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A PERFECT TEN

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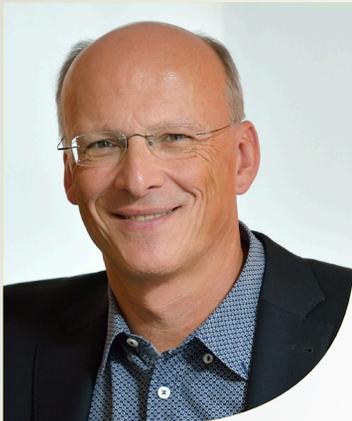
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MATRIX RELOADED

Enno Littmann, managing director of IHSE, reveals how the new Draco tera | S6 KVM switch integrates with Avid's Pro Tools | S6 control surface and streamlines the production workflow.



What is the Draco tera | S6 and how exactly does it fit into the audio production environment?

The Draco tera | S6 is a special version of the Draco tera KVM matrix switch. KVM switches allow operator workstations that consist simply of a keyboard, video and mouse to connect to a distant computer or computer-based editing tool. The special feature about them is that every workstation can connect to every computer through a simple command on the keyboard or control application – under administrator-controlled conditions, of course.

The key benefit to the audio industry is that operators can instantly switch between source devices. This is a task that they have to do regularly during an edit session as they move between tasks and need to access different digital audio workstations. One minute they'll be working on a particular soundtrack on one Pro Tools system, the next they will be working on another soundtrack on another system. It is the switching between the two that the tera | S6 handles.

It also provides the added benefit in that all the source equipment can be located in a central, environmentally-controlled and secure equipment room far away from the users, with the obvious advantages of a quieter, cooler and less cluttered – and therefore more comfortable – environment. Media assets are more securely held as there



is no physical access to USB ports on the computer.

How does the Draco tera | S6 version differ to your standard devices?

It is very similar. The tera | S6 came about because one of our major users in Hollywood had installed full KVM systems in some large post studios and felt that a switching solution that integrated into the Pro Tools | S6 surface would provide their client with immense benefits. Our engineers worked with Avid technical specialists to extend the API and create the direct interface between the S6 surface and the Draco tera. So the switch performs exactly the same as any other Draco tera switch; it's just the interface to the Pro Tools | S6 that is different.

What are its specific features?

Switching between sources is instantaneous and accomplished by a single soft- or hard-key button press on the S6 Master Touch Module. The console-mounted screens and USB devices follow whichever Pro Tools workstation is selected by the operator. Along with a significant time saving, the switching operation is simple: there are no complicated commands and the process is achieved by the operator whenever they need to. The latest feature is fader-based switching, which gives even greater control and ease of use to operators.

Of course it retains all the administrator control to limit unauthorised accesses, third-party controller integration and redundancy

options that the standard tera switch has.

Is it suited to all studios?

The tera | S6 supports as many DAWs as the studio has installed. Every Pro Tools | S6 installation with more than one DAW, or every facility with multiple editing rooms will benefit from it. There are several versions ranging from eight ports to 80 ports and one that has parallel HD-SDI switching for video preview streams.

A single switch is capable of handling all the source systems and all S6 consoles within a facility. So it can all be shared. Editing and mix sessions can be seamlessly moved between stages with minimal setup and turnover times. This is proving to be invaluable to audio facilities. They can assign rooms to meet the workflow, rather than dedicate individual tasks, with the work instantly recalled when a different room is used.

Is there scope for this type of switch beyond the Pro Tools | S6 application?

Yes, absolutely. In fact, this device came about because of a larger Draco tera KVM switch installation. There are numerous examples of the tera switch throughout the broadcast environment around the world, not just in post production facilities, but in TV and radio studios, outside broadcast vans and even in the broadcast centres of large venues, like the Han Show Theatre in China and at Hong Kong Jockey Club's racetracks. We have installed our largest switches, with 576 non-blocking ports in a single chassis, in major broadcast facilities in the US and UK, providing

critical communications throughout the buildings on 24/7 operational status.

Wildfire Sonic Magic in Hollywood has based its whole operation on a fully-centralised production networking around a single 128-port KVM switch. All its mixing, ADR/Foley stages and editing rooms are connected through a fibre backbone and can access over 250 Terabytes of storage and any of the vast range of audio systems. The central KVM switch allows any room to be dynamically assigned to any task.

Wildfire found that one of the significant advantages is the speed of switching: with nine or ten systems in use in just one room available to several operators, even a switching latency of 2-3 seconds can be too great over the course of a day. The instant switching and quality of the Draco tera overcame this, which was also an impressive feature in front of customers.

What has the interest in the market for this device been like?

Aside from the support from Avid, whose sales people and support engineers are actively demonstrating it, as they will be at IBC this year, the response is extremely good. Dealers appreciate the benefits and actively promote it to their customers.

And finally, what's next for it?

We are continuing to work with Avid and our dealers and customers to add additional features. We have a policy of continuous development and will add features as they are developed.

www.ihse.com

HOT DAM!

As the RAI prepares to open its doors for IBC once again, we highlight some of the key product debuts that pro-audio professionals can look forward to at the Amsterdam event this year.



Nugen Audio will introduce the AMB (Audio Management Batch) processor, a powerful new solution built on the concept of the company's award-winning Loudness Management (LMB) processor. Through new features such as threaded algorithm processing and multiple processing threads that are addressable for simultaneous parallel handling of files and queues, AMB is designed to enable past facilities to speed workflows significantly and reduce delivery times.

