

Summary:

The Mediplay system consists of a proprietary Linux-based media player minitower which receives scheduled downloaded content consisting of JPEGs and DivX files. The Media player sends the content locally through Cat6 to a DVI/VGA signal convertor attached to standard Plasma displays.

Setup:

The Media Player needs a recommended static IP address and requires that Port 80 be unblocked for communication. Cat6 cable will need to be run from the closet and terminate at each display receiving content in the office. The Cat6 can terminate in standard network wall plates.

The preferred location of the player is in the network closet but Mediplay recommends this primarily for security reasons and the protection of the hardware. An alternate location outside the closet would not impact functionality but other limitations may prohibit install locations.

The middle tier product provides the ability to feed cable TV sources to the plasma displays in the practice. Setup consists of a cable contractor setting up Coax and providing a cable box which can be HD or Non-HD. The cable box is connected to Coax and connected to the media player which has a cable convertor card. The player then combines the practice subscription content and TV source onto each display. Mediplay have many layout templates to choose from which allow the appearance to vary based on customer preference.

Control of TV content can occur two ways. Mediplay can program a time triggered channel schedule into a subscriber profile which will tell the Media Player to change the channel on the cable box or the customer can use the standard cable box remote to manually change the channel. For our purposes this information is particularly important and should be expressed to Oto since control of the TV content could be limited if the cable box and Media Player are located in a locked network closet.

Network Utilization:

Utilization is minimal. All content consists of JPEG and small DivX files. These files are downloaded once to the local drive of the Media Player and then content is sent locally to the Plasma Displays. Port 80 is required for two way communication. Mediplay states that average subscription holders received content changes and downloads once every 2 weeks to 1 month. All content can be scheduled to occur off-hours to make a totally invisible footprint on the network though Mediplay stated to me that network utilization is less than the average single user.

Mediplay states that Cable TV sources also do not leave a network footprint and are outside the network though it was confusing to me in how it was explained. The cable box is connected to the convertor card on the Media Player and the video is sent through the Cat 6 cables to the Plasma displays. If I understand correctly, it might be that the signal does not utilize the network itself but only the cable as a conveyance.

Use and Support:

Content is created, maintained and managed through Mediaplay and is posted on an outside content server which can also be accessed through a standard web browser. Content is not live streamed. The media player will periodically contact the content server searching for updates and if found will download them to be stored locally on the Player which are then shared internally through Cat 6 to the displays.

Hardware or Software issues with the Media Player are exclusively supported by Mediaplay. Should the Media Player and Cable Box be located in the network closet, then Otolaryngology will direct all requests to have access to the closet to Bluestone Cabling or Hospital IS. The Network closet is exclusively maintained by these groups and JeffIT has no access. Network connectivity issues should also be addressed to the Hospital and Bluestone.

If the Media Player is located in an accessible place within the practice, JeffIT can provide IP support only which means that we can come out to test the network connection to confirm that it is live and accessible through one of our laptops.