



Whats New in Pro Tools | S6

Version 1.4

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Product features, specifications, system requirements, and availability are subject to change without notice.


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Chapter 1: Introduction

This document describes the new and changed features in S6 Software version 1.4 for Pro Tools® | S6 systems and other EUCON™-enabled applications. These include improved input and output assignment, Automation Trim metering and Write indication on strip meters, new Preference settings for navigation and display, Auto Talkback, support for Asian language display of channel names, and other enhancements.

 For a complete description of features, see Chapter 2, “New and Changed Features in S6 Software v1.4.” For software installation instructions, see Chapter 3, “Updating S6 System and Workstation Software.”

System Requirements and Compatibility

S6 Software version 1.4 requires Pro Tools 11.2.2 or later, and is also compatible with other EUCON applications (check with the manufacturer for compatibility information and requirements). Some features and bug fixes require Pro Tools 11.3.1 or later, as noted in this guide.

For a list of supported applications, system requirements, and other compatibility information, visit:


<http://www.avid.com/US/products/Avid-S6/tech-specs>

Important Software Installation Information

After updating the S6 MasterModule software and module firmware, you must power cycle the system. For more information, see Chapter 3, “Updating S6 System and Workstation Software.”

Activation and Registration

As soon as you have assembled your S6 system and confirmed a successful hardware installation, activate your S6 system software on-line. Use the alphanumeric code on the included *S6 System Software Activation Card* to activate and download all S6 system software and documentation.

 *Be sure to activate your purchase using the Activation Card included with the Master Module so you can receive software updates directly in your Avid account. Check your Avid account for system software updates, Workstation software, and monitor control software (XMON EUCON software, and Studio Monitor Pro).*

Registering

By registering, you become eligible to receive the following:

- Technical support information
- Software update and upgrade notices
- Hardware warranty information

About This Guide

This guide explains how to assemble your Avid S6 system.

Conventions Used in This Guide

All of our guides use the following conventions to indicate menu choices and key commands:


Convention	Action
File > Save	Choose Save from the File menu
Control+N	Hold down the Control key and press the N key
Control-click	Hold down the Control key and click the mouse button
Right-click	Click with the right mouse button

The names of Commands, Options, and Settings that appear on-screen are in a different font.

The names of switches and keys on the control surface are shown in bold (such as **Select**). In addition, the **Shift** switch on the Master Module is always shown in bold to distinguish it from the Shift switch on the computer keyboard.

The following symbols are used to highlight important information:

 *User Tips are helpful hints for getting the most from your system.*

 *Important Notices include information that could affect your data or the performance of your system.*

 *Shortcuts show you useful keyboard or mouse shortcuts.*

 *Cross References point to related sections in this guide and other Avid guides.*

Resources

The Avid website (www.avid.com) is your best online source for information to help you get the most out of your Avid system. The following are just a few of the services and features available.

Account Activation and Product Registration

Activate your product to access downloads in your Avid account (or quickly create an account if you don't have one). Register your purchase online, download software, updates, documentation, and other resources.

<https://www.avid.com/US/account>

Support and Downloads

Contact Avid Customer Success (technical support); download software updates and the latest online manuals; browse the Compatibility documents for system requirements; search the online Knowledge Base or join the worldwide Avid user community on the User Conference.

<https://www.avid.com/US/Support/index.html>

Training and Education

Study on your own using courses available online or find out how you can learn in a classroom setting at an Avid-certified training center. For example, check out the series of Get Started Fast with S6, available from the main S6 product page:

<http://www.avid.com/US/products/avid-S6>

Products and Developers

Learn about Avid products; download demo software or learn about our Development Partners and their plug-ins, applications, and hardware.

<https://www.avid.com/US/Products/index.html>


News and Events

Get the latest news from Avid or sign up for an S6 demo.

Chapter 2: New and Changed Features in S6 Software v1.4

S6 Software v1.4 includes the following new and changed features:

- “Input and Output Assignment Improvements” on page 4
- “Automation Trim Metering and Write Indication on Fader Modules” on page 6
- “New Preference Settings for Banking, Navigation and Display” on page 7
- “Home Screen Settings” on page 9
- “Page Switches on the Master Module” on page 10
- “Auto Talkback” on page 11
- “Displaying Names in Asian Characters” on page 11
- “Expand Mode Improvements for EQ and DYN Knob Sets” on page 12
- “Progress Indicators for Session Load and Workstation Connect” on page 13

 *Be sure to check the S6 Software v1.4 ReadMe for additional information.-*


Input and Output Assignment Improvements

(Requires Pro Tools 11.3.1)

With Pro Tools 11.3.1 and later, the Input and Output knob sets have changed to simplify signal routing.

