Media Servers for Lighting Programmers

Getting Started

1. Training classes
   a) Most manufacturers offer seminars for their products, so check the manufacturer’s website for information.
   b) Conventions like PLASA and LDI offer a wide range of classes on all of the latest technology and techniques for using media servers.

2. Manuals
   It’s always a good idea to read the manual for a new product, and many manuals include a quickstart guide.

3. Internet websites
   An advantage we have today is the Internet. Many manufacturers and end users post training videos showing setup, programming, tips, and tricks on a variety of social media websites such as Vimeo and YouTube.

4. Forums
   Practically every manufacturer hosts a user forum which allows users to post questions and first-hand experiences with the products. I have found many tips and suggestions posted on these digital bulletin boards, and much of the information shared is usually outside the scope of a product manual, making it an excellent resource for knowledge. Below are a few examples of popular forums:
   a) http://www.lightnetwork.com
   b) www.catvx.com
   c) http://ma-share.net
   d) http://forum.coolux.de
   e) http://www.arkaos.net/forum/viewforum.php?f=29
   f) http://aiforum.forumotion.co.uk
   g) http://forums.highend.com

5. Books, DVDs, magazines
   Don’t overlook the wealth of information available in written form as well as recorded media. While media servers are still relatively new in the lighting industry, the concept of a media server is not new to the video industry, and many good reference materials are available.

Basics Needed for Programming a Media Server from a Lighting Console

1. Familiarity with the lighting console
2. Understanding of DMX and DMX terminology
3. Understanding of video terminology and hardware
DMX Resources


Media Server Product Links

- Ai  http://www.avolitesmedia.com
- ArKaos MediaMaster Pro and Grand VJ  http://www.arkaos.net
- AXON, DL.3  http://www.highend.com
- Catalyst  http://www.catvx.com
- d3  http://www.d3tech.com
- GrandMA VPU  http://www.malighting.com
- Hippotizer  http://www.green-hippo.com
- Resolume  http://www.resolume.com
- MADMapper  http://www.madmapper.com
- MADRIX  http://www.madrix.com
- Maxedia Compact  http://www.martin.com
- Mbox Studio and Designer  http://www.prg.com
- Modul8  http://www.garagecube.com
- Pandoras Box  http://www.coolux.de
- PixelMAD  http://www.catvx.com
- PixelDrive  http://www.radlite.com/pixeldrive.html
LEDs and Pixel Mapping

1. Barco’s LED line including Versa®TUBE, Stealth®, and Vizomo®
   http://cled.barcouusa.com/support.html

2. Ayrton LED products including the MagicPanel™602
   http://www.ayrton.eu/product/magicpanel-602

3. Clay Paky’s LED line includes the A.leda B-EYE
   http://www.claypaky.it/en/news/clay_paky_a_leda_b_eye_new_exclusive_spectacul
   ar_effects

4. High End Systems line of LEDs includes SolaWash™ LED
   https://www.highend.com/products/LED
   a) Robe®’s Robin LEDwash series  http://www.robe.cz/products/category/ledwash-
   series

5. LED pixel panels
   a) Elation’s ELAR Quad Panel
      http://www.elationlighting.com/ProductDetails.aspx?ItemNumber=1815&MainId
          =1&Category=39
   b) Chauvet Nexus™ 4x4  http://www.chauvetlighting.com/nexus-4x4.html

6. Pixel mapping matrices with integrated dimming
   a) Chromlech’s Jarag-5 and Elidy

7. LED strobes

a) SGM’s X5 and XC-5 http://www.sgmlight.com/shop/x-5/c-23/p-105

b) Philips SL Nitro 510


c) Solaris LED Flare http://www.tmb.com/products/241-solaris-led-flare