SCA Media Servers and Render Farm Policies

The School of Cinematic Arts runs two media servers and a distributed render farm to support post production and animation classes and projects.

Thunder - An intelligent file server which learns over time and accelerates in demand content.

Lighting - A solid state drive (SSD) server for bandwidth intensive projects.

Qube - A distributed render farm for managing and rendering animation on multiple workstations.

Access to the servers are available in the following locations:
- CDM 526, 527, 532, 600a, 632, 722, 724, 922, 928
- 14 E Jackson Suites 201-204, 210, 506, 513
- DePaul Center c106a, c106b

The servers and render farm administrator can be contacted here:
> Taylor Cohron
> Media Systems Administrator
> Phone: 312-362-8248
> Email: tcohron@depaul.edu

Server Access and Data Storage
Students and faculty can use and access the servers in the following ways:

- **Library**: An archive of materials available to all users, including stock footage, tutorials, and other useful data. Library materials are located on Thunder.
- **Courses**: Select courses will use the render farm under the direction of their Faculty. Data in class folders will be cleared at the end of each quarter. Class materials are located on Thunder or Lighting depending on their bandwidth requirements.
- **Projects**: Thesis, Bluelight, and independent projects can utilize the servers for collaborative workflows and post production. Project space can be requested through the Media Server Request Form. Project materials are located on Lighting.

Data stored on the server is for active production purposes only. It is not a location for backup or long term storage of files. All users are expected to maintain backups of all of their data. Depaul SCA is not responsible for the integrity of user data.

Render Farm Use
Qube is a distributed render farm system that manages batch image rendering on available workstations in SCA labs. The farm renders on PCs in CDM 527, 532, 722, and DePaul Center c106b that are not in use. Qube does not render on any workstation logged in by a user.

- Qube users must complete the training on d2l before use.
- Only jobs from classes or projects approved for media server use can be submitted to the render farm.

- The Render Farm is a shared resource managed for fair use for all users. Jobs submitted must follow assigned Priority, Instances, and total render job limits. Submitting jobs beyond these values will result in a suspension of render farm access.

<u>Faculty Guide</u>

Classes with media server access will be setup prior to the start of the term by the Media Systems Administrator. Faculty are responsible for instructing their students on the use of the media server for class and project purposes.

- Course Files
  - This partition only the faculty member has permissions to write, but all students will be able to read and access the files.
- Workspace
  - An open directory where all students have access to write and collaborate on project files.

All files in the workspace will be deleted at the end of the term. Any files needed beyond that point must be backed up by the user.

<u>Connecting to the Media Servers</u>

MAC:

1) In Finder choose Go > Connect to Server (⌘K).

2) Select Thunder or Lightning in Favorite Servers. If they are not in the favorites, for thunder type afp://thunder.cdm.depaul.edu or lightning type afp://lightning.cdm.depaul.edu

3) Login with with your CampusConnect credentials.

PC:

1) Open File Explorer from the taskbar or the Start menu (Windows logo key + E).

2) Select This PC from the left pane.

3) On the Computer tab select Map network drive.

4) For Thunder, set the drive letter to Y. For Lightning, set the drive letter to Z.

5) In the Folder box, for thunder type \\thunder.cdm.depaul.edu or for lightning type \\lightning.cdm.depaul.edu. To automatically connect every time you log on to this PC, select the Reconnect at sign-in check box.

6) Select Finish.