Chapter 24: Using the Standalone Software

VENUE Standalone software lets you do all of the following to preconfigure performances, wherever you can use your laptop:

- Learn the basics of the VENUE software interface in preparation for working at a full VENUE system.
- Assign hardware I/O and routing, and name channels.
- Set channel input, EQ, dynamics, pan, and other settings.
- Create and maintain a library of setups, with access to nearly all parameters available on the control surface.
- Store and recall Snapshots, and configure Events.
- Use the Filing features to transfer Shows, Shows Folders, and plug-in presets to/from a compatible USB storage device to transfer data between the standalone software and VENUE.

Transferring data must be done to/from a compatible USB storage device such as a USB key disk or other external USB hard drive.

Differences Between Standalone Software and a VENUE System

The Standalone software is nearly identical to that on a full VENUE system, with the following differences:

Audio Throughput

You cannot play audio through the Standalone software. Real-time audio requires the VENUE hardware.

Plug-In Editing

When a Show is transferred from a complete VENUE system, all plug-ins installed on the D-Show system are visible in the Standalone software as *offline* (unavailable) plug-ins. You can assign offline plug-ins to racks, and assign plug-in rack routing in the Standalone software, and save the routing in snapshots.

You cannot install plug-ins or adjust plug-in parameters unless you are working on the complete VENUE system.

Hardware Configuration

In the Standalone software, you can simulate the hardware configuration of a destination system from the Devices tab of the Options page.

System Requirements

The following are the minimum system requirements for using the VENUE Standalone software:

- Computer running Windows XP Pro or XP Home Edition O/S, Service Pack 1 (Macintosh not supported)
- Minimum 1024 x 768 screen resolution
- Minimum 16-bit color graphics, 32-bit recommended
- Minimum 256 MB RAM, 512 MB recommended
- Minimum 200 MB of available hard disk space, 512 MB recommended
- CD-ROM drive for installation (unless installing from web-download)
- Available USB 1.1 or 2.0 port and compatible USB storage device (such as a flash disk, key disk or other external hard drive) for file transfer

Installation requires Windows Administrator permissions. Once installed, the software can be run under Admin or User accounts.

Installing the Standalone Software

To install the VENUE Standalone software:

1 Do one of the following:
- Download the VENUE Standalone Software Installer from the website (www.avid.com).

– or –

- Insert your VENUE Software Installer into the CD-ROM drive on your Windows XP-compatible computer.

2 Launch the installer and follow the instructions on-screen. The VENUE Standalone software requires no authorization.

Removing the Standalone Software
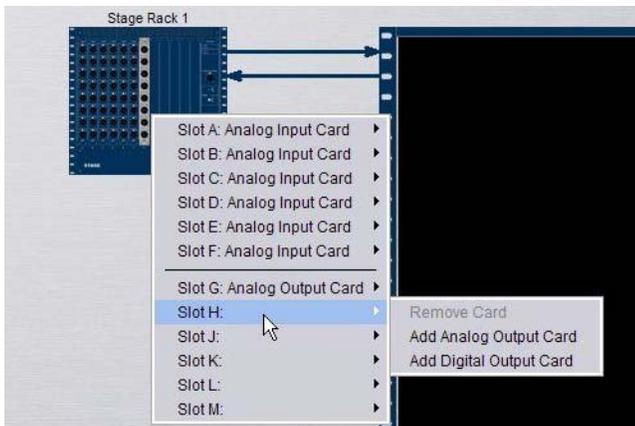
To remove the VENUE Standalone software:

1 Launch the Add/Remove Programs Control Panel.

2 Choose VENUE, then follow the instructions on-screen.

Simulating a VENUE Configuration

You can use the Standalone software to simulate a VENUE system with any number of input and outputs. The corresponding inputs and outputs become available in the Patchbay, allowing you to prepare a show that can transfer directly to the destination system.

To simulate a VENUE system:

1 Launch the Standalone software.

2 Go to the Options page and click the Devices tab.

3 Right-click the console graphic and choose the type of console you will be working with.

4 Right-click an I/O graphic and choose the type of I/O (as available) and specify the number of Input and Output cards on the destination system.

Adding Stage Rack inputs and outputs

Transfer and Filing Quick Start

The basic steps for using the Standalone software and data transfer are as follows:

• Save data to disk, then transfer it to an external USB storage device.

• Transfer data from the USB device, then load the data.

For complete instructions on transferring data, see Chapter 20, "Shows and File Management."

