



FOX Deportes Ahead of the Game with Dejero Connectivity

The rapid and seamless relocation of an entire sports production control room to a garage, with globally dispersed reporters 'working from home' providing live commentary and talk show entertainment.

FOX Deportes had been successfully pioneering remote working flypacks with Dejero's connectivity technology for several years, to deliver top class sports broadcasts live from venues all over the world to its Spanish-speaking audience across the USA, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

While many other broadcasters were scrambling to figure out how their operations could work remotely, FOX Deportes was able to quickly and easily reassign its innovative Dejero flypacks to comply with pandemic-related restrictions.

Dejero has been key to the US sports network's flexibility and ability to keep its station thriving during the ongoing pandemic, which forced the broadcaster to vacate its Los Angeles headquarters and quickly move all of its Production Control Room (PCR) operations to a 'work-from-home' (or a garage in this case) workflow during the course of 2020. Dejero technology also helped FOX Deportes to deliver a weekday talk show throughout the pandemic, involving up to 7 participants in places ranging from Spain to Argentina, Mexico City to Houston, Honduras to L.A. and San Francisco to Miami.

About FOX Deportes

Launched in 1996, FOX Deportes, a division of FOX Sports, is the first and longest-running Spanish-language sports network in the United States. Now reaching more than 21 million cable and satellite households, nearly six million of which are Hispanic, FOX Deportes has been the nation's leading supplier of Spanish-language sports programming for more than 20 years. FOX Deportes Digital reaches 17 million visitors monthly and provides a robust digital experience brimming with engaging editorial, live scoring and exclusive video highlights on FOXDeportes.com.



Challenge

A long-time user of Dejero technology for remote broadcasting in a variety of countries and terrains, FOX Deportes has been using a combination of Dejero's EnGo mobile transmitters, FlexPoint transceivers and PathWay encoders in remote production flypacks to support on-site reporting at major sports events around the world, such as the World Series, UEFA Champions League and the Super Bowl. Using PathWay for example, the broadcaster can collect eight separate feeds at a stadium — including primary feeds, backup feeds, beauty shots, press conference feeds, sideline reporter feeds and drone shots — sending them back individually to Los Angeles to package and enhance the live coverage of each event.

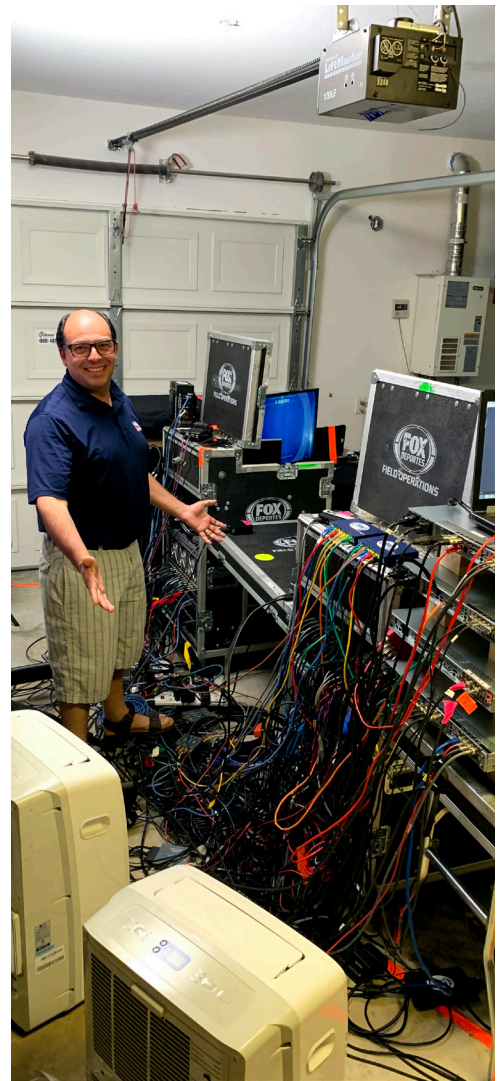
“Five years ago, I went to Honduras to cover a match, which was a difficult environment to report from, and was at the time already able to work using just my Macbook Pro, using hotel Wi-Fi and professional camera and lighting equipment to send content back to L.A. using just the Dejero NewsBook software,” said FOX Deportes director of operations Ruben Rocha. “This Dejero equipment was already successful for FOX Deportes six years ago! It gives us a cost-effective way of producing high quality broadcasts.”

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit the world in 2020, FOX Deportes had already made the investment into portable equipment to allow its reporters to work remotely from stadiums across the world. The broadcaster had also pre-tested and approved a home studio concept in the previous year, to support remote-working talent across South America. It was easy for the broadcaster to repurpose this equipment to support a short-notice switch to remote working.

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- Ruben Rocha director of operations at FOX Deportes

Conveniently, the network had also set up a pioneering home studio in Mexico City in the previous year to support its local anchor and reduce his travel costs – a home studio that also hinged on Dejero technology. All this experience meant that FOX Deportes was able to repurpose existing equipment to quickly set up a new workflow to bypass the L.A. broadcast center when the pandemic hit, putting it under pressure to move its entire production to a remote setting.



At the temporary garage-based PCR, three Dejero PathWay encoders could receive, manage and switch 12 live streams simultaneously.

