



Setting Up Render Farm Managed by Apple Qmaster in metaSAN Environment

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Introduction

This document is a sample scenario giving you information how to deploy a render farm for use with Compressor application in metaSAN environment. The render farm cluster is managed by Apple Qmaster and consists of Mac OS X machines running metaSAN/metaSAN iSCSI/metaLAN software that render source material resident on the SAN storage.

For the purpose of this scenario we will use two SAN machines - carbon and pyromaniat - both having access to the SAN volumes over the Fibre Channel. You should keep in mind that Apple Qmaster distributes the processing load equally between all cluster computers. That is why, if you include into the cluster a metaLAN computer (rendering over the Ethernet instead of the Fibre Channel), the processing power will get greatly reduced.

This sample scenario goes through 3 main phases:

1. Configuring Apple Qmaster preferences on each machine.
2. Setting up the cluster with Apple Quadadministrator.
3. Setting up Compressor to render on the SAN volumes.

Prerequisites

Before proceeding with this scenario, make sure that both SAN Member machines run the same versions of the following software:

- metaSAN 3.x or later
- Apple Qmaster 3.5.2
- Apple Quadadministrator 3.5.2
- Compressor 3.5.2

Configuring Apple Qmaster Preferences

In this scenario machine carbon will play the role of a cluster controller.

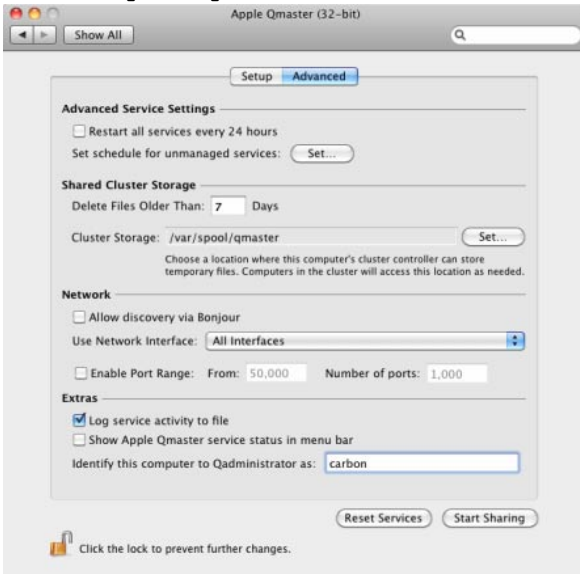
To configure Apple Qmaster on machine carbon:

1. Start Mac OS X System Preferences and select Apple Qmaster.
2. Open the Setup tab.
3. In the Share This Computer As field, select “Services and cluster controller”.

4. In the Services list, select “Share” and “Managed” check boxes of Compressor service.



5. Open the Advanced tab.
6. Change the desired settings, but make sure that the Cluster Storage path is left to its default i.e. **/var/spool/qmaster**.



7. Click Start Sharing.

To configure Apple Qmaster on machine pyromaniat:

1. Start Mac OS X System Preferences and select Apple Qmaster.
2. Open the Setup tab.
3. In the Share This Computer As field, select “Services only”.
4. In the Services list, select “Share” and “Managed” check boxes of Compressor service.



5. Open the Advanced tab.
6. Change the desired settings, but make sure that the Cluster Storage path is left to its default i.e. `/var/spool/qmaster`.
7. Click Start Sharing.

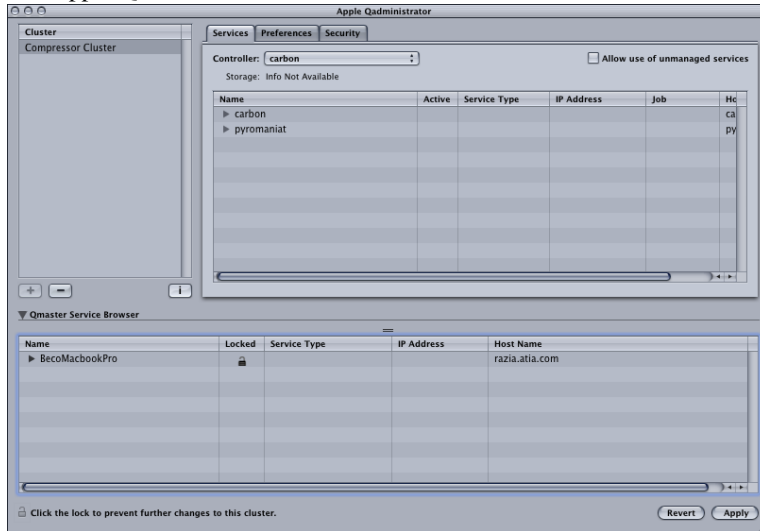
Setting up the Cluster with Apple Quad administrator

Now that you have configured Apple Qmaster on both SAN machines that will participate in your rendering cluster, you are ready to setup the very cluster on the machine that will play the role of a cluster controller i.e. carbon.

To set up the cluster with Apple Qadminstrator:

1. On carbon, start Apple Qadminstrator.
2. In the Cluster field, click the + button and then enter a name for the new cluster - in this scenario “Compressor Cluster”.
3. Open the Services tab.
4. From the Qmaster Service Browser area drag-and-drop carbon into the Services tab.
5. From the Qmaster Service Browser area drag-and-drop pyromaniat into the Services tab.
6. In the Controller drop-down box, select carbon as a cluster controller.

The Apple Qadminstrator window should look like this:



7. Click Apply and close the Apple Qadminstrator.

Setting Up Compressor to Render on the SAN Volumes

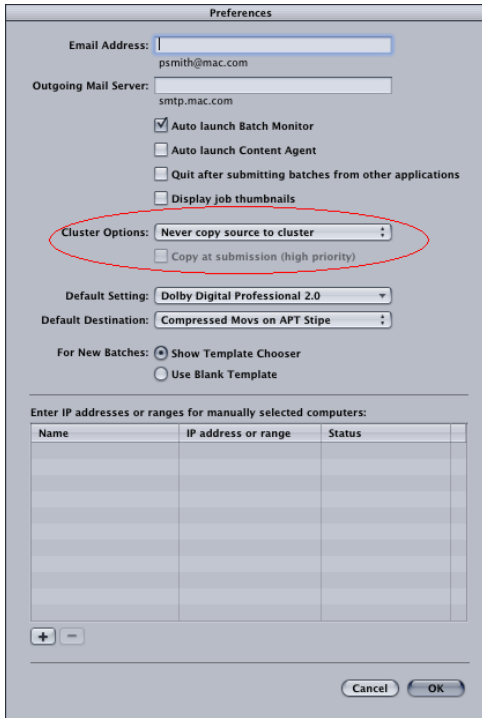
The final stage of this scenario is to set Compressor preferences and start rendering on the SAN volumes through the cluster.

To set up Compressor and start rendering:

1. On carbon, start Compressor.
2. Go to Destinations and click the Destinations tab.

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3. Select Custom and click "+", then select "Local...".
4. Browse to and select the folder on the SAN volume where render files should be saved.
5. Select Compressor | Preferences.
6. In the Cluster Options drop-down box, select "Never copy source to cluster".



7. In the Default Settings drop-down box, select the render settings.
8. In the Default Destination, select the folder you have set in the Destinations tab.
9. Click OK.
10. Select the source file from the SAN volume.

11. Select "Compressor Cluster" in the Compressor drop-down box.

Name: MHD_RR1_2Kuc

Cluster: Compressor Cluster Include unmanaged services on other computers

Priority: High

Quitting Compressor will not affect the successful completion of your batch. Open Batch Monitor to check on the progress of your batch.

Cancel Submit

12. Click Submit.

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