

Transcode Manager 1.3 Software

Transcode Manager 1.3 Installation

System Requirements

Media Manager 1.3 requires Windows XP Pro SP2 or Windows Server 2003 operating systems.

Transcode Manager Server

Minimum system: Pentium D 3GHz or equivalent, 1 GB RAM.

A multi-core CPU and/or faster CPU is recommended for Transcode Manager solutions where you can expect a high throughput of files (more than 4 source files per minute), or with many Transcode Engines (resources) to manage (more than 10).

Note that the Hypersonic database is **not** recommended for solutions where you can expect a high throughput of files or management of many resources. In that case you should upgrade to Transcode Manager FE and use one of the other supported databases.

Transcode Engines

The faster your Transcode Engine's CPU, the faster your transcode times will be. Note that some codecs can use multiple cores efficiently, while others cannot. This will vary according to the output codecs you are using. Codecs continue to evolve, so check with Digital Rapids Support if you have a question about a particular codec.

Licensing for version 1.3

YOU MUST REGISTER YOUR PRODUCT TO UNLOCK THE FEATURES.

Depending on which component you are licensing you will need to provide a Digital Rapids System ID or Hardware ID to obtain a license. Please refer to the User's Guide and contact Digital Rapids Technical Support to register your product and obtain the required licenses.

You must obtain a new 1.3 license to run this version of the software. If you are upgrading from an earlier version of the software and your annual maintenance fee is up to date then this will be a free key upgrade. All new keys will include the date when your annual maintenance fee is due, and this will be visible in the server's Help > About dialog. Note that your software will continue to run even after your annual maintenance has expired, but you will no longer be entitled to upgrades or support.

Installation

You MUST uninstall any previously installed version prior to running the 1.3 installer (use Control Panel > Add/Remove Programs). Upgrade all components (server, agent, console) to the same version.

Migration from v1.2

- A database backup is recommended prior to upgrading
- Default port for Web Services has changed. It is now 44000 (previously it was 9090)

Migration from v1.1

- Scheduled Jobs in the database from v1.1 are not supported and will be cleared when v1.3 is installed
- TM watch folder XML file format has changed (slightly) from v1.1 (see SDK Samples folder or docs)

Transcode Engines or Broadcast Encoders:

- Stream 2.5.0 build 32 or higher required to use the Live Video Monitoring feature for Broadcast Manager
- Stream 2.4.0 build 49 or higher required to use network transcode submission feature

Media Manager 1.3 Change History

Media Manager 1.2.b17 to 1.3.b14

New Features - General

- Server/Console security option added. When enabled a Username and Password is required before you can use the Console to connect to the Server. The Config Wizard is used to enable and assign the username and password.
- Resources Tab - Added Resource ID and Device ID as hidden columns for getting the IDs in bulk.
- Added user defined Logos for Resources (mainly used for Live Streaming)
- Added a clock display to the Console application (mainly used for Live Streaming)

New Features - Broadcast Manager

- Broadcast Manager can now control a video router to assign inputs to encoders and can use the router to re-assign an input to a failover encoder as required.
- Schedule tab – Added the ability to edit tasks in the calendar display by dragging scheduled tasks, copying, etc.
- Schedule tab – Added a video tool tip option which shows you a video thumbnail of live streams when you hover your cursor over a currently running task.
- Live monitoring of video added to the Network Monitor tab of the Console. Requires Stream 2.5 or higher at the encoders.
- Support for monitoring of VU Meters in the Network Monitor tab of the Console. Requires Stream 2.6 or higher at the encoders.
- Added scripting support for scheduled jobs.

New Features - Transcode Manager

- Added Watch Folder source file post move option
- Added the ability to disable/resume a watch folder project
- Added scripting support to Watch Folders. TM FE only.
- After a file has been successfully transcoded, there is now a “move source files” option (prior there was only a “delete source files” option)

Bug Fixes

- Changed the Schedule tab's Pause button to Disable/Resume and added ToolTip
- Improved WatchFolder pre-lock file processing; file must 'stable' for at least 5 seconds (no mod time, or size changes)
- Added resource name to Job failover event, so that when a failover attempt fails you know where it tried.
- Improved MXF file support
- Fixed an issue where Oracle deadlocks in Broadcast Manager during Grid Control (added FK indexes on Scheduled Job)
- Broadcast Manager now prevents a task schedule with a negative duration.
- When you attempt to delete a scheduled task that is currently running Broadcast Manager will now present a warning dialog and stop the running task before deleting the task.
- You can now manually type in a schedule date/time for tasks (as opposed to just using arrow keys)
- Source files with a file name that include an ampersand now will successfully transcode.

- Source files with a file name that include UTF-8 coded characters will now successfully transcode (requires Stream 2.5.1.b37 or higher).

