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NEW FEATURES FOR INSIDER

Insider is an Intranet tool, fully compatible with Radio-Assist and DVB-Assist, used from an ordinary desktop computer equipped with a Web browser to access all types of file in a database. This tool enables all those working in radio and television (broadcast heads, news editors, programme managers, journalists, etc.) to play or view any file in the database without leaving their workstation. Files are easily accessed with the “Multicriteria Search” function using selection parameters including file type, author name and creation date. Files can be accessed simultaneously by several users.

Insider uses “Streaming” technology for instant smooth playback. With the on-screen multimedia player using “Windows Media Player” technology, it is possible to play all digital sound and video files in linear or compressed format. The player uses standard commands: play, pause, fast forward, rewind, volume control, etc. Provided the workstation is fitted with a standard sound or video card, it can relay the latest report on the schedule with no loss of sound quality.

A specific feature of Insider is that it can be used for instant consultation of an air-playlist and direct access to an on-air item. As it is linked to the broadcasting database, Insider retrieves the data from air-playlists which it can be used to access along with the items in them. Past, current and future items can all be accessed. Playlists in the database are found by date and by broadcasting channel.

The technological innovation of Insider is that there are two playlist consultation modes, “Synchronous” and “Asynchronous”. The “Asynchronous” mode is used to consult the day’s playlists independently of the on-air sequence. The “Synchronous” mode is used to consult the day’s playlists and play or view on-air items in real time. On-air items are identified by a specific icon. If the playlist schedule is modified, this mode updates it automatically.

Insider is accessible via different types of Intranet or Internet connections and manages customised access to data according to user profile. This function is set as required and is easily adapted to each in-house structure. The interface language (French, English, Chinese, Arabic, etc.) is automatically adapted to the user’s profile. 12 languages are currently available.

Insider can be configured for access to sound and video items on a Streaming server.

A future development: the next new function of Insider will be the capacity to share resources between two remote sites. This function will enable the transfer of files and linked data from one remote database to another using FTP (File Transfer Protocol). With this type of transfer the file will also be automatically indexed in the target database.

PERFORMANCE OF DIGIGRAM CARDS WHEN USING THE ‘MULTI-TRACK’ TAB

For each card, the number of tracks available simultaneously in real time when using the multi-track tab depends mainly on 3 factors:

1. Format of the files to manage (MPEG, Linear, etc.)
2. Card operation in play only or in play / record

3. Use while playing with certain effects (variable speed, etc.)

File format

The maximum number of tracks is reached when the file format is confined to MPEG Layer 2.

MPEG Layer 3 is only managed on PCX440NP and PCX8xxNP cards (800,801,820,821). However, tests have shown that it is not possible to play more than 3 MP3 files.

If the linear format is handled, the number of tracks available is approximately halved.

Card operation in play / record

When the card is used for play / record, the number of tracks available is again halved.

Feasible examples of performance with RADIO-ASSIST™ on stereo files, when handling linear format and effects:

Card	Number of tracks
PCX11+	2 or 3
PCX9	2 or 3
PCX924	2 or 3
PCX Pocket	2 or 3
PCX20 ('Play only' card)	3
PCX22 ('Play only' card)	3
PCX440	12 (6 tracks per channel) excepting MP3
PCX821	16 (4 tracks per channel) excepting MP3
