

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the operating system of the Abekas 6000 Production Server?

The Abekas 6000 runs on a Unix-like, real-time platform using the ultra-reliable VxWorks™ as its operating system. This feature has been one of the most popular competitive advantages of the Abekas 6000 Production Server. Industry history has shown that NT video server products have been less stable than those based on a real-time OS.

2. Does the Abekas 6000 Production Server require a separate PC, mouse and monitor?

No. With a main chassis that's only 8RU and an Abekas 6000 control panel, you're ready to go! Multiple control panels and media expansion chassis' are optional.

3. Can I record in MPEG-2 I-Frame or DVCPRO I-Frame formats from the same Abekas 6000 server?

Yes. The Abekas 6000 offers recordings in both MPEG-2 I-Frame or DVCPRO I-Frame compression formats. Within each format, compression rates can be either 25Mb/s or 50Mb/s selectable, which means that a 25Mb/s clip can play simultaneously with a 50Mb/s clip on different channels, or played directly after a 50Mb/s clip or visa versa from the same channel.

4. Can I switch between MPEG-2 and DVCPRO and between 25Mb/s and 50Mb/s easily?

Yes. The compression formats and rates are set prior to the recording process. In the user setup menu, the compression formats and rates are changeable per video channel. For example, when MPEG-2 at 25Mb/s is selected for channel A, all further recordings will be set to record in that compression format and rate for only that specific channel. Each channel is independent of all other channels; therefore users can record in MPEG-2 on channel A (for example) at 25Mb/s and also record in DVCPRO at 50Mb/s on channel B. The server can also be configured to *only* record in DVCPRO or *only* record in MPEG-2, if desired — so that only one compression format is used by the operator(s).

5. Does the user require selection of playback bit rates of MPEG-2 or DVCPRO compression?

No. Playback format and compression ratio detection (25Mb/s or 50Mb/s) is fully automatic, dependent upon the rate of the stored clip. Also, a 25Mb/s clip may be played directly after a 50Mb/s clip or visa versa.

6. Can I record and play back the same clip at the same time?

Yes. This requires two channels. Each channel can simultaneously play the same clip that is being recorded on a different channel. Play-out on another channel can occur approximately two seconds after start of record.

7. Can I record and playback the same clip on the same channel?

No. The video input and output for any given channel in the Abekas 6000 is structured the same way the video I/O is structured in a VTR. While you're recording an input video signal, you see the incoming video at the video output of the same video channel. Therefore, you can't cue the same clip (or any other clip) on the video output while you're recording at the video input. Of course, if any other video I/O channel in the server is not recording, then you can cue and play the clip that's being recorded — even while the recording is still underway.

8. Can I insert record to the same clip using different video channels?

Yes. It is possible to insert record to the same clip that is also in record on a different channel or is cued and playing on other video channels. For example, channel A is recording to clip ID 1 and clip ID 1 is cued onto channel B. An insert edit is performed to clip ID 1 on channel B, behind the current record point.

9. How many video channels can I play at the same time?

Depending upon the server hardware, users may choose up to eight video channels to be played out simultaneously.

10. Can I record two channels and play out two channels at the same time?

Yes. This would require a four channel Abekas 6000 server. Each video channel is independent of the others, with each channel having an SDI input and an SDI output.

11. Can I record six channels and play out two channels at the same time?

Yes. This would require an eight channel Abekas 6000 server. Each video channel is independent of the others, with each channel having an SDI input and an SDI output.

12. What is the minimum amount of storage I can have in a single server?

In 525 and 625 standard, 16.0 hours of storage at MPEG-2 or DVCPRO I-frame compression (at 25 Mb/s) is the minimum storage amount offered in a single server. If MPEG-2 or DVCPRO-50 compression were selected at 50 Mb/s for all recordings, the total minimum storage amount offered in a single server would be 10.0 hours for MPEG-2 and 9.0 hours for DVCPRO-50.

13. What is the maximum amount of storage I can have in a single server?

In 525 Standard, 405.0 hours of storage at MPEG-2 or DVCPRO I-frame compression (at 25 Mb/s) is the maximum storage amount offered in a single server with two additional expansion chassis'. If MPEG-2 or DVCPRO-50 compression were selected at 50 Mb/s for all recordings, the total maximum storage amount offered in a single server with two additional expansion chassis' would be 252.0 hours for MPEG-2 and 225.0 hours for DVCPRO-50.

