Vantage Feature Spotlight: Secured Version Control

Protecting your assets and revenue stream is of the utmost priority. A Secured Version Control feature[1] within Vantage provides an unprecedented capability to enable utilizing new Vantage features without compromising existing Vantage workflows.

[1] This feature requires Vantage Version 7 or later.

Overview

Telestream's Vantage 7.0 brings a host of new features; one of the most compelling is the introduction of a concept called Secured Version Control.

Creating a perfected version of a complex Workflow is detailed and time consuming. Once a Workflow is completed and validated, there is a strong desire to "not touch it". To support such protection, Vantage allows the Workflow to be locked, thus preventing edits from being made. This ensures that all new jobs submitted to the Workflow will work as planned. However, when a new Vantage software version is released with new features and improvements; many sites may not install the new Vantage version due to concerns about performing regression testing on the Workflow to ensure proper operation.

The *Secured Version Control* feature within Vantage 7.0 (and later) provides the ability to install the latest software–and begin building Workflows that utilize new ComponentPac libraries (software libraries), while keeping the existing Workflows untouched and operating off a previous version of a ComponentPac. When, and if, it is desired to upgrade a Workflow or Action within a Workflow, it can be done at a convenient time.

The Vantage components that utilize Secured Version Control are Analysis, Capture, IPTV, Multiscreen, Post Producer, Tempo, and Timed Text Flip. These modern ComponentPacs are architected in such a way as to facilitate the inclusion of multiple versions. Legacy components such as General Purpose Flip, Examine, Identify, Compare and others will not support Secured Version Control. For the most part, the modern transcoder components provide greater functionality than the legacy components and upgrading Workflows to the modern Actions is encouraged.

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For Workflows that utilize older legacy components, they will continue to need upgrading as per the historical Vantage methodology–and regression testing is recommended when a new Vantage version is released.

Managing ComponentPac Versions

With Secured Version Control, it is quite easy to manage the ComponentPac versions within Workflows. ComponentPacs are software libraries that do the "heavy lifting" of the Actions such as transcoding, analysis and conforming. When inspecting an Action, the version of the library is identified. In the following diagram, the IPTV Flip ComponentPac is called "IPTV 7.0.0.197022".
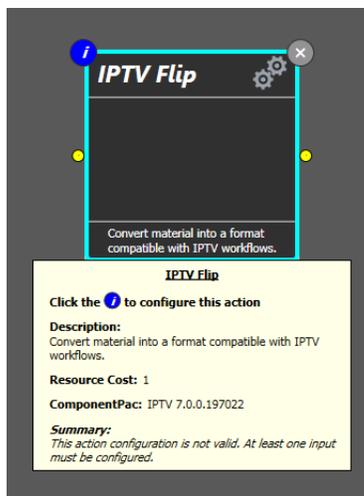

When a new version of Vantage is installed, this Action must specifically be selected and upgraded to the latest version of software. If it is not upgraded, all processing through this Action will continue to utilize the previous version of the software.

To upgrade the Action, right-click the Action to bring up the context menu and select Upgrade. The next time the Action runs, it will utilize the new library. This allows upgrading the Action at the most convenient time, rather than at the time of the software upgrade.
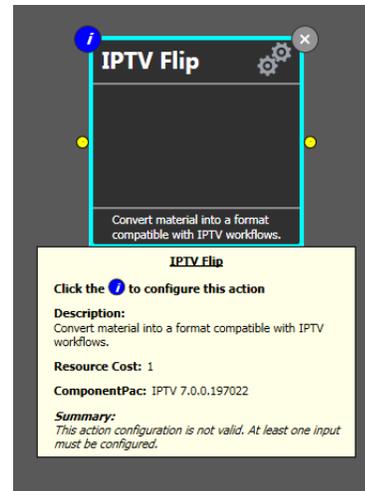

If a new Workflow is created, the new Actions added to the Workflow will automatically utilize the latest ComponentPac.

Once the Action has been upgraded, the new version can then be identified by inspecting the Action. In the following diagram, the IPTV Flip ComponentPac is now utilizing a library called "IPTV 7.0.0.197033".
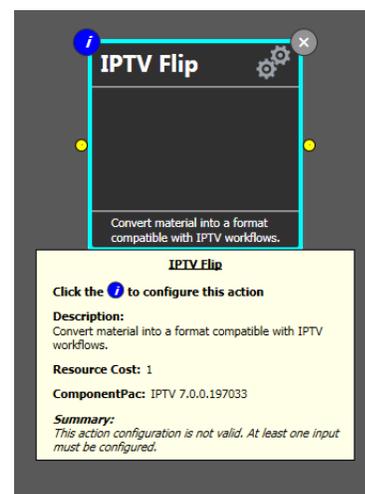
Not only can individual Actions be upgraded, but also entire Workflows. By duplicating the Workflow to be validated and then upgrading it to the new version of Vantage, it becomes quite easy to perform Workflow regression on new versions of software without compromising the integrity of the original Workflow.

