

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

1. <http://www.usitt.org/content.asp?contentid=370>
2. <http://www.elationlighting.com/pdffiles/dmx-101-handbook.pdf>
3. <http://www.controlbooth.com/wiki/?title=DMX>

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>
- Quartz Composer <https://developer.apple.com/technologies/mac/graphics-and-animation.html>

LEDs and Pixel Mapping

1. Barco's LED line including Versa®TUBE, Stealth®, and Vizomo®
<http://cled.barcousa.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_spectacular_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
<http://www.chromlech.fr/pages/en/products/jarag-5-range.php>

b) Elements Krypton25 (Kr25) <http://www.icd-usa.com/Products/elements.aspx?prodid=17>

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

http://www.lighting.philips.com/main/products/product_pages/sl-nitro-510.wpd

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