



Master Archive™ Helps US Troops Win War in Afghanistan

Solution Highlight:

In the early weeks of the war in Afghanistan, the only means of communication between U.S. government paramilitary teams in that rugged, mountainous country and their offices on the other side of the world was with small satellite terminals. In the cave-to-cave searches for Taliban and Al Qaeda forces, forward-deployed teams set up communication sites to relay vast quantities of images and scanned documents back to command centers for exploitation. Scrunch™ Master Archive™ played a significant role in that effort by enabling those teams to send compressed, high-quality files at great savings in time and money.

About Impact Master Archive

Impact Master Archive for images is powerful image compression software designed to make high-resolution digital images easier and cost-effective to access, distribute, store, and secure.

www.impactlabs.com

AOS Inc., a provider of rapidly deployable and secure communications solutions based in Dallas Texas and Impact Labs Inc. have been partners for over three years. AOS branded Impact Lab's still image compression product, Master Archive™ as Scrunch™ and sold the first copies to a United States government agency customer in July 2000.

“When we met with Impact Labs in October 1999 and saw a demonstration of their unique still image compression technology, we immediately grasped its potential for our customers,” said Bert Thomas, Director of Washington Operations for AOS. “Many of our government customers work in small teams or alone in remote areas of the world where reliable terrestrial communications infrastructures are non-existent.”

Thomas continued, “It is common for field personnel to communicate over satellite link with rear area bases and headquarters in the United States. These links are rarely faster than 64Kbps and often as slow as 2.4 Kbps.

“Working under harsh and dangerous conditions for extended periods of time, these teams are always on the go. In addition to exchanging text files and messages with headquarters and field commanders, they are regularly sending and receiving high-resolution digital images that overwhelm the satellite bandwidth.”

Master Archive Shrinks Image Transmission Time

For example, a military reconnaissance team may need specific imagery support for a particular operation while it is deployed. High-quality satellite image files can be very large in uncompressed form. Transmitting a single 20MB image file over a 64Kbps satellite link ties down a deployed team for about an hour, and at \$7 per minute, transmission of that image is expensive.

Master Archive Saves \$357 in Transmission Costs per Image

Using Scrunch, a 20 MB image can be compressed to about 3MB and still retain its original quality – without loss of a single bit of data (images are mathematically lossless). The compressed, but identical image now takes only nine minutes to transmit saving the government \$357 in airtime charges.

For situations where image quality does not have to be perfect, Scrunch Master Archive can compress a 20 MB image to 100KB or smaller, enabling transmission in seconds, reducing the cost to pennies.

In addition to receiving and viewing images, reconnaissance teams often send high-quality images back to headquarters or field commanders. Using Scrunch Master Archive, field personnel batch compress images on their laptops and transmit them efficiently to rear area units. Scrunch Master Archive has revolutionized small team operations in terms of time, cost and image quality. There is nothing like it.