Media Manager 1.1.b39 to 1.2.b17

New Features - General

- Agent Monitor - New application installed on agent machines (resources) shows the status of the local system
- Improved handling of server managed files
- Added server side validation ensuring files are readable
- Prevent duplicate filenames (labels) of the same type (e.g., Project)
- Warn about duplicate entries with the same full path
- Warn if not using UNC path. Added Console preference to disable warning.
- Database indexes are now managed by Media Manager; external scripts do not need to be applied
- Alert: Added alert for RESOURCE_HUNG
- Alert: Added server warning if message processing queue gets too large
- Can now Open, Copy Path, and Edit from file snapshot dropdowns
- Console Preferences added; support for changing Search Max Hits
- Added ability to automatically purge older records from database; number of days configured in Console (Server/Options); for newly created databases the default is 180 days
- Implemented database garbage collection algorithm
- Added warning windows when you use the Console to connect to a Server that is either unlicensed or has a license that is set to expire on a specific date. If the Server has a license that will expire, the license expiration date will be shown next to server name on main Console window.

New Features - Broadcast Manager

- Schedule now supports a new graphical Calendar view
- Interface and functional improvements in the Scheduled Tasks components
- Scheduled 'Run Project' can now specify a source profile
- Scheduled 'Run Project' can now specify the duration of the project run

New Features - Transcode Manager

- Back border detection and cropping option; individually select border(s) to crop: top, bottom, left, right (FE feature only)
- Auto aspect ratio adjustment feature, including Letterbox/Pillarbox, Crop options (FE feature only)
- Added support of Trimming of individual clips or a clip list through Watch Folder XML file submission and TM Webservice API (FE feature only)
- Implemented audio/video format override for Watch Folder and API
- MXF file reading support, requires Stream 2.4.1 b55 (or higher) on TM Server for MXF files
- Added support for Stream 2.4 Group codec. Currently if a group codec profile has multiple outputs the TM console and database will only report on the first output file in the group.
- Alert: Added a "Transcode Task Warning" alert if a transcode task source folder is unreachable.
- Alert: Added alert if transcode tasks are waiting on a group with no online resources
- Alert: Added a "Server Warning" alert if a watch folder is unreachable
- Better transcode task status reporting via task status details field.
- Added server side validation ensuring watch folders are writeable.
- Added "Resubmit File" option to Watch Folder based transcode tasks
- Implemented time estimates of Transcode Task completions even when Queued
- Added ability to add a new Group in Watch Folder edit panel
- Implemented Write-To path for Watch Folders in Console
- Transcode task panel now shows source media information
- Added ability to get the actual Project file from Jobs tab or Transcode Task Details
- Improved transcode time estimates when source duration unknown by using average encode time.

- Improved statistics based on actual job timestamps in case estimated durations are wrong.
- Transcode completion time estimates for Stream project submissions and trimming.
- MP4 file inspection now done through Direct Show instead of QuickTime
- Improved Transcode Task post-processing
- Improved progress reporting of multi-source (clip list) transcodes
- Improved descriptions of transcode codecs
- Added support for transcoding from file sources with no audio (it will be interpreted as silence)

Web Service API

- Implemented Web Service API for Broadcast Manager
- Implemented Web Service API for Transcode Manager
- Documented Web Service API and provided sample code (Visual Studio)

Bug Fixes

- Authorization bits updated; Newer versions of Stream can be used, but the new DRAuthKey.dll must be installed if older versions of Stream are used (2.3 or earlier).
- Increased database connection pool helper threads
- Database connection pool maximum size increased to 8
- Fixed database connection pool settings to eliminate potential Oracle deadlock warnings
- Updated Oracle's JDBC driver from 10.2.0.1 -> 10.2.0.3 for their deadlock fixes
- Config Wizard now automatically increases windows heap space to handle a larger number of encoders (Transcode Engines or Stream Encoders) running on the same system; previous limit was 7 instances on one system.
- Config Wizard - Fixed problem when granting the "Log on as Service Right" to services
- Fixed Agent recovery from a crashed and restarted Stream-server
- Enabled RMI timeouts to handle bad socket closures
- Fixed transcode tasks failing at server startup when a resource appears healthy but agent is not present
- Added error panel when unable to open a file from Console
- Updated hsqldb (Hypersonic) to v1.8.0.8; This should fix a rare hard shutdown database issue

Known Limitations

- Digital Rapids does not support 64-bit Windows OS on any of the currently shipping products.
- The Auto aspect ratio feature of Transcode Manager does not support the Group Codec profile. Also non-square pixel detection is only supported for the following codecs: WM9, Mpeg2, Mpeg1, Nero Digital AVC, Ateme H.264 (except for output frame adjustment). That is, when the codec being used does not include information about the pixel aspect ratio, then square pixels are assumed.
- When using the auto aspect ratio feature of Transcode Manager, if head and tail files are enabled at the same time, the aspect ratio adjustment is ONLY performed on the source file, and not on the head and tail files. However, the recalculated frame size (from the auto aspect ratio correction) is applied to all clips, including the head and tail clips, which could create a concatenated output with segments with varying aspect ratios between the head, body and tail clips. The only way to avoid this is to create head and tail clips with the same display aspect ratio as the source clips.
- The Agent Monitor will not be able to communicate with the resources until after you have updated the DRC Services and re-started the services. This is true after any installation or update, including after using the Config Wizard for the initial installation.