



The single solution for professional media access

No matter how well equipped a facility or agency is in terms of creative tools, accessing client images is laborious for those who manage the projects – wasting time, effort and money.

For security reasons, the production office may not even have access to the storage on which their images live. Even if they do, the directory structure can be difficult to navigate with multiple storage pools around the globe. And once the material is found, the format often means it can only be viewed using yet another complex software application.

It is no surprise that people prefer to ask an operator to prepare easily playable versions for them. Typically, expensive resources are used to provide shots for review again and again.

Nara has been developed by FilmLight to solve these issues: to grant secure access to production media, to quickly locate the images you need, and to review them in the most colour-accurate player on the market.

It does the job of multiple tools by serving up media assets in any format, from any location, with no format conversions – and all from inside a web browser.



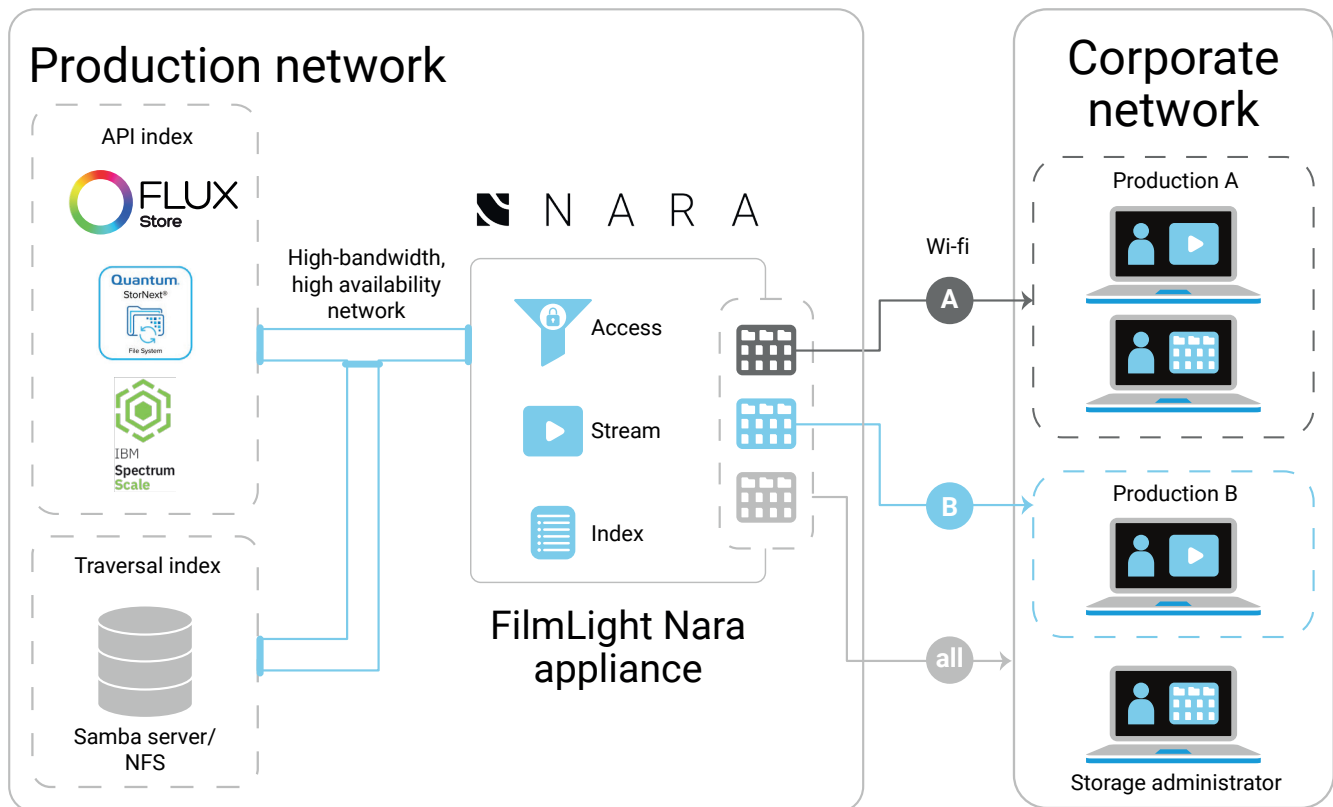
Simple web-based media access

It is difficult to meet the stringent security protocols needed in a facility without hampering team productivity.

User and password-protected web access is provided easily through the Nara Linux 'appliance' sitting on the secure production network. Using enterprise class identity management services, Nara adheres to and presents media rights management security from within your domain. It also supports enterprise SSO so that users only need a single set of credentials.

