

Playtime and Miranda Xchannel

Multi-channel HD/SD Playout with advanced graphics

Pharos Playtime automation offers a next-generation platform to better manage rapid expansion in playout, presentation and publishing. Miranda Xchannel offers affordable HD/SD playout (single/dual channel) plus advanced graphics. This 'channel-in-a-box' solution integrates tightly with Playtime for cost effective multi-channel operations.

Xchannel provides high performance long-form clip playout with up to 600 hours local storage plus exciting graphics, including multi-layer animations, virtually unlimited character generation, and dual channel DVEs. This allows graphically rich presentation styles that traditionally require multiple server ports and graphics devices to be achieved using a single device all integrated with Pharos Playtime automation.

Pharos Playtime and Xchannel in conjunction with Pharos Mediator provides Intelligent Storage Management and workflow services to Playtime, delivering a higher channel count on the same hardware. Mediator also offers directly integrated library management, ingest, browse, workflow, post production and archive to complement the playout operation.

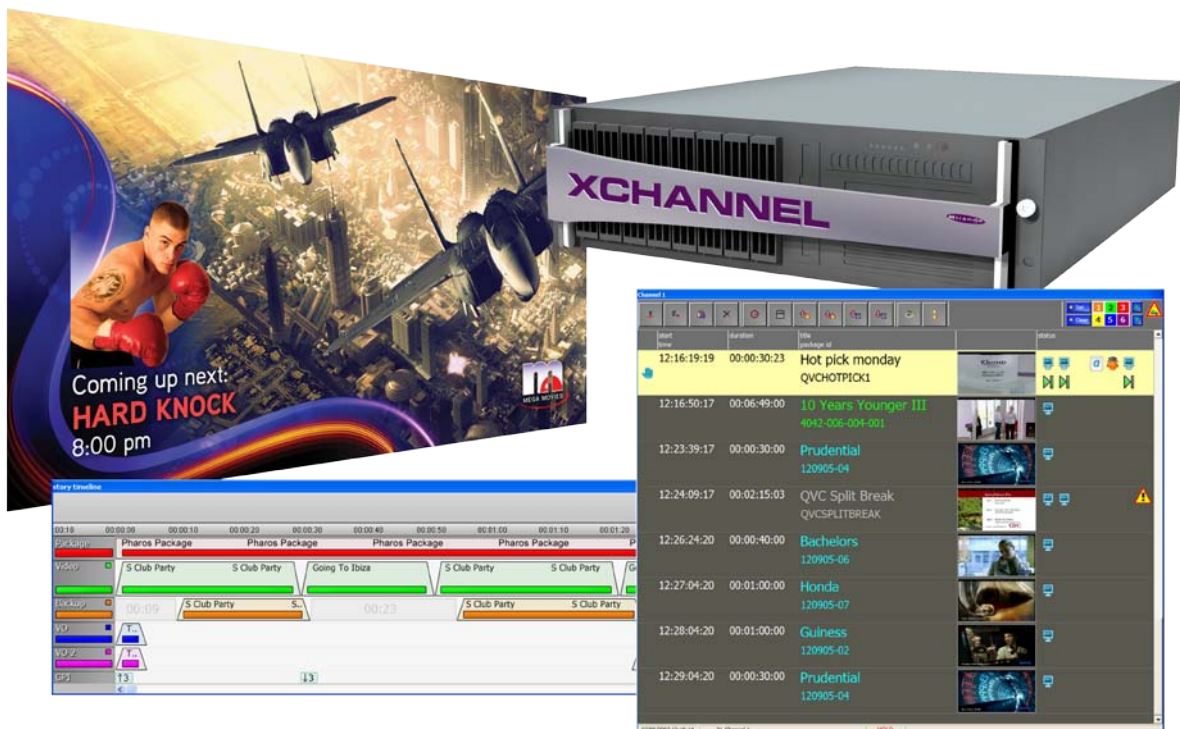
Pharos Dynamic Packages

Pharos Playtime enables broadcasters to unlock the full potential of the Xchannel-in-a-box by allowing full and independent control of every graphical element on screen through the use of Pharos Packages.

Playtime's event model severs the link between the limited primary and secondary event model by collecting events together in a cross-channel transportable dynamic Package. Each event has completely independent control over every graphical and audio/video element allowing a rich and dynamic presentation to be built without the need for additional server ports and graphics devices. The Package event model used by Playtime allows any event to be dynamically modified by data from a business system or even within playtime itself for automatic cross channel promotion.