Input Assignment

To assign track Input from the Master Module:


- 1 Attention a track to bring it to the Attention Track knobs.
- 2 Navigate to the Home screen and tap to select Input in the Function scroller. The upper left knob shows the currently assigned input source.
- 3 Do any of the following:
 - To exit without changing the current assignment, tap to select any other function in the Function scroller.
 - To select a different source, press the upper left knob; the two upper left knobs display interface and bus sources, respectively. Rotate the corresponding knob until the desired source is displayed, then press the **In** switch for that knob.
 - To return to the previous page of choices, press the Master Module **Back** switch ().

To assign track Input from a channel strip:

- 1 In the strip for the desired track, press **Input** on the Process module. The top-most knob in the Knob Module shows the current input assignment for the track (if no Knob Module is present for that strip, the current input assignment appears in the Process Module encoder display).
- 2 Do any of the following:
 - To exit without changing the current assignment, press any other Function switch.
 - To select a different input, press the knob top showing the current input assignment. The top two knobs now show interface and bus choices. Rotate the corresponding knob until the desired source is displayed, then press the **In** switch for that knob.
 - To return to the previous page of choices, press **Back**.

Output Assignment

To assign track output using the Master Module:

- 1 Attention a track to bring it to the Attention Track knobs.
- 2 Navigate to the Home screen and tap to select **Bus** in the Function scroller. The upper left knob displays the current output assignment.
- 3 Do any of the following:
 - To exit without changing the current assignment, tap to select any other Function.
 - To select a different output, press the knob showing the current assignment. The top two knobs show available interface and bus outputs. Rotate the corresponding knob until the desired output is displayed, then press the **In** switch for that knob. This assigns the selected output as the only output (removes any other assignments).
 - To assign an additional output to the track, rotate the corresponding knob until the desired output is displayed and press the **Sel** switch for the corresponding knob. This results in multiple output assignments (as indicated by the yellow **Sel** LED lighting, and on-screen in Pro Tools with a “+” in the Output assignment selector).
 - To return to the previous page of choices, press the Master Module **Back** switch ().

To assign track output from a channel strip:

- 1 In the strip for the desired track, press **Bus** on the Process module. The top-most encoder in the Knob Module shows the current output assignment for the track (if no Knob Module is present for that strip, the current assignment appears in the Process Module encoder display).
- 2 Do any of the following:
 - To exit without changing the current assignment, press any other Function switch.
 - To select a different output, press the knob showing the current assignment. The top two knobs show available interface or bus outputs. Rotate the corresponding knob until the desired output is displayed, then press the **In** switch for that knob. This assigns the selected output as the only output (removes any other assignments).
 - To assign an additional output to the track, rotate the corresponding knob until the desired output is displayed and press the **Sel** switch on the corresponding knob. This results in multiple output assignments (as indicated by the yellow **Sel** LED lighting, and on-screen in Pro Tools with a “+” in the Output assignment selector).
 - To return to the previous page of choices, press **Back**.

Navigating Through Multiple Output Assignments

When there are multiple outputs assigned to a track, you can quickly navigate through assignments by pressing the corresponding knob top. For example, if multiple Bus outputs are assigned to a track you can press the Bus knob to cycle through each currently assigned Bus output to quickly re-assign or silence it (set it to no output).

Automation Trim Metering and Write Indication on Fader Modules


(Requires Pro Tools 11.3.1)

Strip meters on Fader Modules (and the Attention Track meters on the Automation Module) show Trim automation, and indicate when automation is being written in any Write mode other than Trim.

Automation Trim Metering

While writing an initial Trim pass, the Right meter lights the LED at 0 to indicate you are writing Trim automation.

While editing an existing Trim pass, the Right meter lights LEDs above or below 0 to indicate the underlying Trim value. On-screen in Pro Tools, this corresponds to the yellow (Trim) or blue (Composite) automation line.

 *In order for the meters to show Trim, the Pro Tools preference for Coalesce Trim Automation must be set to Manually.*

Write Indication

Whenever a track is writing automation in any mode other than Trim, the Right meter lights the LED that corresponds to the underlying automation level. For example, if in a Touch write mode the LED indicates where the fader will return when you release it. If a track is the slave of a VCA, the lit LED corresponds to the blue automation line on-screen in Pro Tools.

