



User Manual  
v 2.2  
Broadcast/Pro/Standard

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# Quick Start Overview

NextKast Internet Radio Automation Software is specifically designed to get your internet radio station up and running fast and sounding professional in the least amount of time. Although it is possible to manually create play lists, it mainly offers a system of setting up a rotation and then allowing the software to automatically create play lists from that rotation.

Here are the steps to get started:

1. Create music category folders and import your music
2. Check .mp3 tags of each track to make sure it is accurate
3. Create a new rotation
4. Drag and drop the categories in the order you would like and create a rotation
5. Let the software do all the work and continuously create the play lists and play them
6. Connect to your Icecast, Shoutcast, or Live 365 server to transmit your station to the world.

## Here is the main screen and what each section is named

The screenshot shows the main interface of NextKast Internet Radio Automation Software 3.0.0. The interface is divided into several sections, each with a label and an arrow pointing to it:

- RadioCMP**: Top left corner with icons for Mute, Playback, Sound, Automated, and Settings.
- Broadcast Settings**: Top right corner showing current broadcast status (OFF AIR) and time (12:00 PM).
- Category Folders**: A row of buttons for organizing music, including Power Tracks, Re-Current, Slow, and Station Id's.
- Add Category Button**: A plus sign icon for adding new categories.
- Playlist/Rotation Screen**: A central area with tabs for Track List, Add Music, Live, and Playlist Builder.
- Rotation List**: A table listing tracks with columns for Sweeper, Category, Time On, Track Name, Length, and Re-Pick.
- Assignable Samples**: A section on the right side of the Rotation List table.
- Play List**: A section at the bottom of the Rotation List table.
- Rotation/Playlist Select**: Buttons for selecting a rotation (Rotation.rot) or playlist (newPlaylist.pls).
- New Rotation Button**: A button for creating a new rotation.

Sweeper	Category	Time On	Track Name	Length	Re-Pick
<input type="checkbox"/>	Station Id's	12:46.56 PM	saDanceRadio13 - Broadcasting	00:00:17.2	ClickToRepick
<input type="checkbox"/>	Power Tracks	01:53.34 PM	Kyau Albert - Made Of Sun (Stoneface Terminal Remix)	00:07:15.2	clickToRepick
<input type="checkbox"/>	Re-Current	12:54.27 PM	Deadmau5 - Raise Your Weapon	00:03:54.1	ClicktoRepick
<input type="checkbox"/>	Top 40	12:58.21 PM	Orkidea - Unity (Solarstone's Pure Mix)	00:09:24.1	ClicktoRepick
<input type="checkbox"/>	Station Id's	01:07.45 PM	saDanceRadio12 - Become A Sponsor	00:00:35.2	ClicktoRepick
<input type="checkbox"/>	Re-Current	01:08.20 PM	DJ Freefall ft Lina Marie - Fly Away (Original		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Power Tracks	01:13.13 PM	Kyau Albert - Made Of Sun (Stoneface Termin		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Top 40	01:20.28 PM	Ken Loi - Ken Loi (Electric Neon)	00:06:05.3	ClicktoRepick
<input type="checkbox"/>	Re-Current	01:26.22 PM	Cammel - Red Poison	00:07:17.0	ClicktoRepick
<input type="checkbox"/>	Slow	01:38.41 PM	Krewella - Alive (Extended Mix)	00:04:51.0	ClicktoRepick
<input type="checkbox"/>	Station Id's	01:38.41 PM	saDanceRadio13 - Broadcasting	00:00:17.2	ClicktoRepick
<input type="checkbox"/>	Power Tracks	01:38.58 PM	Kyau Albert - Made Of Sun (Stoneface Terminal Remix)	00:07:15.2	ClicktoRepick
<input type="checkbox"/>	Top 40	01:46.13 PM	We Are Presidents - Hello World (Alvino Remix)	00:07:03.8	clickToRepick

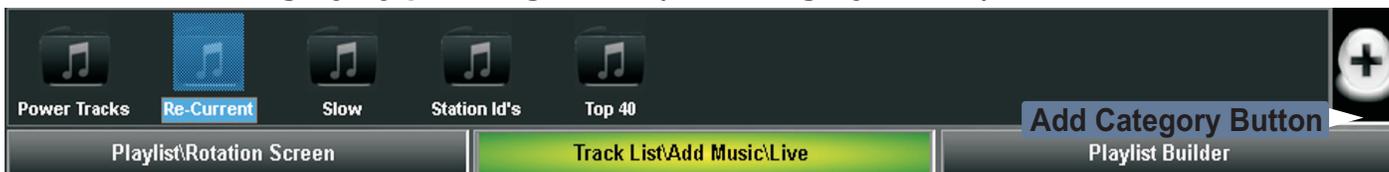
# Quick Start Create Categories

The first step is to create a category for all the different types of music/content you want to use. An example for a top40 station would be categories like this

- New – Latest song releases
- Re-Current - Songs that were hits but still popular
- Slow - Slow Songs
- Power Tracks - Very popular Songs that Play More Often
- Station Id's - Your station Id's
- Commercials- Advertisements

As you will see, breaking up your music content into categories will help create a sound for your station

**Create each category by pressing the '+' (add category button)**



**Name the category from the dialog**



**Repeat for each category you would like to create**

**Add music by Dragging song files into the Track list/ Add Music Screen or using the “+” Dialog. The Music Will Be added to the active Category**



## Quick Start Create Rotation

Final Step is to check the .mp3 tags by selecting each song, update any in-accurate information by re-entering correct information and pressing the 'update mp3 tag' button. This step is not mandatory but will help make sure song separation works properly. Only Song Name, Artist name, And Album are important.