In 625 Standard, 405.0 hours of storage at MPEG-2 or DVCPRO compression (at 25 Mb/s) is the maximum storage amount offered in a single server with two additional expansion chassis' (same as 525 Standard). If MPEG-2 or DVCPRO-50 compression were selected at 50 Mb/s for all recordings, the total maximum storage amount offered in a single server with two additional expansion chassis' would be 243.0 hours for MPEG-2 and 219.0 hours for DVCPRO-50.

14. What is the largest possible networking server "empire" I can assemble with the Abekas 6000?

It is possible to network up to 32 servers, each with up to eight video I/O channels. This equals 256 video I/O channels with 1,024 AES/EBU I/O audio tracks.

15. Which RS422 protocols does the Abekas 6000 support?

Louth, Odetics, Sony VTR, Ethernet API and FTP protocols are currently supported.

16. Does the Abekas 6000 support Gigabit Ethernet?

Yes. As an option, the Abekas 6000 offers Gigabit Ethernet, allowing faster import and export of 6000 files by applications using FTP (e.g. Telestream Flip Factory).

17. Can I FTP transfer files in and out of the Abekas 6000, without interrupting the SDI video channels?

Yes. FTP import and export of DVCPRO or MPEG-2 Abekas 6000 files can be done in the background via Ethernet. With the Gigabit Ethernet option, FTP transfer rates are much faster.

18. Does the Abekas 6000 offer split audio editing?

Yes. The Abekas 6000 once again shines as a production server by offering the ability to insert edit individual audio tracks separately or simultaneously.

19. Does the Abekas 6000 support low-res browsing of material?

Yes. The Abekas 6000 currently interfaces with TeleStream Flip Factory, via Ethernet API, which converts material to multiple formats such as Windows® Media Player, QuickTime and Real One for low-res proxies to be played on multiple PC's or MAC's.

20. Can the Abekas 6000 be controlled by legacy products such as Sony BVE9100 or SSL Scenaria?

Yes. Via BVW75 protocol and specific remote timing adjustments within the Abekas 6000 set up menus, frame accurate editing is supported when controlled by these legacy products.

21. Does the Abekas 6000 accept both Sony DVcam and Panasonic DVCPRO?

Yes. The Abekas 6000 doesn't care how the information is stored on tape. As long as the video input is serial digital (SDI) CCIR 601, the Abekas 6000 is happy.

22. Does the Abekas 6000 work in conjunction with slow motion control devices?

Yes. DNF, Hi-Tech, Kurher, Buf, Ash Vale, etc. devices work with the Abekas 6000 (clip ID based). With DNF and others, for example, the user can perform slow motion as well as multiple "mark in" or "cue in" points. This allows instantaneous cues to specific recorded time code marks within several clips playing out simultaneously. Also, DNF and Hi-Tech includes a modified protocol which allows the operator to recall clips directly from the slow motion control panel as well as initiate and stop ganged channel recordings.

23. Is there any indication of "remaining record space" on the Abekas 6000?

Yes. User menu selection provides a complete "system status", which includes current "media storage".

24. Does the Abekas 6000 support AC-3 audio? Dolby-E?

Yes. The digital audio subsystem in the Abekas 6000 is AC-3 and Dolby-E compatible.

25. What kind of backup software/hardware is in place to work with the Abekas 6000?

Users may back up material using the Abekas 6000's optional feature called "VTR Archive Option". By utilizing a floppy disk, a VTR and the Abekas 6000's playlist functionality, material is automatically sent to videotape while the floppy disk stores all clip metadata, in and out points and clip ID's. To restore the material, it's as simple as the backup process. The floppy disk acts as the "EDL" list and the material is brought back to the Abekas 6000 from VTR automatically, including video, key and audio tracks for each clip.

26. Can I build play lists on the Abekas 6000?

Yes. It is quite simple to build play lists on the Abekas 6000, using the built-in List Play application. Each clip can be easily "inserted" into a play list. Once the play list is completed and then set for "on-air", lists can be easily played to air.

