RIGHTSIZING CORE PROCESSING POWER

Fortress

Fortress Realizes the Potential of the Core Nano in a Cutting-Edge Installation

📍 Melbourne , Australia

Over the past decade, esports has exploded onto the scene with a meteoric rise in both popularity and funding. Leagues are well-established, tournaments brim with fans, and the winnings are jaw-dropping. In Melbourne, video game enthusiasts of all levels can find their homebase at Fortress, a facility that showcases the future of in-person digital competition and entertainment. Fortress features a 200-seat arena and live broadcast studio purpose-built for esports tournaments, but it doesn't end there. In addition, they offer their huge theme-restaurant Tavern, multiple party and event spaces, two licensed bars, VIP video game booths, as well as board game areas. This venue is truly the next generation of social gaming. The popularity of Fortress is evident in their expansion in Melbourne, and with an even larger facility currently underway in Sydney. These exciting times meant that the Fortress team required an audio, visual and control solution to match the pace of their success.

📷 *Photos provided courtesy of Fortress*

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>
> **- Adrian Davis**
> *Senior Business Development Manager, The Avit Group*

Challenges

Ease of Access

The Fortress team required easy access for all installation design files.

Quality Training

Both accessibility and quality of training was an important consideration for key stakeholders.

Flexible

Because of the dynamic nature of its events, Fortress needed a solution that would allow them to make changes internally.

Expanding Upon Success

With their previous control system, the Fortress team was continually confronting coding issues, to the point where they required weekly processor reboots. The AV team took it upon themselves to resolve the issue, and as Q-SYS was already in the installation as the audio DSP provider, they had the resources to do so. The internal team immediately took advantage of Q-SYS Online Training, and became involved in the Q-SYS Communities for Developers. This easy access to training and resources was a welcome change from the less accessible competitor alternatives. With this, the Fortress team was convinced and contracted The Avit Group to expand upon their work in the Melbourne venue, as well as oversee the installation of the new Sydney space. "Q-SYS allows us to deliver robust and scalable control solutions, with the ability to say yes to pretty much anything the client asks of us," explains Adrian Davis, Senior Business Development Manager of The Avit Group. "Because Fortress likes to push the boundaries of technology for end-user and client experience, Q-SYS is a perfect fit."

Photos provided courtesy of Fortress

Solutions

Innovative Automation

Instead of being limited to controlling simple DSP related operations, Q-SYS enables the new control system to touch on every sub-system of the venue, including lighting and environmental as well as automating such elements as movie nights, corporate games, game state graphics, triggering and more. One of the more innovative applications of Q-SYS automation was within their restaurant Tavern. There patrons can rent gaming consoles for a period of time and play their preferred game as a part of their overall experience. After paying their required amount per hour, the player receives a certain amount of time on the clock. That time then counts down, sends the player a notification as their time is nearing the end, and reverts to digital signage after the time is complete, all of which is controlled through Q-SYS.

A Powerful Discovery

As The Avit Group took over the installation, they noticed something interesting. The Melbourne location ran its control off of a Q-SYS Core 510i processor (now available as the updated Q-SYS Core 610). When looking at processor resources, they discovered that only seven percent was being utilized for the entire installation. Adrian describes further, "For curiosity's sake, I decided to see how everything would run if we switched to the smaller Q-SYS Core Nano. I opened the file and changed the Core, only to discover that the entire venue's automation would only use seventeen percent on a Q-SYS Core Nano! That's less than twenty percent on a Core that's physically one eighth the size and considerably cheaper – the fact that even the small Core Nano has so much power packed into such a small space is unbelievable. With this processing headroom still available, there's plenty of capacity to scale into the future of Fortress, and whatever upgrades or expansions those plans entail."

Expanding with Style

This discovery has confirmed the plan for the Sydney installation. "We generally like to deploy multiple smaller controllers, for redundancy, reliability and to be able to make changes to individual spaces. When seeing the capability of the Q-SYS Core Nano at the Melbourne location, our path was set," says Adrian. This will positively affect the bottom line of the Sydney expansion, as well as offer the peace of mind flexibility and redundancy provide. The growth in popularity of venues such of Fortress is an inevitable evolution of modern entertainment, and Q-SYS is excited to be a part of that future.

Photos provided courtesy of Fortress