

9 October 2008, Green Hippo Ltd.

Green Hippo Ltd. has announced the full release of their eagerly awaited 3.0.12 software for the award winning Hippotizer Media Server range. Building on the success of previous versions, Director James Ross Heron describes the new version as “the most mature and well rounded update for Hippotizer we have ever released”. In addition to the existing feature set there are over 180 distinct improvements and unprecedented levels of functionality as a result of several new components. Heron adds, “Because our range of hardware is dictated by playback power rather than features, the new functionality added in this software release is like adding eight new products to our range and giving them to current users for free. We like to think it’s our way of rewarding their loyalty.”

The main focus has been on the acclaimed Timeline component. Speed of navigation and fine-tuning are radically improved thanks to a new visual element called ‘diamonds’ which facilitates better cue selection, shifting of time values, and clever grouping making copying or duplication of parameters much simpler and more comprehensive. Furthermore, a new optimised timeline storage format with auto-recovery and unlimited undo make the component a powerful show programming tool. It is now even possible to control even more elements of any server on the network from one or multiple timelines. One new component, PhatController, can also be added to timelines. Because this new feature allows control of external devices via TCPIP or RS232 commands, the timeline can now control external devices, thus taking Hippotizer’s ZooKeeper control centre one step closer to being a full-fledged show control system. The addition of an Automation component to Synchronise parameters such as X and Y movement to feedback from moving stage elements further extends the flexibility with support for various formats and control protocols including Kinesys, Stage Technologies, Hudson Scenic and Scenic technologies.

Stand alone, architectural and permanent installations will benefit from the addition of advanced Scheduling to the Clock component. HippoNet functionality allows multiple systems to share the same clock so synchronisation of events now has an unrivalled accuracy across multiple servers.

The emphasis on control, and being controlled, is extended by the addition of RS232 and TCPIP commands for any or all functions. Extension of DMX control to cover various components such as Automation, PhatController, BeatBridge or Timeline and several new drag and drop Midi component revisions extend the degree to which Hippotizer can be controlled by remote devices.

Media Management is now much faster when synchronising media across multiple servers thanks to revised network protocol. The ability to add media expiry dates has been welcomed in many commercial applications where clips must only run for set durations before becoming invalid.

But not all the new features are geared towards providing more advanced and sophisticated setups. A new playback state called Simple Mode allows users to select clips with one click and choose from a bank of advanced transitions to bring professional mixing and playback to shows having the shortest of pre-programming times or ‘on the fly’ environments such as nightclubs and festivals. And the new BeatBridge component provides class-leading beat detection to influence any parameter live and in real time to any sound source.