With AMB, Nugen has added several customer-driven enhancements and capabilities that promise greater flexibility, operational scalability and enhanced processing speed to the core system. It includes new customisation features and numerous optional extensions that will allow users to carry out a greater range of audio processing tasks, such as a

new upmix/downmix capability, an extension for the company's DynApt technology for loudness range targeting and content reupmixing, and loudness management support for MXF or ProRes files.

Calrec is using IBC2016 to debut its RP1 remote production unit, a live-broadcast product that, according to the firm, addresses the increasing need for high-quality content from remote locations where the time or expense of sending out an OB truck cannot be justified. The RP1, with its FPGA-based DSP, enables a console surface at another facility to control all mixing functionality while managing all of the processing for IPB routing and remote monitor mixes locally with no latency.

The company will also demonstrate the newest, smallest console on its BlueFin Family – the dual-layer, 36-Fader Brio central surface. With the entirely self-contained Brio, additional expansion I/O slots allow

d fine mics also come with integrated in-ear monitors.

A full range of D'ADP products that can deliver a Smart Audio experience are being introduced in Hall 10 (A6.49) by **Jünger Audio**. The Smart Audio concept is about investing in simple, reliable and predictable equipment that can automatically deliver audio content while maintaining high quality, according to the manufacturer, and it has already been adopted by a number of broadcasters in Germany and the UK. Alongside intelligent and adaptive processing algorithms, the introduction of Smart Audio allows broadcasters to choose devices that are fully interoperable with others in the broadcast environment and can seamlessly integrate with both logging automation systems and logging and monitoring processes.

For the first time in Europe, **Lawo** will be showing its new RELAY Virtual Radio Mixer. RELAY is a self-defined radio mixer, meaning a user can easily add to its capabilities. Plugins are available for features such as voice processing, skipping IP remotes, multi-line VoIP and more.

Mixing and additional tools are all controlled within a multi-touch on-screen GUI. Thanks to a technology adapted from the IT industry, Lawo claims the RELAY Virtual Radio Mixer to be highly portable and space-efficient and thus perfect for grab-and-go remote kits, field journalists. Fast setup of on-location stations, webcasting, and a replacement for ageing studio hardware.

Meanwhile, **Genetec** will display its new 84300 video monitor on its stand in Hall 8 (A061) – a product that features Directivity Control Waveguide (DCW) technology, a flow optimised flat panel, high SFL, low noise and wide uncoloured response in a compact enclosure. The Genetec Loudspeaker Manager (L3M 2.0) software allows adjustments of all aspects of most or settings and full system control, while AutoCal enables the automatic alignment of every monitor on the network for



level, timing, and equalization of room response anomalies.

One of several co-exhibitors hosting products on the **IHB Communications** stand, **RODE** Microphones is showcasing its wide selection of broadcast microphones. The i-XLR is a broadcast quality XLR to Lightning interface for iOS devices, allowing reporters, correspondents and audio professionals to capture

professional interview dialogue to a smartphone or tablet. A three metre shielded cable lets the operator store the phone in a pocket or bag, and a headphone output with adjustable level on the body makes it easy to monitor or audio during an interview. For dynamic microphones, the i-XLR features a +20dB level boost, giving these mics a high level of clean gain, **RODE** says.

Riedel will explain how its scalable infrastructure systems are being used to 'redefine' the live sports and entertainment experience at France's new Parc Olympique Lyonnais Stadium. Together, the Riedel MediaNet real-time media network, RackNet digital audio network, Artist digital matrix intercom system, Acrobat wireless intercom system, and Performer digital partyline system are providing a decentralised fibre-based network for flexible signal transport, routing and processing, as well as communications, throughout the building, including the technical facilities for Olympique Lyonnais TV.

Wohler's latest marketing technologies are being demonstrated, including new IP-based solutions such as the IAM-MIX multichannel audio monitor and mixer and IAM-AUDIO audio monitor. A simple yet full-featured platform for eight- or 16-level control out-of-the-box, audio-only monitoring, IAM-MIX integrates

with popular AV router solutions to push and pull channel-name data. The IAM-AUDIO introduces touchpanels and software to allow 'intuitive' command and control of the unit and new I/O options, including Dante and Ravenna combined, with rich data displays and Wohler's established audio monitoring.

Avid recently revamped its storage line with the introduction of Nexus, a software-defined storage platform specifically designed for storing and managing media, which enables fully virtualised storage so media organisations can adjust storage capacity mid-project, without disrupting workflows. The system, which relies on the Avid MediaCentral platform, will be featured at IBC. It can be used with Avid-based and third-party workflows, both for small and large projects.

www.ibt.org

A winning combination

Avid Pro Tools | S6 and HDSE Draco terra | S6

The Draco Terra | S6 16th channel 48kHz 24bit 1U rack server for Avid Pro Tools | S6 is a single rack server offering a complete range of performance and reliability, featuring advanced networking, workflow and environmental features to fit professional studio use.

Draco Terra instantly switches between two 10Gb Ethernet ports with just a single touch, giving users complete control with no disruption. Each rack server comes with an integrated display or storage bay and, for the first time, a complete power supply.



See the Draco Terra | S6 and the full range of professional I/OB switches at stand 7.160

Deluxe Media, Hollywood

"We can dynamically allocate any system for any user and move between studios with minimal setup time. It gives us great flexibility."

Doung Higgins, Director of Audio Services



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