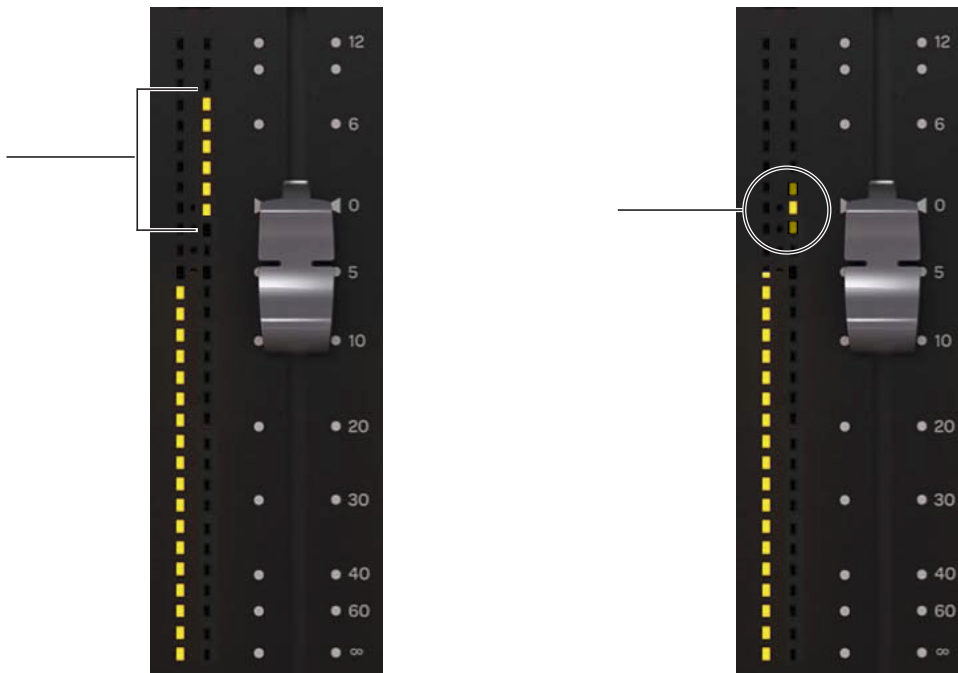


Figure 1. Automation Trim meter when editing Trim data (left) and Write indication (right) in strip meters

New Preference Settings for Banking, Navigation and Display

- New Banking preference settings let you define how the surface banks when you select tracks.
- New Strips preference settings provide control over several strip attributes, such as the ability to link Select and Attention states, display or hide Track numbers, and manage the display of control values in strips when adjusting parameters.
- A new Knobs setting lets you optimize parameter mapping on strips that only have one Knob Module.
- The Display settings have been consolidated into a drop-down menu, replacing the earlier radio buttons.

Banking

The Banking section in Settings > Preferences now provides additional choices for Auto Bank to Selected Track Mode.



Figure 2. Settings > Preferences, Surface Banking

Auto-Bank to Selected Track Mode

These settings let you define how banking follows channel selection. These settings apply to all Select methods (tapping to select tracks in the Tracks matrix, pressing a channel **Select** switch, or selecting a DAW track on-screen).

Off Banking ignores channel selection.

If Not Visible on Surface Banking ignores track selection if that track is already on the surface. For example, on a 16 fader system displaying tracks 1–16, selecting track 15 will not bank the surface but selecting track 17 (or any other off-bank track) will bank.

Always When enabled, the surface will always bank to the currently selected track.

Strips

The new Strips preference settings control the behavior of hardware strips (on Fader Modules, and the Attention Track on the Automation Module). These include the ability to link/unlink strip Select and Attention states, show or hide track numbers, and manage how control values are displayed on strips when adjusting parameters.