Studio Playtime

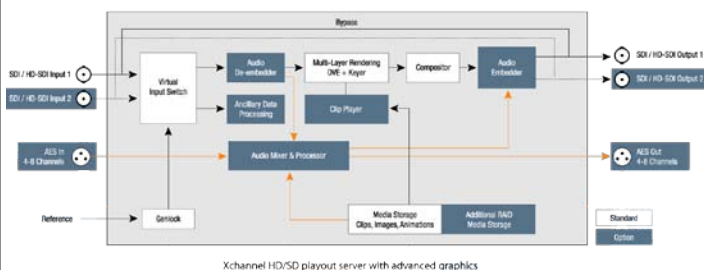
Configured as Studio Playtime the system also allows producers to react to live content in real time. Manual control over the Xchannel's live inputs, built in content store and graphics pipeline allow any event to be overridden and triggered manually from touch-screen panels allowing complete production control. Studio Playtime allows pre-defined material lists to be loaded to give quick access to server content during production. These can be delivered from scheduling systems giving users immediate access to related content without the need to manually search and build lists.



Pharos Playtime Automation and Miranda XChannel are integrated to produce dynamic multi-channel presentation, playout and publishing

Media Management at the core

Playtime uses Pharos Mediator to manage file acquisition, workflow operations, storage and trans-wrapping prior to playout. Mediator automatically manages material and ensures it is ready and approved for playout on time and in the correct format. This includes retrieval from archive and transcoding/re-wrapping for the Xchannel playout formats which include 1080i and 720p. The XChannel behaves as a standard transfer node so fully integrates with Mediator's Intelligent Storage Management and transfer analysis tools.



Pharos Playtime and Xchannel provide multi-channel HD/SD systems with fully integrated advanced graphics

Maintenance

Pharos Support Services use the web based Pharos Information Centre to remotely maintain and manage all Pharos systems. This centralised administration tool allows engineers to view the configuration and status of all the components of the system. The Information Centre is a key part of Pharos' extended support for maintenance and fault finding. Many maintenance and upgrade tasks can be achieved remotely using the Pharos Information Centre, removing the need for a site visit by a Pharos engineer. Such tasks include adding new channels, upgrading device drivers and adding new graphics to existing services.

Distributed control layer

Device control events in the database are retrieved and stored locally inside the device driver and executed against time or through external triggers. This distributed, deferred control model makes systems highly scalable and resilient.

Device drivers run as close to the device as possible and typically run on the Pharos Control Platform (PCP), a Linux based real time controller with multiple interface ports.

LTC fed into each PCP enables the driver to continue to fire off its internal store of control events, frame accurately even if it loses connection to the database through network or hardware failure.

Pharos Communications Limited

83 London Street, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 4QA, UK

t: +44 (0) 118 950 2323 f: +44 (0) 118 950 2525 w: pharos.tv e: sales@pharos.tv

Advanced IT based architecture

Pharos Playtime expands the capabilities of Xchannel to build the unit in to a wider platform for multi-client, multi-site and multi-channel operations. Pharos Playtime systems use the latest Pharos architecture built on Blade hardware, Oracle 10g and 64bit SUSE Linux for the highest availability and performance possible.

Flexible user interfaces

The Playtime interface is modular and user configurable to provide an interface to suit any style of operation. Because Playtime's database and user interfaces are separate, this allows operators to view or control any part of any channel from a single unified control surface. This also means the system will continue to run even if the user interface is not running.

Pharos device drivers

The Pharos Xchannel device driver enables Playtime to take direct control of multiple Xchannel units to provide advanced HD/SD and graphics playout systems. Pharos has comprehensive device driver coverage with new drivers being added continuously. Many control mechanisms are supported including RS422/232, Ethernet, GPI and SNMP, as well as many proprietary API's, allowing other devices to be easily integrated into transmission workflows.

Content and schedule delivery

Schedules, metadata and material content can be imported and exported through various mechanisms including drop folders, XML files or by TCP/IP socket links. The Xchannel behaves as a standard transfer destination within Pharos' Intelligent Storage Management.

This datasheet

PHDS 1005.03 Pharos Playtime and Miranda Xchannel

Related information:

PHDS 1003 Pharos Playtime Modules

PHDS 4001 Pharos Information Centre

PHDS 4005 Pharos architecture

PHDS 4004 Pharos PCP

See also pharos.tv/solutions/automation

See also miranda.com