



GV STRATUS® PLAYOUT

CLOUD-BASED SOFTWARE AS A SERVICE
FOR AUTOMATION AND MONITORING

Release Notes

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Introducing GV STRATUS® Payout v2.3	3
New Features	3
Fixes	4
Known Issues	5
System Requirements	7
Opening and logging into the GV STRATUS Payout web interface	7
Contact Us	7
Copyright and Trademark Notice	8

Introducing GV STRATUS® Playout v2.3

GV STRATUS® Playout is cloud-based, Software as a Service (SaaS), broadcast automation that leverages on true cloud-computing technology coupled with SSP-3801 HD/SD solid state playout cards.

The GV STRATUS Playout service provides the distribution network for media management, metadata, and schedules from the cloud. The GV STRATUS Playout solution moves the IT infrastructure, platform, and software into the cloud while the media storage and playout cards remain on premise allowing you to retain full control of the location and movement of your media and devices.

New Features

SKY-3783: Countdown to next sequence added to Channel Control page

The Seq button was added to the Now Next display on the Channel control page. When the Seq button is selected, a count down to the next sequence of events to be played is displayed in the Count To field and the title of the sequence is also displayed below the Seq button.

SKY-3781: New options added to the Hold Time field in the Channel Type settings

The following options have been added to the Hold Time field in the Channel Type settings:

- 30 minutes
- 1 hour
- 4 hours
- 8 hours
- 12 hours
- 24 hours

These new options are intended to extend the amount of time that an event remains visible in the channel grid after its been played out.

SKY-3752: Subtitles can be multiplexed into media

GV STRATUS Playout supports the ability to multiplex (MUX) media.

Subtitle files (XIF or STL format) must be present in the inbox specified in the Subtitle MUX Processor prior to the media being imported into the same inbox. The subtitle files must also use the naming convention specified by the MUX profile. Subtitle files arriving after the media processing has begun will not be added to the media.

Up to 10 STL files and 2 XIF files are supported as defined by the MUX profile. Corrupt subtitle files will cause the subtitle MUX job to fail. Subtitles out of the media bounds will still be processed but the diagnostics will show Warning entries for the relevant subtitle files and timecodes.

SKY-3751: Media is re-cached when a new version of the media is imported

Media that is currently cached on a playout device is now re-cached when a new version of the media is imported. The media re-import may be done by either deleting the old media file and copying the new media into the Inbox; or by updating the Asset record by AssetXML or BXF. When using AssetXML or BXF to update the Asset record, the media file must be network accessible by both the Gateway and File Processing Node applications as the media file must be checked for changes before a re-cache to the playout devices is initiated.

The media's version is now displayed on the Asset Management page and on the Details 2 tab on the Schedule Edit page.

If media is re-cached on a playout device whilst scheduled for playout, then comments are inserted into the channel grid indicating that the media has been updated along with the new version number of the media.

SKY-3636: Added the Parallel Jobs setting to limit the number of import jobs that can be processed concurrently

When using the GV STRATUS Playout Gateway to import multiple media files at the same time, the import jobs are queued and executed according to the new Parallel Jobs setting. This regulates the number of jobs that can be processed concurrently.

SKY-3075: A maximum of 18 channels can be assigned to a view

The maximum number of channels that can be assigned to a view is now restricted to 18. A message is displayed if you attempt to assign more than 18 channels to a view. Also, the All Channels view has also been replaced by the Unassigned Channels view, which displays up to the first 18 channels that have not been assigned to at least one view. A message also appears if the selected channel in the Channel Settings has not yet been assigned to a view.

Fixes

SKY-3840: Exclude file filters are now saved in the configuration

The exclude file filters on the GV STRATUS Playout Gateway application are now correctly saved to the configuration file. All of these filters will now be compared against files when being imported to determine if the file matches the filter.

Known Issues

SKY-3076: Channel clock is an hour behind during Daylight Saving Time

The clock time on the Channel Control page is an hour behind when the channel type used has Daylight Saving Time (DST) dates set and the current date is within the DST period. The channel grid, however, displays the correct time for the scheduled events and displays events an hour ahead taking into account the DST settings.

SKY-3013: Reimporting a clip may overwrite certain metadata

When a clip is reimported using GV STRATUS Playout Gateway, some metadata such as the content type and title may be overwritten.