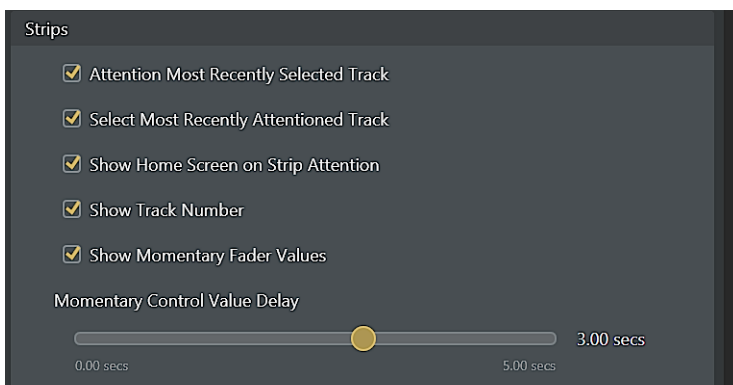


Figure 3. Settings > Preferences, Strips

Attention Most Recently Selected Track


Selecting a track by pressing its **Select** switch also attentions that track.

Select Most Recently Attentioned Track

Attending a track by pressing its **Attention** key also selects that track.

Show Home Screen on Strip Attention

When enabled, the Touchscreen displays the Home screen when any strip is Attentioned by pressing its **Attention** Key on a Fader or Automation Module.

 You can also specify a default function view and knob focus for the Home screen when a track is attentioned. See “Function and Knob Page Settings” on page 9 for more information.

Show Track Number


When enabled, strip OLEDs show the track number assigned by the parent DAW to the left of the Track name.

Show Momentary Fader Values

When enabled, values temporarily replace track name on Fader Modules when the fader is touched or adjusted. The length of time values are displayed is determined by the Momentary Control Value Delay setting.

Momentary Control Value Delay

Values temporarily replace track name (on Fader Modules) and parameter names (on Display Modules in any Function view) when controls are touched or adjusted. The Momentary Control Value Delay settings lets you specify how long values are displayed.

 For Fader Module displays to follow the Momentary Control Value Display, make sure to enable Show Momentary Fader Values. To set the display time for function graphs on the Home screen, see “Auto Show Function Graph on Knob Touch” on page 10.

Knobs

Send/Insert/Input/Bus Knobs Reversed

The Send/Insert Knobs Reversed setting introduced in S6 software v1.3 has been enhanced to also control how Input and Bus knobs appear on Knob modules.

Reverse Function Pages for 5-Knob Strips

This new setting lets you configure Knob Module function views to display parameters in their default order, or “reversed” from their factory mapping. For example, enable Reverse Function Pages for 5-Knob Strips to have EQ plug-in parameters start with low frequency parameters instead of high (or the opposite, depending on the default mapping of that plug-in).

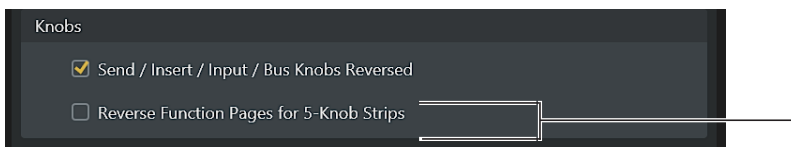


Figure 4. Settings > Preferences, Knobs section

Display Module Settings

In the Display Module section of Settings > Preferences, choices for Display Module layout are now provided in a menu. Tap the Layout field to select a view for all Display Modules.

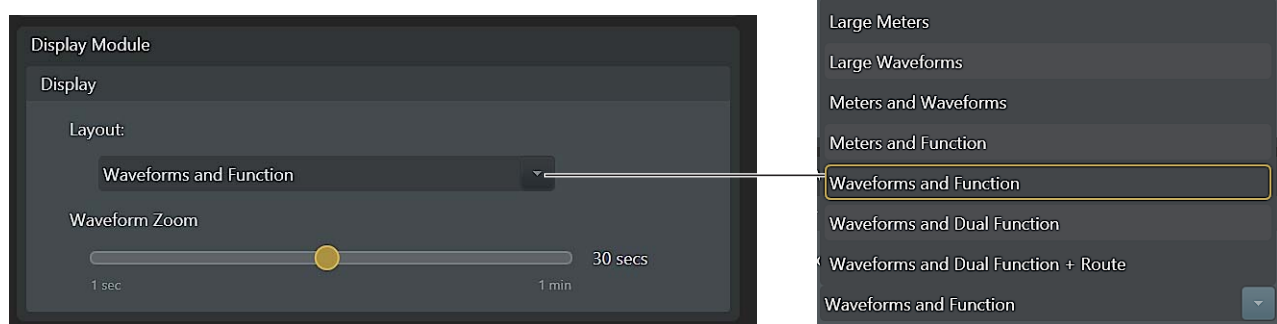


Figure 5. Settings > Preferences, Display Module

Home Screen Settings

New settings for the Home screen let you configure default function views and knob page focus, and adjust how long function graphs (when available) are displayed on the Touchscreen.

