

Polaris™ Advance

INTEGRATED CHANNEL PLAYOUT AUTOMATION SYSTEM



Polaris™ Advance from Harmonic is a powerful multichannel automation system optimized for Spectrum™ ChannelPort™ integrated channel playout systems, offering flexibility, reliability and efficiency in play-to-air workflows.

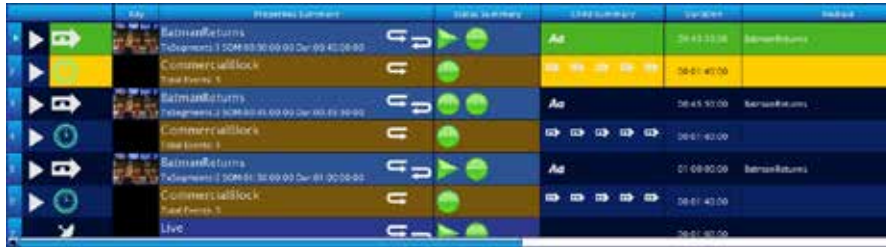
Part of the Harmonic Polaris family of playout management tools for channel-in-a-box (CIAB) and integrated channel playout applications, Polaris Advance provides optimized control of Spectrum ChannelPort and associated third-party devices within IT and hybrid broadcast infrastructures. Based on a 64-bit client-server architecture, the system enables control of up to four ChannelPort channels from a single operator position, with clear visibility of operations for efficient channel management, along with direct desktop view of playout and ingest monitoring. Thanks to the customizable graphical user interface, operators can specify the look and feel of their screen layout and save their preferences for quick reloading in future sessions.

Polaris Advance's highly flexible and rich user interface can be optimized for individual and group accessibility, exception handling and resource access. This capability effectively improves service loading and workflow efficiency by simplifying the operator experience. Desktop layouts can be fixed to streamline operational practices and minimize errors.

Polaris Advance is only available as part of a packaged solution that includes ChannelPort. The system's feature-rich connectivity tools closely integrate into a wide variety of workflows, offering advanced protocols for digital asset management, traffic and scheduling systems, including BXF and vendor-specific APIs.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Automation control for Spectrum ChannelPort with full 1:1 redundancy
- Supports up to four clients
- Unicode compliance enables operation in multiple languages, including Arabic, Chinese and Japanese
- Includes automatic media caching from near-line storage to the main server, or to both main and backup servers in redundant systems
- SQL database used for media tracking and status
- File import from traffic systems with BXF and Excel interfaces
- Offline prep list enables the creation of on-air schedules, providing a view of all available clips both in transmission and near-line storage
- Redundant configurations offer fully automatic change-over



SmartList technology in Polaris Advance delivers enterprise-level playlist intelligence.

SmartList

Polaris Advance features SmartList playlist technology, designed to enable the control of highly reactive channels with frequent late scheduling changes. It can also handle multiple event types (live, clips, CG, subtitles, DVE, AFD, voice-overs), multiple classifications (commercials, promos, live, news), different event start and end types (timed, manual, sequential), as well as over-running or under-running events.

Changes to the playlist can be made close to air, and drag-and-drop functionality makes the system intuitive and simple to use. All primary, secondary and tertiary events in the playlist are automatically and continuously checked for availability and timing anomalies. QC status and classification of events are also checked to guard against unverified or inappropriate materials being broadcast.

SmartPanel

The optional SmartPanel enables frequently used features to be isolated onto a customizable on-screen panel with dedicated buttons; for instance, to display or clear a station identity or sponsor logo. The operator can take manual control of Polaris Advance, ChannelPort and external devices, and in addition to the tangible advantage of a single operator having this level of device control within the automation client, reporting and traceability are also improved, as commands made via the SmartPanel are incorporated into Polaris Advance's AsRun log.

Comprehensive User Rights Management

A complete set of user rights management tools give unprecedented control over access and privileges to different areas of the system. Engineering, operator and view-only privileges are simple to reconfigure, and include the control of encoders and decoders, the ability to access and transfer media to and from near-line storage, control and editing privileges for the playlist, and customization of the user interface. User privileges and access to specific functionality can be set on a per-channel basis.

Scalability, Redundancy, Upgrade Path

Polaris Advance packages are scalable from one to four channels, and from one to four clients. Each configuration is available as a redundant version, with fully automatic change-over. Playlists are synchronized dynamically, with any manual intervention on the list being reflected in the mirrored list almost instantly. For further resilience, media is transferred from near-line storage to both the main and redundant system, and databases are mirrored across both systems.

World-Class Service and Support

Harmonic stands behind the Polaris Advance automation system with comprehensive service and support programs, including system design, service deployment, technical support and network maintenance. World-class service plans and a global network of flexible and responsive support professionals help ensure your ability to deliver outstanding "anytime, anywhere, any-device" customer experiences.



SmartPanel makes it easy to customize the GUI with frequently used features.

SPECIFICATIONS

OPTIONS

- SmartPanel
- Hardware Control Panel for single or multiple playlist control
- Changeover Switch for redundant serial configurations, and Remote Control Panel
- Additional client licenses for playout, ingest or archive

PHYSICAL

With up to four channels hosted in a single 2-RU chassis, Polaris Advance delivers space and power-saving benefits. Two primary servers and a witness server are required for redundant configurations.

MINIMUM CLIENT PC SPECIFICATION:

- Core i5 processor with 8-GB RAM, 500-GB HDD, 1-GB Ethernet (NIC) and 1-GB dedicated graphics card
- Large widescreen monitor with minimum resolution of 1680 x 1050