SKY-2770: Schedule LIVE state is not refreshed for selected schedule

When a schedule is selected and subsequently goes on air on one or more channels, the LIVE state on the Schedule Edit page is not displayed until the schedule is reselected in the left pane.

SKY-2667: Not possible to turn on VCHIP for a rating with a name that contains plus character (+)

Although it is possible to preset any VCHIP rating in Channel Control using the VCHIP Set button, it is not possible to use the VCHIP rating button to turn on a rating that contains a plus (+) character in its name. Attempting to set one with a plus character clears the rating from the button and turns off VCHIP for the channel instead.

Workaround: Click the Confidence Monitor on Channel Control page to open the SSP-3801 web client. In the SSP-3801 web client, click Playlist in the left pane and then set and turn on VCHIP using the buttons on the Playlist page.

SKY-2466: BXF update of a large schedule causes unexpected behavior

Performing a BXF full update on a large schedule (greater than 2000 events) can cause GV STRATUS Playout to become unresponsive and cause clients (including web interface and devices) to go offline temporarily.

Workarounds:

- Use smaller schedules. For example, on busy channels update using daypart schedules instead of one schedule for the entire broadcast day.
- Update events via a BXF delta update or the Web client when only a few events need to change.

The cause is the performance of delete operations for large amounts of data in the cloud. The R&D team are working to change to an alternate storage model.

SKY-2441: GV STRATUS Playout Gateway and File Processing Node exhibit unexpected behavior after failover

After failover of an account to the standby deployment, the GV STRATUS Playout Gateway and File Processing Node devices associated to the account begin exhibiting unexpected behavior; for example, the File Processing Node ignores its Parallel Jobs limit and job deletion requests from the web client, jobs are re-queued in the web client which causes duplicate jobs to be created, and closing and reopening the devices causes them to connect back to the previous deployment.

Workaround: After failing over GV STRATUS Playout Gateway and File Processing Node devices to the standby deployment, change the configuration of each device briefly. For example, click the Inbox Folder field in GV STRATUS Playout Gateway or change the Parallel Jobs limit in the File Processing Node, then press the Update Configuration button to save the new deployment configuration. In the unlikely event that there is a need to switch accounts to the backup deployment, customers will be advised and supported by the SPO Support team.

SKY-2438: GV STRATUS Playout Gateway continues to create jobs for a previously configured Media Conversion Inbox

When the Inbox for a previously configured Media Conversion Processor instance is changed, then any media arriving in either the current or previously configured Inbox causes the GV STRATUS Playout Gateway to create a new media processing job.

Workaround: Close and re-open GV STRATUS Playout Gateway after changing the Inbox Folder and saving the configuration.

SKY-2237: Gateway reports an error when importing a large number of assets using BXF

When a large number of assets (over 1000) are imported using BXF, GV STRATUS Playout Gateway reports an "Error Parsing BXF file" error.

SKY-2016: Partial breakaway hold events are not appearing in Show History

If an event is partially played out using Breakaway Hold, the event does not appear in the Show History log once it has been removed from the channel control grid.

SKY-1681: The channel clock is not updated when the channel type is changed to one with a different time zone offset

The channel clock on the Channel Control page is not updated correctly when the channel's channel type is changed. If the channel type on the Settings > Channel Settings page is changed to a channel type with a Time Zone Offset different than the one previously displayed on the Channel Control page, the channel clock continues to display using the previous offset.

Workarounds:

- If the channel grid on the Channel Control page is exhibiting the issue, click to a different channel and then back again. If this does not resolve the issue, switch to a different channel type and then back again.
- Reload the browser before appending a schedule.

System Requirements

For detailed system requirements, please refer to the GV STRATUS Playout Operator Guide.

Opening and logging into the GV STRATUS Playout web interface

To access the GV STRATUS Playout web interface, you need a Google Chrome browser and the log in email address provided to you by the system administrator. Since the interface is customizable by user profile, the pages and functionality made available to you might differ than what is described.

Important: To access the GV STRATUS Playout web interface, we recommend that you use a display with a minimum screen resolution of 1920 x 1080 pixels and the latest version of Google Chrome at 100% zoom in full-screen (F11) mode.

To open the web interface:

1. Open a Google Chrome browser.
2. In the address bar, type the URL of your GV STRATUS Playout Portal.
3. In the **Email** box, type the email address configured to grant you access to the portal.
4. Click **Sign in**.

Contact Us

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