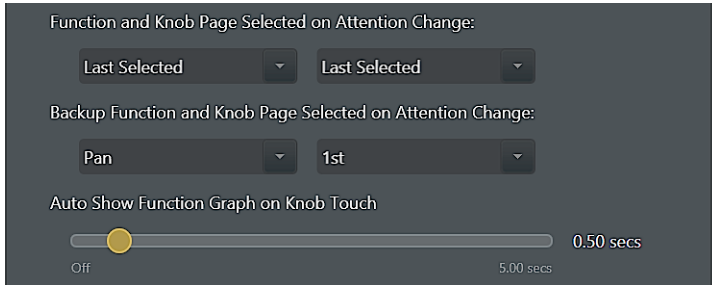


Figure 6. Home Screen Local Options

Function and Knob Page Settings

The Home screen Local Options settings for Function and Knob Page Selected on Attention Change let you configure which function and page of controls the Home screen displays when a track is attentioned.

To configure default Home screen function and knob page settings:

- 1 Navigate to the Home screen and tap the Local Options (gear) icon.
- 2 Tap to display the first (left-most) drop down menu for Function and Knob Page Selected on Attention Change.
 - To have the Home screen stay focused on whichever function was most recently edited, choose Last Selected.
 - To specify a function, select a function such as Pan, Bus, EQ, or Dynamics. Not all functions are available in all applications.
- 3 Tap to display the second (right-most) drop down menu.
 - To have the Attention Track knobs maintain their current or previous focus, choose Last Selected.
 - To specify a page of knobs to be focused, choose a page (such as 1st, 2nd, and so on).

💡 See also “Page Switches on the Master Module” on page 10.

In Figure 7, below, the settings for Function and Knob Page are EQ and 2nd, respectively. When a track is attentioned, the Home screen displays the EQ function with the Assignable Track knobs focused on page 2 of EQ controls.

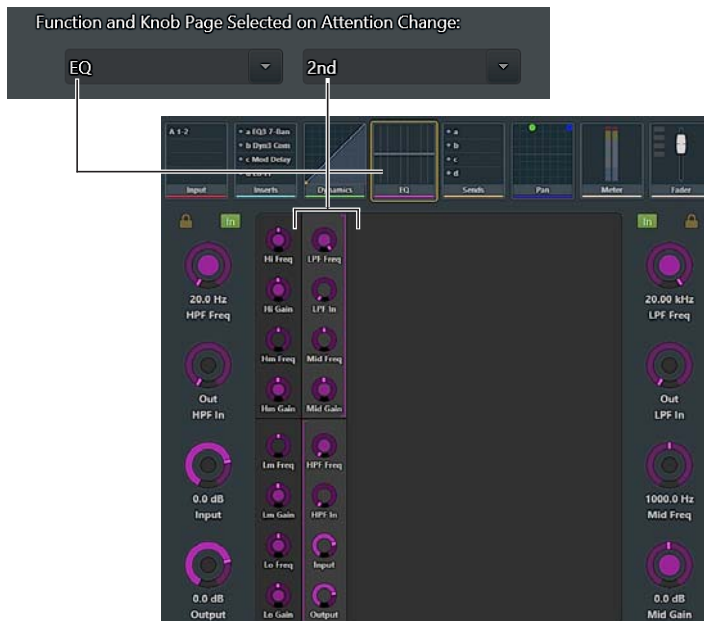


Figure 7. Home screen showing default function (EQ) and Knob Page (2nd) as defined in Home screen Local Options

Backup Function and Knob Page Settings

These settings let you define a default function view and knob focus to display whenever you attention a track that does not contain the same function as the previously attentioned track.

To configure backup function and knob page view settings:

- 1 Navigate to the Home screen and tap the Local Options (gear) icon.
- 2 Tap to display the first (left-most) drop down menu for Backup Function and Knob Page Selected on Attention Change.
 - To have the Home screen stay focused on whichever function was most recently edited, choose Last Selected.
 - To specify a function, select a function such as Pan, Bus, EQ, or Dynamics from the drop down menu.
- 3 To specify a knob page to be automatically focused when that function is displayed, tap to select a page from the second (right-most) drop down menu.
 - To have the Attention Track knobs maintain their previous focus, choose Last Selected.
 - To specify a page of knobs to be focused, choose a page (such as 1st, 2nd, and so on).