Nara can then provide a web-based media browser that allows for streamlined searching of an unparalleled range of image assets – without compromising security.

Each file is represented with a thumbnail and associated metadata for quick and informed review. Users can also create projects to facilitate easy access of the folders and storage volumes that they have rights to in one place. Projects can be set up to enable or disable specific features or file access for different team members, and Nara admins can even configure custom workflows and set custom colour pipelines on a project level.



Robust, colour-accurate streaming

Granting team members access to secure storage is only part of the equation. They frequently encounter challenges in decoding and previewing the assets. Many times, these assets are encoded in proprietary or high-bitrate codecs that aren't readily supported by conventional media players or file browsers. Some of these files, particularly those in raw or uncompressed formats, demand high-performance computing resources for smooth playback.



Nara media player

Nara's streaming engine allows for native decode and playback of the widest selection of media without the need to transcode to proxy files. Nara

leverages FilmLight's decades of experience in colour to provide a robust, colour-accurate streamer with full control of the colour pipeline.

Media-specific index

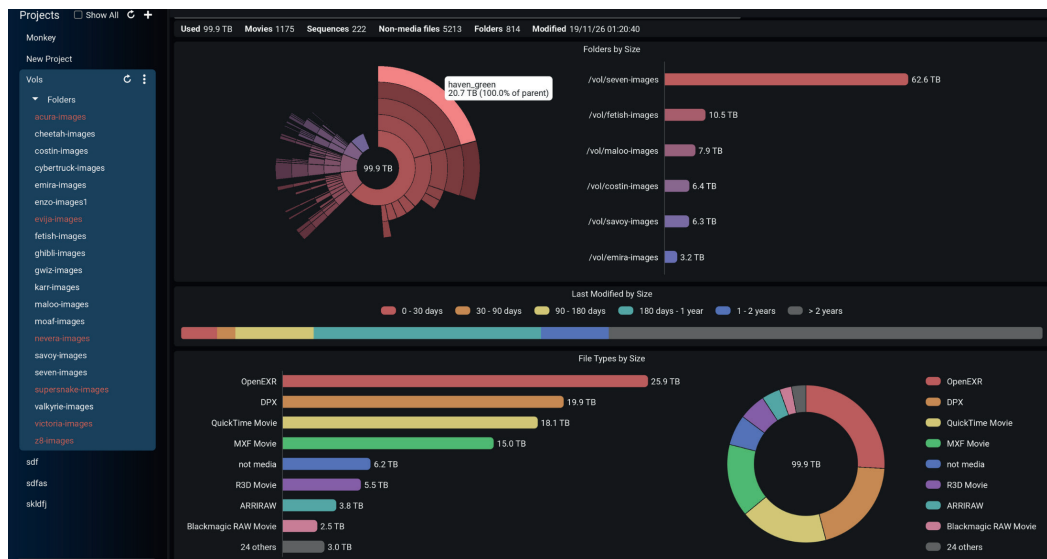
Without a proper indexing system, accessing and streaming media becomes a challenging task. Navigating through storage can be time-consuming, hampering the speed and effectiveness of locating specific files. Furthermore, you can miss out on valuable analytics about your storage usage and patterns.

Nara's index is tailored for media content, enabling instant search results and ensuring that the data presented is relevant and informative, including metadata information which is specific to complex proprietary formats. Nara's broad codec support ensures that no information is left out.

Filesystem analytics

That rich store of metadata, combined with the powerful index, allows Nara to provide an accurate overview of your storage devices with information such as directory size, file age, volume capacity, size by file type and more.

The user is presented with an attractive and informative user interface that presents graphical information contextual to where the user is currently browsing. This feature allows users to manage their storage with ease.



Filesystem analytics

Index synchronisation

The advantages of holding a database of valuable image metadata are well known, but keeping that database hard-synchronised with the image assets is key. Nara offers two methods to make sure you're always in sync: one for enterprise-level filesystems that offer software call-backs the moment an asset changes, and the other for basic storage that can be traversed on a periodic basis.

Enterprise filesystems that support call-back



IBM Spectrum Scale: IBM Spectrum Scale Advanced Edition or IBM Spectrum Scale Data Management Edition running Scale 5.0.2 or later with a file system version on 20.01

Quantum

StorNext Quantum:
Web Services for Metadata Archive (MD Archive)

FilmLight

Baselight or FLUX Store: FilmLight XFS call-

Codec support

Nara supports the industry's largest selection of media formats with 160+ supported codecs – including all RAW camera formats – using the same FilmLight software for decoding images as the renowned Baselight colour grading system. This decoder is also used in Daylight for dailies, which is typically the first application required to work with any new camera format and is updated with the latest manufacturer SDKs.