27. How many Play Lists can I have?

It is possible to have up to 999 play lists saved in the Abekas 6000.

28. Can I loop Play Lists?

Yes. It is possible to loop any play list where the last frame of the last item in the play list will seamlessly join with the first frame of the first item and repeat indefinitely until you stop the play list loop.

29. How can I integrate the Abekas 6000 with my production switcher/mixer?

With the use of an external switcher/mixer, the Abekas 6000 can play a list of multiple clips out from several video channels — while GPI, RS422, PBUS or Ethernet control can be used from the external switcher/mixer to control the play out of the play list in the Abekas 6000. The external switcher/mixer controls the two video channels in the Abekas 6000, while the switcher/mixer performs the wipes and dissolves.

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30. What are the physical dimensions, electrical and weight info of the Abekas 6000?

Main Chassis Power:	100 / 120 / 220 vac (50 / 60 hz / < 1Kw)
Control Panel Power:	24 vdc: 40 w
Main Chassis Dimensions :	(8RU), Inches: 14.0h / 17.0w / 24.5 (mm: 356h / 432w / 622d)
Control Panel Dimensions:	Inches: 2.7h / 17.0w / 4.7d (mm: 107h / 432w/ 69d)
Main Chassis Weight:	175.0 lbs (79.4 kg)
Main Chassis Weight w/redundant PSU:	185.0 lbs (83.9 kg)
Control Panel Weight:	14.0 lbs (6.4 kg)

31. Is the Abekas 6000 “certified” for Louth, Florical and Odetics automation protocols and systems?

Yes. The Abekas 6000 server has been tested and verified by the following automation vendors:

- Harris Automation (Louth)
- Florical
- Odetics
- Omnibus
- Nverzion
- Sundance Digital
- Aveco

32. Can multiple Abekas 6000 production servers be networked?

Yes. In a multiple-server environment, each Abekas 6000 server can be interconnected via fibre channel. When transferring clips between servers (“copying” or “moving”), the request for transfer is sent via Ethernet while the media data are sent across the fibre network. Media transfer speed is achieved at rates faster than real time.

33. Does the Abekas 6000 have a way to browse and search several clips at one time?

Yes. The Abekas 6000 offers Content Management Panel (CMP) via Ethernet, which is exclusive to the 6000. The CMP is a complete database management software program for multiple PC or Mac users. Titling, keywords, search capabilities and thumbnail browse frames are offered with the CMP. Virtual control panel (VCP) is also included with the CMP, where any clip can instantly be loaded into any channel and then played, rewound, fast forwarded, stopped, jogged and played in slow motion – all from the PC or MAC. The Abekas 6000 also offers a standard feature called “clip browse” which allows multiple clip’s metadata to be seen on the monitoring status overlay, which will give users the ability to quickly see material on the server. For example, clip browse allows users to view the title, length, start TC, project name, owner name and creation date for multiple clips at the same time.

34. Who are some Abekas 6000 customers today?

At present, customers who have purchased the Abekas 6000 include Harpo Studios, Fox Networks Engineering & Operations, Ascent Media Group (London Playout Centre), Turner Studios, Oriental Television (OTV), Denver Broncos, NEP Sharp Shooters, Inc., All-Mobile Video Productions, GE Medical, United States Naval Media Center and Home Shopping Europe (HSE).

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35. What are some productions and live events where the Abekas 6000 is or has been used?

Some Abekas 6000 productions and live events include:

- 2000-04 World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) Pay-Per-Views
- Super Bowl XXXVIII (2004)
- 2002-04 NASCAR on TNT
- 2002-04 NBA on TNT, NBA on TBS
- 2001-03 Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships (NBC Sports)
- 2003 Triple Crown (NBC Sports)
- 2003 Latin Grammy Awards (CBS)
- 2003 National Dog Show (NBC Sports)
- 2003 World Gymnastics Championships (NBC Sports)
- 2000-02 Wimbledon Tennis Championships
- Super Bowl XXXVI (2002)
- XIX Olympic Winter Games (2002)
- 2001 NHL All-Star Game
- 53rd Annual Emmy Awards (2001)
- 73rd Annual Academy Awards (2001)