

ALC NetworX Releases RAVENNA-2-SAP Converter Tool

Media Networking Alliance, Bothell, Washington, USA, 12 December 2016. As the AES67 interoperability standard continues to gain traction, so the need for tools to facilitate interoperability increases. ALC NetworX, developers of the RAVENNA audio networking technology, is therefore pleased to announce the release of RAV2SAP, a useful RAVENNA-to-SAP freeware conversion tool designed to help connect RAVENNA devices to other AES67 devices.

"Most people would agree that, in an ideal world, when setting up a network, it would be wonderful not to be limited in one's choice of devices on the network, or indeed one's choice of network protocol because of incompatibility issues," says Andreas Hildebrand, Senior Product Manager at ALC NetworX. "The AES67 standard for high-performance AoIP interoperability was published in 2013 in order to provide some common ground and basic guidelines for manufacturers wishing to incorporate interoperability capabilities into their products."

Crucial to the success of any network is connection management between devices and the exchange of SDP data, which describes specific stream characteristics and connection information. The AES67 standard doesn't mandate for any specific connection management methods, as different solutions exist depending on the application. In RAVENNA, the SDP data is conveyed via the RTSP protocol, which is a common method in layer 3 (IP) streaming applications.

Other systems, in particular Audinate's Dante[™] protocol, exclusively utilize the SAP protocol for SDP data transfer. However, since they offer no manual means for SDP data read-out or entry, they cannot connect to other AES67 devices unless these also support SAP.

"While some RAVENNA devices have implemented SAP in addition to RAVENNA's standard SDP data exchange method, we felt that interconnectivity would be greatly facilitated if a generic RAVENNA-to-SAP converter providing a translation service between RAVENNA and SAP announcements were available," observed Hildebrand. "Furthermore, since the RAV2SAP converter supports manual entry and read-out of SDP data as well as automatic translation, it also enables devices not adhering to the RAVENNA or Dante technology realm to connect to any available AES67 stream via manual SDP data exchange, as well as acting as a great diagnostic tool for monitoring exchanged SDP data."

Hildebrand concludes: "Since RAVENNA and AES67 are both based on an open technology approach utilizing the same principles and protocols, and RAVENNA has always advocated open

interconnectivity, we decided to make the converter available as a freeware tool, downloadable from the RAVENNA website."

For further information, please visit:

http://www.ravenna-network.com/using-ravenna/support/rav2sap/

image link Andreas Hildebrand, Senior Product Manager at ALC NetworX

About Media Networking Alliance

The Media Networking Alliance is a non-profit organization formed to actively promote the adoption of the AES67 audio networking interoperability standard. Currently comprising 30 member companies, the MNA includes a range of professional audio equipment manufacturers, as well as public broadcast corporations. The MNA provides a forum and environment whereby the members of the organisation may meet to review standards development and compliance programmes and to foster the development of new products based on the AES67 standard. This open standard is promoted by the MNA through a range of education and training initiatives, as well as through public demonstrations of audio networking interoperability. Developer support is provided by the MNA to ensure that members' products are compliant with the AES67 standard and achieve reliable interoperability with products from other manufacturers. Recent demonstrations have successfully connected together more than 20 pro audio devices from over a dozen different manufacturers.

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