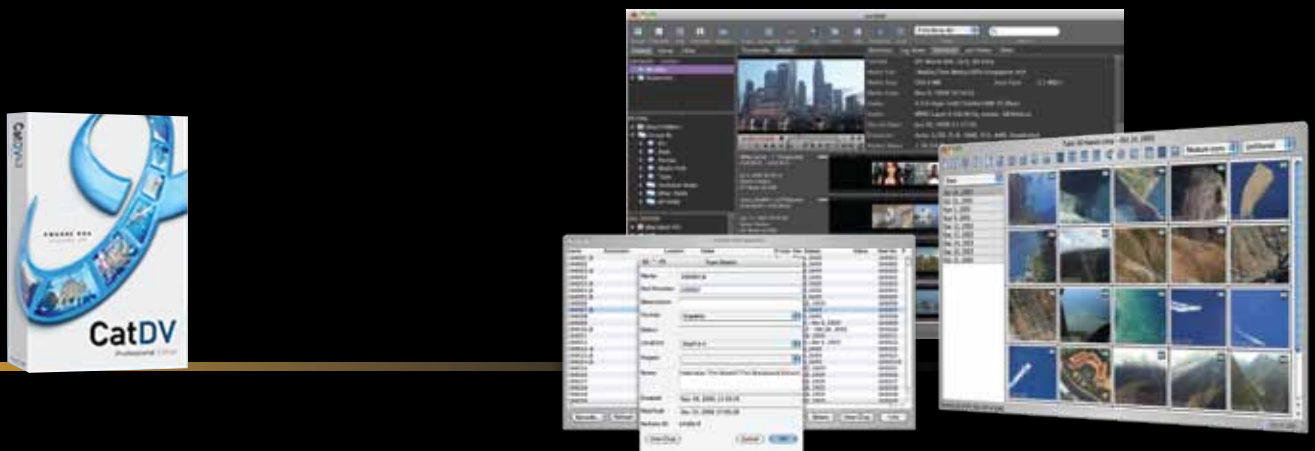




ProMAX CatDV Overview



CatDV is an asset management tool which can manage all aspects of a production workflow.

- It is a logging tool, ingesting media from tape or disk, and enabling subclipping and tagging of the media to turn them into usable assets.
- It is a transcoding tool, automatically building offline proxies or web versions of your online media to save on storage and bandwidth.
- It is a powerful database, letting you browse, search, and filter your assets until you find that one special shot that's just perfect.



The CatDV Pro client application is a standalone desktop application, providing video logging and media cataloging capability and available for both Macintosh and Windows PCs. It is based around a catalog or database of clips, where each clip represents either a media file (identified by filename) or a scene within a movie file or video tape (identified by tape name and timecode values). Each clip is annotated with a rich collection of metadata, including name, log notes, date of recording, a thumbnail image, video and audio format, and so on, which can be used when searching for clips or to provide a record of the contents of a tape even if it's not currently online. In addition to its well-established standalone mode of operation (whereby files and catalogs are stored on the local file system), the CatDV Pro application can also operate as a network client to an optional CatDV Server.

The workgroup or enterprise server is a separate program, running on a server machine and accessible over a local area network from one or more client machines. The server stores the clip metadata in a relational database, rather than a local file. This allows the clip database to be searched and updated by different clients concurrently, and permits much more sophisticated searches to take place.

Using a CatDV Pro client communicating with the enterprise or workgroup server, users can search for existing clips in the database, update these clips (eg. by adding further log notes) and create new clips in the database (eg. By scanning a new tape, importing new media files, or by creating secondary clips from existing clips). Exactly the same operations, with exactly the same user interface, can be performed as when CatDV Pro is being used as a standalone application, the only difference being that the clips are saved and loaded over the network into a shared database. With the Live HTML Publisher, the same clip data is further made available through a web interface, allowing it to be viewed from any web browser without requiring the CatDV client software to be installed on that machine. The database can be browsed or searched but in the current implementation this interface is read-only – unlike with the full client application it is not possible to input data via the web interface.

CatDV supports many workflows including automation for many tasks, but in order to accomplish this we must add Worker Node to the equation. We can also add multiple instances of worker node for advanced workflows or to speed up the processes.



So, what are the main differences in Workgroup server and Enterprise server? This matrix will outline the most pertinent differences between the applications.

Functionality	CatDV Workgroup Server	CatDV Enterprise Server
User Names and Passwords	Workgroup server does not support account setup	Enterprise Server allows for creating accounts and passwords
Permissions	No support for permissions based on accounts	Allows individual permissions based on accounts
Preferences	Stored Locally	Stored on the server
Web Clients	Not Available	Web client access
Tape Library Management	Not Available	Supported
Watch Folders for automation	Optional	Optional
Number of Users	5	Almost Unlimited

So what does this mean to us? This means that the differences in Workgroup server and Enterprise Server are great. We must get as much information as possible to make sure that we are prescribing the correct solution. For instance, the workgroup server will not support setting up one set of preferences. This means that if a client is working on setting up custom fields, those custom fields, are only for that one client. It is possible to move those preferences to other clients, but it is not easy and not very feasible for us to expect a client to do this every time they create a custom field. So above is the biggest set of differences between the products and their capabilities. Please keep this document handy as a reference.