Auto Show Function Graph on Knob Touch

When set to any value other than 0 secs (Off), adjusting a control for any function that has a graph display (such as EQ or pan) automatically displays the graph in the Home screen. The graph stays on-screen after you let go of the knob for the length of time specified in the Auto Show Function Graph on Knob Touch slider (between 0.0 and 5.0 seconds).

Page Switches on the Master Module

You can use switches on the Master Module to page functions and focus the touchscreen knobs on different parameters. When the Master Module **Shift** switch is held down, the four switches at the bottom left and right of the touchscreen enter Page mode as indicated by their LEDs lighting purple.

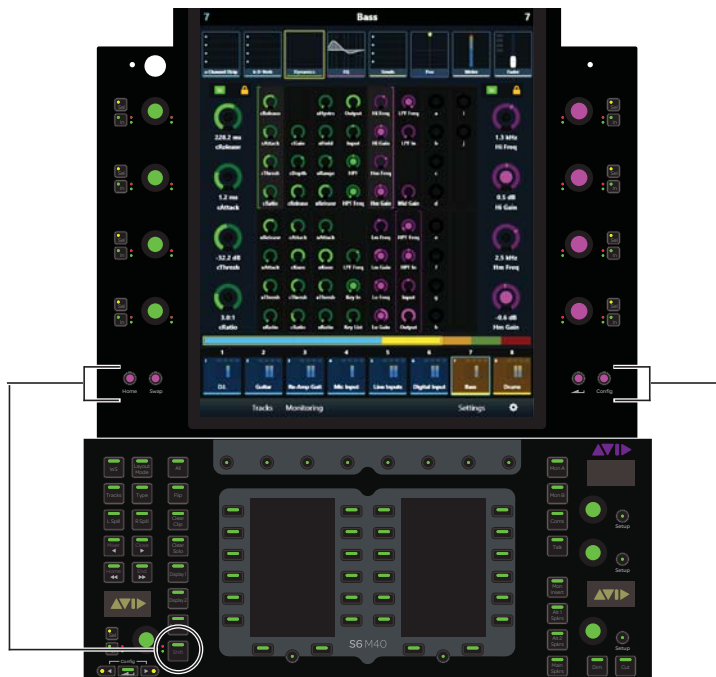



Figure 8. Shift and Page switches on the Master Module

When in Page mode, the **Home** and **Swap** switches page the Left knobs to their previous or next pages, and the **Back** () and **Config** switches page Right knobs. A focused knob group can page even if the knobs are locked.

If both sides of the touchscreen are showing knobs from the same function, each set of **Page** switches page both knob groups. If a different function is focused on each side of the touchscreen, the **Page** switches operate separately on each side.

Auto Talkback

The Monitoring screen now provides its own Local Options, accessed by touching the Local Options (gear) icon.

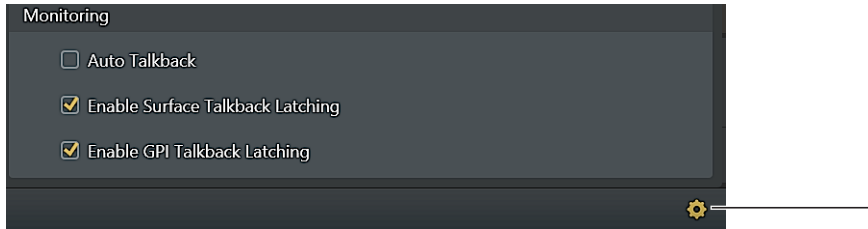


Figure 9. Monitoring Local Options icon

To set Monitoring Local Options:

- 1 Press **Setup** in the Monitoring section of the Automation Module to go to the Monitoring screen.
- 2 Tap the Local Options icon (or press its Soft Key, below the icon), and set the following preferences as desired.

Auto Talkback

When enabled, the Talkback mic automatically shuts off when the Transport is playing or recording. When the Transport is stopped, in shuttle, rewind or any mode other than play or record, Talkback turns on. Pressing the Talkback switch overrides this setting.

Enable Surface Talkback Latching

When enabled, the Talkback switch operates in Latching mode if held down for less than 1/2 second (it stays in its current state until the switch is pressed again).

Enable GPI Talkback Latching

When enabled, GPI-triggered Talkback operates in Latching mode if engaged for less than half a second (it stays in its current state until the switch is triggered or pressed again).