You can rest assured that by the time a new format arrives in post-production, there will be an update to Nara that utilises this same decoder software so that it can handle it and any associated updates to the colour pipeline.

For a full list of supported codecs, check out the *Baselight Codec Support* datasheet on the FilmLight web site – Nara handles all of the same codecs as Baselight.

Nara supports these codecs and more...

Sequence-based:

EXR TIFF PNG JPEG DPX ARI CINE

Movie-based:

ProRes MP4 MXF R3D XOCN CR3 BRAW

Deliverables:

IMF DCP Dolby Vision J2C/J2K XML



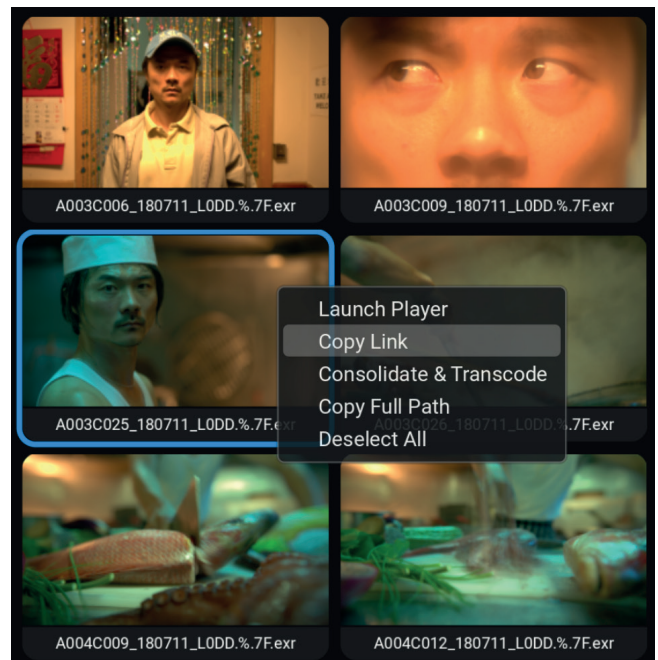
[Baselight Codec Support datasheet](#) →

Easy, secure asset sharing

Nara features a URL scheme that allows users to effortlessly communicate with their team or conduct external reviews with clients.

Each URL can represent folders, multiple files or individual files, meaning sharing information about your media has never been easier. For Nara users, the URL they receive is a secure link and can only be accessed with their login credentials. This mechanism can provide a simple way to extend in-house production tracking systems that may currently just retain shot names and perhaps a thumbnail. Custom solutions such as a FileMaker database or even an Excel spreadsheet can easily hold a Nara URL in one column that when clicked springs a colour accurate replay of the shot in the local web browser.

Through FilmLight's CONNECT service, Nara enables users to stream content directly to their clients too with precision and security. The service provides enterprise-grade encryption and access controls to protect your sensitive content.



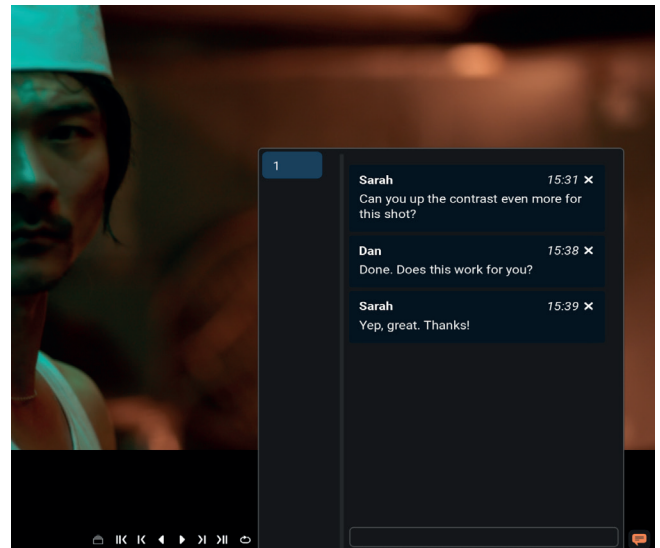
Nara URL sharing

All of this means that your teams can work across the pipeline – from DIT to finishing – without ever duplicating or unnecessarily transcoding media.

Real-time review

Nara's commenting system enables robust collaboration through detailed timecode and shot based commenting. Users – and their clients – can add timestamped notes, technical feedback, and creative suggestions directly on shots. These comments are automatically organised into playlists, making it easy for team members to track feedback. Any project user can instantly access these playlists, ensuring that important notes and decisions are never lost.

