



George Sickler: Digital Video Professional and Evangelist

George is vice-president of Colorado Professional Videographers Association. He is an enthusiastic supporter of videography, setting the tone for this organization, which offers training to improve its members' skills through information sharing. George has been in the videography business for eight years. He formed his own company, Colorado Digital Video, to provide conceptual, scripting, shooting, editing, and duplication services for both

corporate and event videography.

George uses a broadcast-quality Sony EX-1 XDCAM camera to capture his videos in 1080i HD with the HDV and XDCAM codecs that Sony supplies. He does all of his video editing on his Mac Pro dual quad core computer with 9 GB of RAM and a local Promise FastTRAK RAID. George uses Adobe Premiere and Adobe Aftereffects to polish his video into a final product. Because most shoots are one-time events, George has always been concerned with data loss and has always used redundant storage to protect his data.



RAID Storage: Workflow's Weakest Link

George has had to increase his RAID arrays storage capacity three times. Due to budget constraints, he bought a smaller RAID system when he first started. Needing more data storage as his business grew triggered the first two upgrades. The last upgrade was triggered by the massive storage required by HD video.

Being technically skilled, he performs capacity upgrades himself. George has lost weekends expanding his RAID arrays: copying data from his RAID, installing larger drives, rebuilding the array, and then reloading data. He can't tell which is a bigger inconvenience: finding enough temporary storage to migrate data off a RAID array or the seemingly endless wait times for rebuilding the array and copying data.

Second-Generation Drobo Is a Winner

George learned of Drobo when it was first launched. With these painful RAID upgrades in his past, he appreciated the way Drobo automates increasing capacity, eliminating many problems for videographers. From the moment he saw how easily Drobo's capacity could be expanded by simply installing a larger-sized drive, George has been a staunch supporter of Drobo.

George was torn, though, when he considered how to use a first-generation Drobo. The performance was fast enough to let him archive his work, but it wasn't fast enough to allow him to perform interactive video editing. George recommended Drobo to friends, family, colleagues, and ultimately became a beta tester for the second-generation Drobo. With the FireWire 800 interface, any remaining doubts were removed.



Second-generation Drobo easily handles George's HD video. Using FireWire 800 in his last project, he could consistently work with three streams (two read and one write stream) of high definition video. With second-generation Drobo, George can create the high-quality videos his customers demand. George says, "I can edit video seamlessly off the Drobo. I'm very impressed! My workflow is faster and dependable. My client's video data is always safe. I don't have to suffer through capacity upgrades again."