Displaying Names in Asian Characters

You can specify an Asian language in which Channel names, memory locations and dynamic Soft Key names (such as Soft Keys for memory locations or groups) are displayed using the new Language setting in Settings > Preferences.

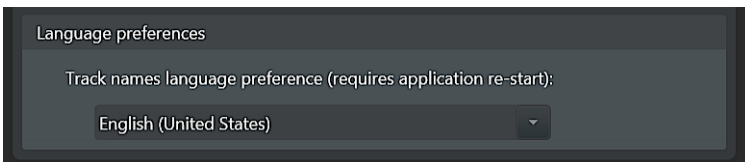


Figure 10. Language Preferences in Settings > Preferences.

Tap to display the choices for language, then tap again to make a selection. After changing the Language setting, you must restart the Master Module.

Expand Mode Improvements for EQ and DYN Knob Sets

(Requires Pro Tools 11.3.1 or later)

EQ and Dynamics plug-ins now map more efficiently to the S6 Knob or Process Modules in Expand mode. All EQ and DYN plug-ins map to the same knobs when **EQ** or **DYN** functions are expanded.



Manufacturer-specific parameter mappings are still accessed from the **Inserts** knob set. These will typically have more controls than the unified layouts used in Expand mode. Not all parameters are available in all plug-ins.

The following tables show the location of EQ and Dynamics parameters on Knob Modules when in Expand Mode.

EQ Parameter Layout in Expand Mode, Knob Module

Sel In	Knob	Sel In	Knob	Sel In	Knob	Sel In	Knob	Sel In	Knob	Sel In	Knob	Sel In	Knob	Sel In	Knob
HPF Type	HPF Q or Slope	LPF Type	LPF Q or Slope			LF Type	LF Q or Slope	LMF Type	LMF Q or Slope	MF Type	MF Q or Slope	HMF Type	HMF Q or Slope	HF Type	HF Q or Slope
HPF Type	HPF Freq	LPF Type	LPF Freq		Input Gain	LF Type	LF Freq	LMF Type	LMF Freq	MF Type	MF Freq	HMF Type	HMF Freq	HF Type	HF Freq
HPF In/Out	HPF Q or Slope Alt	LPF In/Out	LPF Q or Slope Alt		Output Gain	LF In/Out	LF Gain	LMF In/Out	LMF Gain	MF In/Out	MF Gain	HMF In/Out	HMF Gain	HF In/Out	HF Gain

DYN Parameter Layout in Expand Mode, Knob Module

Sel In	Knob	Sel In	Knob	Sel In	Knob	Sel In	Knob	Sel In	Knob	Sel In	Knob	Sel In	Knob	Sel In	Knob
	C/L Rel		C/L Depth				E/G Rel		E/G Range				Ext Key		
	C/L Attack						E/G Attack		E/G Hold			Key Listen	HPF Type *		LPF** Type
	C/L Ratio		C/L Knee		Input Gain		E/G Ratio		E/G Knee				HPF Freq *		LPF** Freq
	C/L Thresh		C/L Makeup Gain		E/G Output Gain		E/G Thresh		E/G Hyster-esis			HPF In/Out	HPF* Q or Slope		LPF**Q or Slope

*HPF filter may be labeled “LF” (Low Filter) in the plug-in.

** LPF filter may be labeled “HF” (High Filter) in the plug-in.

Progress Indicators for Session Load and Workstation Connect

Progress indicators appear on the touchscreen when loading sessions and connecting to workstations.

System Status Graphs

The Settings > Workstations page provides a Graphs button, which lets you see status and information for CPU, Memory, and Network activity. Network errors are also logged.

To see Status Graphs for Workstations:

- 1 Navigate to Settings > Workstations.
- 2 Tap Graphs (or press its Soft Key).
- 3 Tap to select a different Workstation (if available) to see graphs for that workstation.

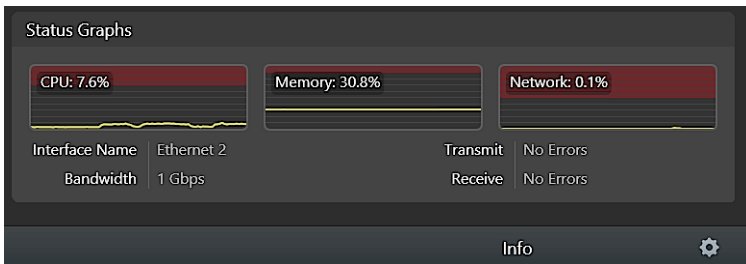


Figure 11. Workstations > Graphs display

- 4 To exit, tap Info or navigate to any other page.

