

Userful video wall graces the stage at the 2016 Premier Soccer League Awards in South Africa

Johannesburg, South Africa

The Premier Soccer League is South Africa's governing organization for the country's two main professional soccer leagues. Each year, they recognize the best footballers at the televised Premier Soccer League Awards. This year the event was held at the prestigious Emperor's Palace in Johannesburg and was watched live by over 15 million people.

The Challenge

Each year the Premier Soccer League Awards organizers need to find creative ways to deliver an amazing performance that is simulcast across Africa and parts of Europe. The Broadcast Unit (TBU) which specialises in content creation for television and corporate media is in charge of the awards' broadcast. The Broadcast Unit wanted to ensure the event had a stunning visual look, but they also had other requirements. This year they wanted a cost-effective way to test and deploy their display designs and content before



Video walls at the 2016 Premier Soccer League Awards

the live event. They'd used video walls in the past but their old solution didn't allow them to pre-design the video walls. The broadcast team also wanted to be able to rotate screens for a bolder and more impressive video wall design and they wanted a solution that could do all this on a tight budget.

The Solution

Towards the end of 2015, while searching for new video wall ideas, the Broadcast Unit's Executive Director, Warren Bowles came across the Userful video wall solution and knew it was the answer: "It's a must have," he said and adds that once they found it, they didn't look for any other solution—Userful delivered exactly what they were looking for.

“ As a non-technical person, I'm happy because it works. Before Userful, it was very difficult, and definitely we will feature it in our productions and events to create visually exciting screen layouts in the future. ”

- Warren Bowles, Executive Director
The Broadcast Unit

Quick Facts

Zero client devices



Every display in the Userful

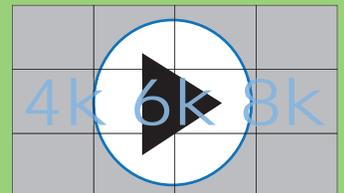
Network Video Wall is connected to the network through a zero client device. Each device is about the size of a deck of cards.

With Userful,
1 PC



can power a video wall of up to

60 Displays



Simple

Configure either a single large video wall, or a mix of smaller video walls and standalone displays.

Flexible

Content can include up to 8k content, video, HTML5, 3D, live TV, full-screen browser, content from an integrated CMS, or even a desktop.

Stunning

Video walls can be arranged in any orientation, allowing for eye-catching, free flowing artistic layouts with individual displays rotated to any angle.

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- Warren Bowles, Executive Director
The Broadcast Unit

Userful allowed the Broadcast Unit to display multiple channels through TriCaster, a multi-camera production solution for broadcasting and live streaming. Userful allowed the team to centrally manage all the screens on the system, which was a key aspect in the Broadcast Unit's requirements. Bowles was amazed by the performance of the Userful solution, noting that “Once the system is setup, there is no render time needed”.

Bowles and his team were excited by the idea of being able to not only rotate the screen clockwise or anticlockwise, and still maintain a straight picture for the audience.

Userful's artistic video wall feature

allows customers to rotate individual displays within a video wall to any angle and mix displays of different sizes and aspect ratios. Best of all customers can use any display with an HDMI connection.

For the awards' event, the Broadcast Unit deployed 12 displays, organized in groups of three, with different layouts, spread across the stage, all powered from just one PC. Userful is able to support up to a hundred displays from a single PC. Each display gets a small zero client that has no moving parts, no processor no hard drive, no software, is in effect a network addressable video card. These devices connect back to the Userful PC over a standard network. The Userful PC does all the rendering of content ensuring flawless synchronization.

Userful Corporation is a leading centralized display software company that makes it simple and affordable for organizations to implement and centrally manage video walls, virtual desktops and beyond with exceptional performance. Userful is the trusted provider of over 1 million centralized displays in over 100 countries.



The 2016 Premier Soccer League Awards in Johannesburg, South Africa

Specializing in live events, the Broadcast Unit greatly values portability in the solutions they use, and they were able to fit the Userful systems—without the displays—in a few portable road cases (one for the PC, one for the zero client devices, and one for the cables). The small profile of Userful's architecture, allowed Bowles and his team to easily conceal the zero clients behind the screens and only run a single cable to the PC.

The Results

Bowles says that, “With [Userful], the 2016 Premier Soccer League Awards screen design took on a whole new look. Furthermore, the system is lightning fast to setup. What would have taken 1-2 days with our previous solutions took about 1 hour.” One of the greatest benefits of going with the Userful solution was the cost-effectiveness and the high-level of performance and production it delivers.

Bowles adds that, “As a non-technical person, I'm happy because it works. Before Userful it was very difficult, and definitely we will feature it in our productions and events to create visually exciting screen layouts in the future.”