

**REDNET**<sup>®</sup>

# Full Sail University

Full Sail University utilises Focusrite's  
RedNet Technology to successfully  
navigate COVID-19's impact

**CASE  
STUDY**

Focusrite  
**PRO**

# Keeping connected during a Pandemic

Words: Robert Clyne

Full Sail University is the Florida-based home of aspiring professionals in audio, film, computer animation, emerging technology, and beyond. Valuing hands-on experience, it has deployed Dante® network infrastructure throughout the campus since 2016, in order to offer the very best systems to its students. The first installation was in its Full Sail Live 1 facility, base of operations for the school's acclaimed Show Production Bachelor of Science degree programme. With its success there, it was rolled out more widely to other parts of the campus. Since the installation of Dante, the university's network has made extensive use of products from Focusrite's RedNet range of Dante™ -networked audio converters and interfaces.



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**Vince Lepore**

Director, Event Technical Operations

## Red is the Answer

Full Sail Live 1 houses a variety of show production-related rooms where students learn about sound reinforcement, lighting, live video and multimedia, and concert touring systems. It boasts an impressive list of Focusrite equipment: the network includes RedNet MP8R eight-channel mic pre and A/D converters; RedNet D64R 64-channel MADI bridges; RedNet HD32R 32-channel HD Dante network bridges and RedNet 2 16-Channel A-D/D-A interfaces. The intent was to create a future-proof network infrastructure for audio and video at the university. “We were looking for a solution to connect the different rooms together over IP, and RedNet was a big part of that solution for us,” notes Vince Lepore, the then Course Director of the Show Production Systems course at Full Sail University and currently its Director, Event Technical Operations.

Equipment rack at Full Sail University

In the years since 2016, Full Sail has continued to expand its RedNet network throughout the campus. It's now installed in Full Sail Live, the university's state-of-the-art live performance venue; Full Sail University Orlando Health Fortress, home to Armada, the university's collegiate level esports team; and to the soundstage facilities dedicated to the Full Sail University's Dan Patrick School of Sportscasting Bachelor of Science Degree Program. "RedNet is one of the cornerstones in technology that we utilise here," adds Lepore. The steadily evolving Focusrite system not only provides practical networking throughout the facility, but also offers students practical experience with the Dante audio-over-IP protocol.

### Remote learning during the pandemic

When the COVID-19 pandemic descended on the country in early 2020, Full Sail's implementation of its RedNet network offered the students and staff a way to navigate remote learning. "We found that when the pandemic hit, we had a lot of capabilities that we hadn't even tapped into yet (in the network) that allowed us to continue operating," says Lepore. "It especially facilitated remote operations, including things like remote intercoms, which we use a number of RedNet D64R units for. This was valuable to us for both education and show and event production, because over the year and a half or so of COVID, almost every activity now has some combination of production personnel and talent working remotely. The RedNet infrastructure we installed and have continued to expand served us incredibly well."

In fact, as over 5,000 students and 2,000+ staff transitioned seamlessly to remote status in less than a single week in March 2020, the university's teaching never faltered and allowed the university to continue its monthly graduation cycle. Even as the pandemic lingered, Full Sail has added new RedNet units to serve unique purposes, such as the RedNet AM2 stereo audio monitoring units that enable those working on campus to create safely enclosed workspaces within common areas such as control rooms, giving each person networked control over monitoring volume in their space. "We connected the AM2 to powered speakers in each control room space," explains Lepore. "RedNet is now part of all of our flagship spaces on campus."



Equipment rack at Full Sail University





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### A future-proof solution

The scale of the network is illustrated by how the D64R units are used as the MADI-to-Dante interfaces for the university’s huge audio-for-video infrastructure. “They handle hundreds of channels of audio in and out of our video routers, for example” says Lepore, who adds that the D64R is “at the heart of what we do in our facilities.”

And that integral embrace of RedNet will continue, even as students began returning to campus last October, because RedNet offers both the solutions for maintaining health and safety measures while also creating the same kinds of networked environment that graduates will work in as they launch their careers. “We’ve added RedNet units every year since we started five years ago,” says Lepore, “and it’s something we currently plan to continue to do.”

## Full Sail University uses:



### 3 x RedNet D64R

64x64 MADI I/O with dual PSUs



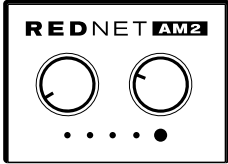
### 2 x RedNet HD32R

32x32 Pro Tools | HD I/O  
with dual PSUs



### 2 x RedNet 2

16x16 Analogue I/O



### 2 x RedNet AM2

Stereo headphone and  
line output PoE supplied

## About Focusrite Pro

Focusrite Audio Engineering has pioneered professional audio recording technology spanning almost three decades. Focusrite Pro, the company's professional and commercial division, meets the demands of recording, post-production, live sound and broadcast professionals. It consists of RedNet, a fully modular audio-over-IP solution, and the Red range, Focusrite's flagship multi-format interfaces, along with the heritage ISA range of microphone preamplifiers and analogue signal processors. The solutions have been developed to meet the needs of the most demanding applications through a relentless focus on ease of use, quality and reliability. Focusrite is based in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, with offices in Los Angeles and Hong Kong.