Selecting a workflow and right-clicking to bring up the contextual menu provides a selection to Upgrade the workflow.
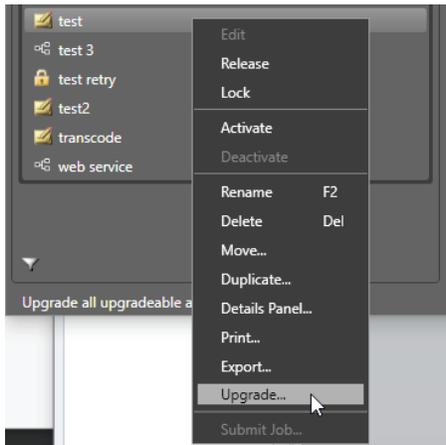

Additionally, a group of Workflows can be upgraded by utilizing the Batch Workflow Operations in the Vantage Workflow Designer. Select the Batch Workflow Operations icon as shown in the following diagram.

This brings up the Batch Workflow Operations dialog.
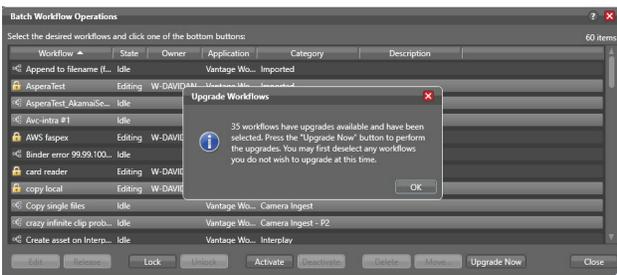
ComponentPacs are managed through the Vantage Management Console. The following diagram shows all of the ComponentPac versions that are installed in the Vantage domain.
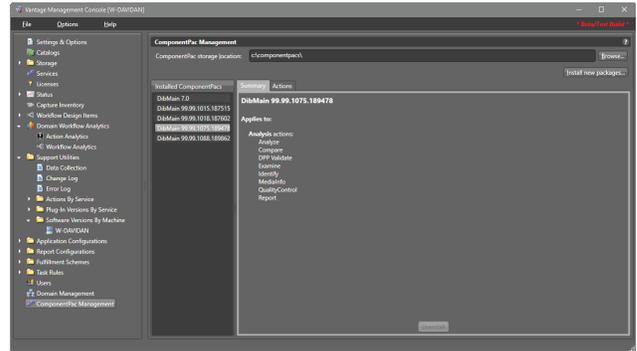

Locking a Workflow

When a Workflow is validated and working correctly, Vantage provides the ability to 'lock down' the workflow to prevent accidental changes. Additionally, this lock mechanism also prevents upgrading the Component-Pac version for the workflow as well. If a Workflow, or Actions within a Workflow, is desired to be upgraded, then the Workflow must be specifically unlocked.

To lock a Workflow, right-click on the Workflow in the Vantage Workflow Designer to bring up the contextual menu and then select Lock. A 'lock' icon shows up next to the locked Workflow.
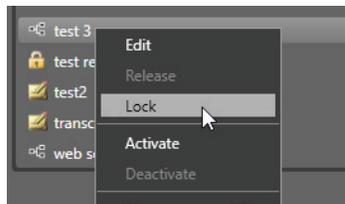
Similarly, to unlock a Workflow, right-click the Workflow and select Unlock.

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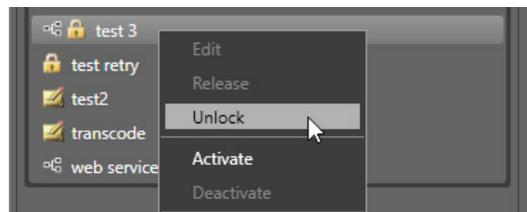
Conclusion

Version 7 of Vantage needs to be fully installed for the Secured Version Control feature to be operational.   It is not backwards compatible with prior versions of Vantage. Future Vantage software releases can take advantage of Secured Version Control once the Version 7 release is installed.

Protecting assets and revenue streams is of the utmost priority.   The new Secured Version Control feature within Vantage 7.0 provides an unprecedented capability to enable utilizing new Vantage features without compromising existing Workflows.