Save and Transfer Data from a VENUE System

To save and transfer data from the complete system:

1 Connect a USB storage device to a VENUE USB port.

2 Use the Save tab of the Filing page to save VENUE data to disk.

3 Go to the Filing page and click the Transfer tab.

4 Do one of the following to select the type of data to transfer:
   • To transfer all data, click the Console icon.
   • To transfer Console Settings, click the Settings icon.
   • To transfer Show Folders, click the Show Folders icon.
   • To transfer individual Shows, click the Shows icon.
   • To transfer Preset Folders, click the Preset Folders icon.
   • To transfer Presets for individual items, click the Built-In icon or the Plug-In icon and choose a processor, plug-in or Input Channel Presets item from the pop-up menu, or click the Scope Sets icon.

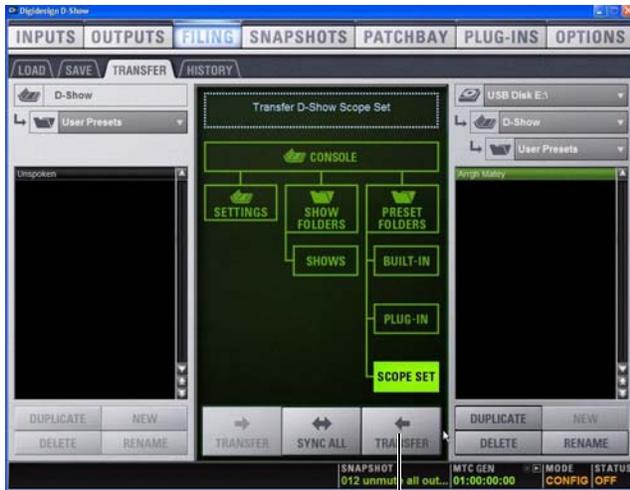**5** In the left column, select the items you want to transfer from VENUE to the portable storage device.

Transferring Show files from VENUE

6 Click the Transfer button.

Transfer and Load Data to the Standalone Software

1 Connect the USB storage device to your laptop. Make sure the drive is mounted before proceeding.

2 Launch the VENUE standalone software.

3 Go to the Filing page and click the Transfer tab.

4 Make sure your USB disk is available in the list at right.

5 Click the Console, Settings, Show Folders, Shows, Preset Folders, Built-In, Plug-In or Scope Set selectors to select the type of data you want to transfer.

Click

Transferring a Scope Set for the standalone software

6 Click the Transfer button. The data is transferred from the USB device to the appropriate VENUE data folders on the laptop.

7 If you chose Console, data is automatically loaded and applied. If you chose any other data type, go to the Filing page and click the Load tab, and load the newly transferred data into the Standalone software.

Creating and Editing Shows and Presets

Use the techniques explained throughout this guide to assign routing, rename channels, and to configure other parameters. Then do the following to save and transfer your work to a complete system.

To save and transfer VENUE data from the standalone software to the complete system:

1 Connect a USB storage device to an available USB port on your laptop.

2 Using the Save tab of the Filing page, save data to disk.

3 Go to the Filing page and click the Transfer tab, and transfer saved data to a compatible USB storage device.

4 Connect the USB storage device to an available USB port on the complete system.

5 Use the Transfer tab of the Filing page to transfer the VENUE data from the USB storage device.

6 Use the Load tab of the Filing page to load the transferred data.

CD Transfer

The VENUE system provides a CD-ROM drive that can also be used as a source device for VENUE data transfer. (You cannot write data to the FOH Rack CD-ROM drive; it is read-only.)

To use a CD for transfer:

1 Using the Standalone software on a laptop or other computer, create and save a show.

2 Locate the VENUE data folder on the system drive.

3 Copy that folder and its contents to a CD-ROM. Make sure the folder is at the root level of the CD-ROM.

4 Burn or write the disc as a Windows-compatible CD-ROM.

5 Insert the CD-ROM into a VENUE CD-ROM drive.

6 In the Filing screen, select the CD-ROM drive as the source for file transfer.

7 When the transfer is complete, eject the CD-ROM.

Leaving a disc in the CD-ROM drive of a VENUE system can slow down the response of some software screens, so it is recommended that you not leave any disc in the drive during a performance. This only applies to a VENUE CD-ROM drive (not the laptop on which you're running the standalone software).

Exporting System Information and Patchbay Information

With Standalone software, a complete system description and/or the contents of each Patchbay page can be exported to a text file. These can be useful for generating an input list (line list) directly from the system. For example, build and customize the Patchbay for an upcoming show, then export and print the channel names list for use during sound check.

To print a system description:

1 Go to the Options > System tab.

2 Click the Info button and follow the on-screen instructions to print a complete system description.

For more information, see "VENUE System Information Export" on page 110.

To export Patchbay names:

1 Go to the Patchbay page you want to export.

2 Click the Export Patch List icon in the upper right corner of the screen.

Export Patch List button

The Patchbay names appear in an open HTML file that you can save and print, or open in an HTML-compatible application for formatting or other modification. For more information, see "Patch List Export" on page 111.