For Baselight users, Nara provides an advanced integration with the platform. Users can interact with their colourists in real-time within Baselight projects, enabling immediate feedback, and direct communication, streamlining the entire post-production process.

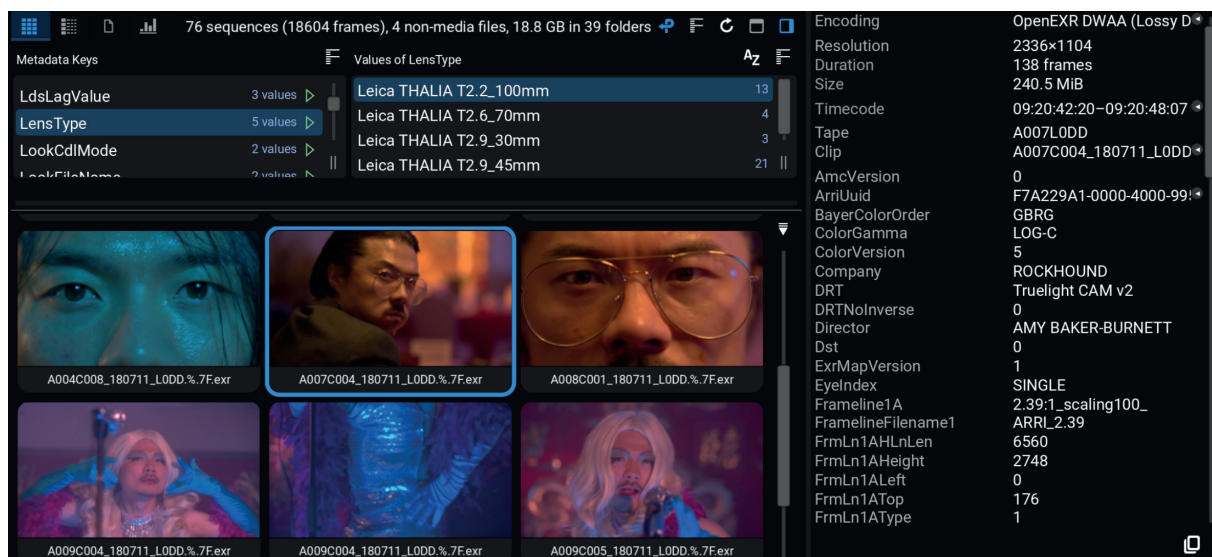


Collaboration through the commenting system

Cache

Nara's approach – with direct streaming from the source – has the advantage that there are no proxy image sequences to manage and keep up to date. However, without a sophisticated caching mechanism Nara would simply act like an additional creative workstation and use up valuable bandwidth on the high-speed storage network.

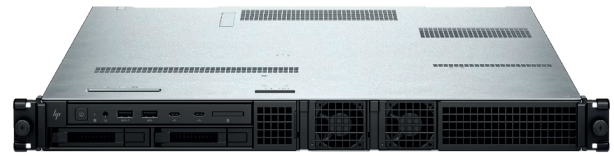
Nara prevents this issue with a huge NVMe SSD cache capable of holding the last 20 hours of requested media and streaming at many gigabytes a second. The only calls on storage bandwidth are made on first playthrough or after cache eviction when the material has probably not been viewed for weeks.



Nara metadata display

Key features

- Lower bit rate HEVC and H.264:
 - HEVC 4:4:4 10-bit or 4:2:0 10-bit
 - H.264 4:2:0 8-bit
- Direct NVIDIA GPU encoding at a lower latency compared to hardware solutions that require frames to be clocked out before encoding.
- Web-based UI means no need for any installers on the client end.
- Scalable subscription.



Physical specifications

- HP Z4 Rack G5 Workstation Desktop PC (pictured above)
- 1U rackmount
- 2x 2.5" external drive bays for front-accessible NVMe storage
- 1x 3.5" drive bay
- Contains two (2) 675W PSUs operating in aggregate mode for a total system power of 1350W (2x675W)

Connectivity

- Rear I/O:
 - 2x USB 3.1 G1 Type-A
 - 1x 1GbE LAN port (supporting Intel AMT)
- Optional I/O:
 - Flex I/O Module (Serial Port v3, 10GbE single port, 2.5GbE LAN single port, 1GbE Fibre LC NIC) Z Desktop Power and Signal Interface for supporting the HP Anyware Remote System Controller
- Dual slot riser:
 - 1 PCIe Gen5 x16 mechanical (used for GPU)
 - 1 PCIe 5 x16 mechanical (spare slot for an optional network/SAN interface card)
- Single slot riser:
 - 1 PCIe Gen5 x16