Solution

In under a week, FOX Deportes reassigned its existing tech investments and deployed a temporary PCR in the director of operations' [Rocha's] garage at home, and installed seven mobile broadcasting flypacks at the homes of its key on-screen talent, ensuring an impressively seamless transition for its viewers.

FOX Deportes simply reassigned its existing remote production flypacks, dedicated to stadium and outdoor reporting, to the homes of its presenters, and to the garage-based PCR to continue the production of live global sports coverage and the creation of original content such as its nightly round-table show, with guests appearing from home via the Dejero LivePlus app.

Each flypack is centered around Dejero technology, for the creation of top quality live video content. At the heart of the garage-based PCR is three Dejero WayPoints delivering IFB into the home and aggregating all feeds coming from the home studios and back to the temporary PCR. Four CuePoint return servers offer eight channels of video and audio return with ultra low latency – as little as 250 milliseconds – one of which is disclosing what is running live on air for talent-cueing, and one delivering and changing graphics located behind the reporter.

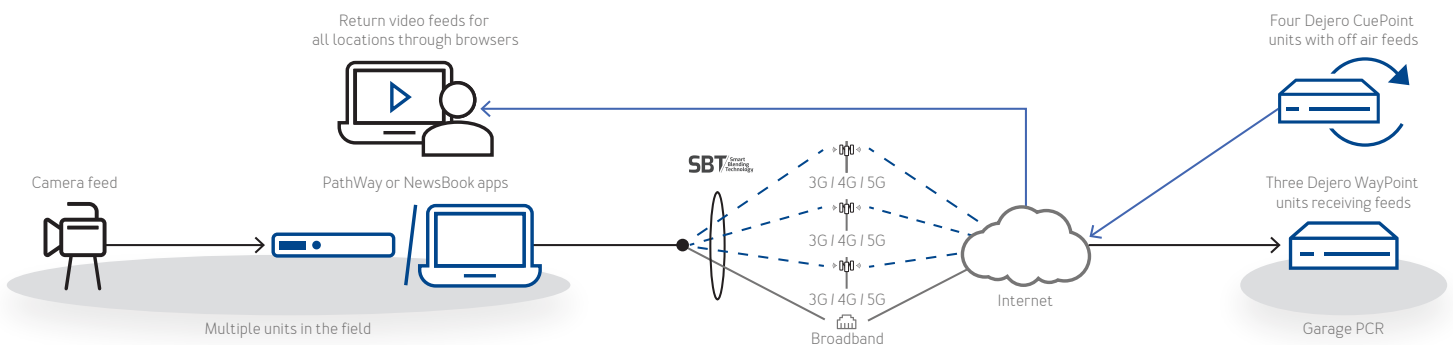
The talent uses the Dejero NewsBook software and PathWay encoders for the creation and delivery of broadcast-quality video. At the PCR, the three WayPoints, each with four ports could receive, manage and switch up to 12 live streams simultaneously.



FOX Deportes reassigned its remote production flypacks to continue live sports coverage from its garage-based PCR during the pandemic.



Dejero PathWay and CuePoint were crucial to FOX Deportes' remote productions and 'broadcast from home' workflows during the pandemic.



A combination of Dejero PathWay encoders, CuePoint return video servers, Dejero NewsBook software and LivePlus smartphone apps were used to create and deliver broadcast-quality content from the individual homes of FOX Deportes' production and talent teams.

Results

The evacuation of a broadcast center and the setup of a temporary PCR sounds like a major operation, but it was relatively simple for FOX Deportes as the team already knew the workflow and had already realised how Dejero could make operations smarter, more practical and more cost effective. FOX Deportes was well equipped to deal with the short timeframe it was afforded to figure out a pandemic response.

“We easily set up a temporary PCR in my garage, to which we connected each of the reporters from their homes as far-afield as Spain, Argentina and Mexico. There is nobody out there with the same quality of home studio that we have. What we do is really cool and unique and everyone asks how we do it!”

All that is needed is a laptop and NewsBook and/or a Dejero PathWay, with a CuePoint for return video. “It’s a very cost-effective way for us to produce high quality broadcasts. There is surprisingly little latency in the live shots that are coming into our garage-based PCR from across the world,” added Rocha. “Our live shots look amazing, a recent participant from Madrid looked so clear it was like she was sitting next to us. Our play-by-play reporter also works from his living room in Phoenix, Arizona and it’s all just seamless both for us and for our viewers.”

FOX Deportes enjoys working with Dejero and looks forward to the future. “We love the products and we are very happy with both the quality and the technical support,” concluded Rocha. “We take full advantage of all of the features that Dejero offers and we implement them into our workflow at every opportunity to make our operations even smoother and more efficient.”

“ We were actually ready for the pandemic before we ever knew it would hit! We didn’t panic — we just applied the same workflows that Dejero already offered us for remote broadcasting to this new ‘reporting-from-home’ scenario. We were fully equipped and way ahead of the game. ”

- Ruben Rocha director of operations at FOX Deportes



Evacuation of the L.A broadcast center and the setup of a temporary PCR was simple as FOX Deportes teams had already successfully deployed Dejero solutions for previous remote workflows for sports events such as the World Series, UEFA Champions League and the Super Bowl.

Need help building the right connectivity solution for your next production?

Start the conversation today with one of our sales representatives.

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