Network Interrupt Indication

Whenever the system detects a network interrupt, the status graphs are outlined in orange.

Chapter 3: Updating S6 System and Workstation Software

The process of acquiring and updating S6 software involves these steps:

- Download the software update from your Avid Master Account and transfer the installer to a USB flash drive
- Log in as Administrator on the S6 Master Module and update Master Module software
- Follow the on-screen instructions to complete the installation (may include power cycling the system, or updating firmware)
- Download and install S6 Workstation and other supporting software, including documentation

Downloading and Transferring Software Updates

To download S6 software and other resources:

- 1 On a separate computer navigate to account.avid.com and log in to your Avid Master Account (or create one if you have not already done so). Software updates (if any), Workstation software, documentation, and other resources are available in the My Products | Products I Own section, under S6 Software Updates.
- 2 Download the latest versions of the S6 Master Module Software (ZIP file) from your Avid account to your computer.



To save time, also download the available workstation software (WSControl for Mac and/or Windows) installers.

- 3 Insert a USB flash drive into an available USB port on your computer.



Do not use the System Restore USB drive! Use a separate USB flash drive.

- 4 Extract (decompress) the .ZIP file containing the Master Module software to unzip it.
- 5 Copy the resulting folder to the top (root) level of your USB drive.

Logging in as Administrator, Updating Master Module Software and Module Firmware

To install and update S6 Master Module software:

- 1 On the S6 Master Module Touchscreen, select Logout. (From the Home screen, navigate to Settings > About, then tap Logout.)
- 2 Select Administrator. When prompted enter the following default password:
password
- 3 Click the File Explorer tile.
- 4 Plug the USB flash drive with the downloaded S6 Master Module installer into one of the available USB ports on the back of the Master Module. The USB drive appears in the left hand column under Computer.
- 5 Tap on the USB flash drive to see the contents.
- 6 Launch (run) the S6MasterModuleInstall software from the flash drive by double-tapping on the icon. Follow the instructions on-screen.
- 7 After the installer has completed you will be prompted to remove USB drives and power cycle the system.
 - Tap Shut Down Now to shut down the entire system immediately.
 - Tap Shut Down Later to quit the install wizard. Do not launch the MasterModule application! Be sure to eject any USB drives, then in Windows go to Settings > Power and choose Shut Down.
- 8 Turn off power, wait for all modules to power down, then power the system back on.

9 If you are prompted to update module firmware after the system restarts, do the following:

- Navigate to the Settings > Surface page and press Update.



If no Update option is displayed either the system hasn't completely booted yet, or a module is selected on that screen. Wait for the system to finish starting up, and be sure no module is selected on-screen.

- When prompted, confirm the update and then wait until all modules have updated (which can take several minutes). Do not turn off any modules during this process. The screen displays a message confirming that the update has completed.

Installing S6 Supporting Software

Your Avid Master Account also provides workstation software for Windows and Mac, and S6 documentation. XMON EUCON and Studio Monitor Pro2 software options are included in these installers.

Whenever you update S6 system software you must also update workstation software on all connected workstations.



EUCON now installs into a default directory for all EUCON devices (including, Artist Series, S3, System 5 and S6) allowing co-install of all software for these devices. In practice, this means you do not need to uninstall and re-install EUCON software when switching between different EUCON control surfaces.

After updating S6 system software, do the following:

- 1 If you have not already done so, on a separate computer navigate to account.avid.com and log in to your Avid Master Account (or create one if you have not already done so). WSControl (workstation) software, documentation, and other resources are available in the My Products / Products I Own section under S6 Software Updates.



You can download these components directly to the workstation(s) you plan to use with S6, or to a USB flash drive as described in the following steps.

- 2 Transfer the installers to a USB flash drive.



Do not use the included System Restore USB drive! Use a separate USB flash drive.

To install WSControl (workstation) software:

- 1 Insert the USB drive containing the downloaded WSControl installer into an available USB port on your workstation.
- 2 Navigate to the USB drive, double-click the Workstation Software installer and follow the instructions on-screen. To install XMON EUCON or Studio Monitor Pro2 (Windows only) make sure their options are checked.



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