accessible by the correct subset of authorized users, maintaining data security and reducing the risk of breaches.

An added advantage of Access Zones, when coupled with other OneFS 9.5 features (like FilePool Policies and SmartQuotas, for example), is the ability to target users at certain cluster resources, such as storage capacity, performance, and network bandwidth, in a more granular way. This means that you keep the right users working with the right level of performance all of the time, reducing your TA's data management tasks by automatically allocating usable resources more effectively. It also ensures that your most critical data has the security and resources that it requires.

And there are two key areas where Access Zones serves a significant value to media companies: production and data transfers i/o.

From a production standpoint, it keeps projects from different content owners/studios separate to meet critical [TPN/MPA](#) studio requirements.

As for data transfers, these can be accomplished at high speed. Using Signiant and Aspera from one studio to another takes an incredible amount of time already. Then, (if you don't have access zones) you would need to double that time by doing that internally (moving data from ingest to the production storage system) I absolutely hated moving data around the facility. If you can avoid it, you avoid it. With PowerScale/Isilon it's all on-the-box, it's instant" "It's a massive differentiator for customers.

For media companies looking to organize their data in a secure, scalable, and flexible way PowerScale OneFS 9.5 Access Zones are an indispensable tool. It helps them comply with the strict governance standards set out by organizations such as the TPN and the MPA.

Whether you're looking to simply improve the granularity of your data security, streamline administrative processes, or ensure optimal performance for a certain group of users, Access Zones can help you achieve your goals in today's rapidly changing media landscape.

For more information, and the latest content on Dell Media and Entertainment storage solutions, please [visit us online](#).

To read more about cybersecurity for media and entertainment, [read our newly published e-book](#).

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