

# UCNS Uses ExpeDat for Film and TV Productions On-Location

Multi-service networking and information security company integrates Data Expedition Inc.'s software for secure and accelerated data transport at a better TCO than the competition

*“ExpeDat is lightweight, fairly priced, and absolutely works. For a direct delivery and receipt model, in my mind, it’s the only choice.”*

— Justin Owen, Founder & Chief Technology Officer, UCNS

## Overview

UCNS, a London-based “fixer” of workflows for the film and television industry, has a unique business model. The company, established in 2003, manages internet access, firewalls, networking, wireless communication, and workflows required to move data between crew members, vendors, and studios from wherever they are shooting on location. This pop-up shop environment, expertly managed by the UCNS technical team, ensures best practices are enforced to protect all assets – from contracts and script changes to the day’s footage and visual effects.

With clients such as Warner Brothers, Netflix, Universal Studios, Paramount, and Fox, as well as smaller independent production companies, UCNS applies their experience to managing complex workflows by anticipating what could go wrong and taking steps to prevent downtime and minimize risk that could impact production.

## Challenges

As UCNS grew, they realized regardless of the size of a studio or the budget (such as production for *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* or post production for *Wonder Woman*), cost and ease of use are extremely important to their clients. With that in mind, using Aspera for accelerated data transport no longer met their needs. In 2013, UCNS Founder & Chief Technology Officer Justin Owen decided to partner with Data Expedition Inc.® (DEI®). He worked with the team to build an accelerated data transport component affordably, securely, and using just one piece of software in the workflow – ExpeDat™.

The goal was to set up an effective system that would prevent human error as much as anything else: emailing editorial assets to the wrong person, wirelessly printing a contract to an unsecured printer, physically losing a hard drive somewhere, or exposing confidential creative assets outside of the firewall.

With 50 to 100 terabytes (TB) of data being transported by a production, UCNS is the gatekeeper for servers. They needed DEI's technology to eliminate the complexity and lower the cost associated with moving that amount of data for each production.

## Solution

"ExpeDat is a very lightweight, very straightforward product that can poke two fingers at Aspera. It enables us to provide very good, direct delivery opportunities for our customers," Justin said. "We easily set up ExpeDat servers or server instances within our infrastructure, and data can then be sent directly from a vendor, or collected by the vendor, without too much effort, and without having to bounce to the cloud and back again."

How does it work? Justin explained that with ExpeDat, based on DEI's proprietary Multipurpose Transaction Protocol® (MTP™/IP), UCNS can lock down the "to" and "from" points within their server transfer environment, so Vendor A can "talk" to UCNS, but only from the anticipated source point. This is one way for UCNS to know where data is going and prevent it from going anywhere else. This attention to detail is where UCNS excels and this is particularly important for any production on location.

Working on the first Fantastic Beasts movie for Warner Brothers was a great example of how ExpeDat was impactful in a film production workflow. UCNS built the internal network for mini workgroups including visual effects, editorial, the vendors working with them, and the studio. Everything was segregated so each department could not "shoot another department in the foot," according to Justin. The host within that environment had access to three servers – one for editorial and two for visual effects. ExpeDat enabled the interchange to external locations by simply dropping an instruction set into a special folder on the server. As for security, ExpeDat uses only one UDP port for all of its traffic, so it's easy to secure.

"ExpeDat is my go-to for data transport. I wouldn't want to be out in the wilderness without it – that would be a problem for me. When people see ExpeDat working, they ask, 'Is that Aspera?' and I say that it's not Aspera – it's ExpeDat. It works. It's magic. Job done," Justin said. He said that the IT team did a network upgrade at the beginning of the year that improved the London to LA link from roughly 160Mb/second to about 300Mb/second. That dramatically reduced the time to transfer files without having to make any changes to the SyncDat software. "Data Expedition has a very simple licensing model, too", he added. "You get 'X' number of concurrent connections, and there are no extra fees when you upgrade the bandwidth."

**About Data Expedition, Inc.**

Data Expedition, Inc.®(DEI®) is the creator of the world's only data transport software that instantly adapts to fully utilize any network path, maximizing the throughput of existing network infrastructure. Since 2000, DEI has provided data transport solutions to the world's largest companies across nearly every continent and industry. The company's patented MTP™/IP technology uses unique flow-control and error recovery algorithms to achieve high-network efficiency across all IP networks. Companies using DEI's solutions can automatically transport data as fast as the underlying infrastructure will allow without human intervention at a fraction of the cost of other solutions. For more information or to download a FREE trial of ExpeDat for the cloud, please visit [www.DataExpedition.com](http://www.DataExpedition.com). Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

**Additional Contacts:**

info@DataExpedition.com  
www.DataExpedition.com  
+1 617-500-0002

Copyright © 2019 Data Expedition, Inc. All Rights Reserved.