Press the new rotation Button



In the Dialog name the rotation.



We now have a blank rotation. Drag the categories from the top and create a rotation by placing the categories in a list of how the songs/content need to be picked.



Once the list is complete, press the Rotation.rot (or the new one you created) icon and the automation will start. Nextkast will now automatically pick music in the categories listed. To broadcast, go to the broadcast settings screen and input your server information.

## Downloading

The software is downloaded for free from [www.nextkast.com](http://www.nextkast.com)

The download is a fully functional version which has a built in time down-count which will require registration and payment prior to the down-counter reaching zero. The free trial is for 4000 minutes for full featured operation. Registration is accomplished through the website [www.nextkast.com](http://www.nextkast.com)

Even through this is a fully functional trial version, updates to the software are available via a button in the user interface screen and via the same process after registration. Updates will not affect the trial down counter. (see section "UPDATES")

## Installation

The software can be installed on any Windows platform by executing the downloaded file and following the prompts. The installation must always be carried out on C local drive and the installer will put the program in a folder below the C drive "program" folder called "nextkast". The user can change slightly the folder name of where the program will reside during installation if desired but it is strongly recommended to install in the default folder C:\nextkast.

NOTE: The music library that this program will use can be placed on any accessible drive by options available within the program once it is opened. (see section LIBRARY)

NOTE: The actual program must remain on the C Drive.

## Software Overview

Nextkast internet radio operation software can be run as a fully automatic play out system supporting pre-determined “rotations” which are made up of music categories, promos, id’s, spots, jingles etc at the design of the user at initial startup or later additions as individually required by the user. Also the software supports the generation of predetermined play lists for various periods of time (1 hour to 30 days) which, during those play lists, the user can do advance “voice-tracking” within the software once a play list has been generated. Standard .pls play list files are available by import as well. Rotations and play lists can be advance scheduled by through optional use of the “scheduler” within the software. (see SCHEDULER)

There are hot button carts on the right of the air screen as well as a quick voice recorder available at the bottom of the hot buttons. There is a secondary audio output which can be used as an off air cue player (“preview”) set in options and the entire system is capable of being operated in the “live assist” mode which is referred to as “manual” to allow live air talent to operate during their program, fully manually regarding the music players, song selections, commercials, id’s etc.

The software contains smooth fade transition settings available to the user to setup to their preference as well as “post” identification (start of vocal part of the song) by the user on a one time per song basis and also selectable fade and crossover points of the music on a one per song basis. Many and most times the default settings of the software will crossfade more than adequately for most users.

There is NO database involved allowing for a much cleaner more reliable setup. Instead music files will be brought into the software under various user defined “categories” and stored in category folders in the windows directory structure under multiple library folders whose drive and folder locations are determined by the user at the program initial setup time and can be modified or completely changed as required at any time. All category folders will be built by the software on the drive and under the windows folder as directed by the user at setup time and can be modified, added to or deleted or replaced as required later using the “settings” button.

The software uses data in the mp3 tag of mp3 music files and also supports wave file format. There is a software adjustable crossfade time whereby the music will crossfade upon detection of Nextstart marker or a preset adjustable by the user (auto Trim) so that there is no dead air. Sweeps can be tagged to particular files if desired or played sequentially through a third sweep only player in the software.

There are controllable inputs for “line” and “microphone”. Streaming to any one or more stream provider like Shoutcast, IceCast, Live365, etc is configurable from within the program (broadcast) settings quickly and easily. There is a search for items in library and drag and drop is supported on selections as well as a manual individual “repick” on rotation and play list selections. Last date and time played for any selection is displayed.

Top of hour id or break can be configured to occur exactly at top of hour if required and additionally the software has a “skimmer” recorder that allows recording a show or segment of any item at the discretion of the operator.

This automation software is by far the simplest to install and operate as well as easy learn with most every user up and running in less than an hour! The key to this is that almost every part of the software is present on the one HOME screen display so the user does not need to hunt for screens and modules to accomplish most of their desired items.

## Installation Considerations

Installation of the program software will by default take place in the C:\nextkast folder which will be generated if it does not already exist. Initially the software install will make a few required folders under the Nextkast folder by default on installation. The user can change these sub folders to reside on another drive or location by setting the location inside the program under SETTINGS at any point after the install is completed.. Wherever the “music” library and other files are placed is fine but the program itself must remain under C:\nextkast\nextkast.exe. There are about 2 dozen internally required files there at that default location that are part of the software to operate.

Once the location of the audio files are determined then the folder layout would typically be as follows:

X:\My Nextkast Library - where X is any drive and folder name is user chosen

X:\My Nextkast Library\Music – Make many categories to contain your music

X:\My Nextkast Library\Playlist – Playlists are stored when generated by the user

X:\My Nextkast Library\Rotations – Rotations are stored when user generates

X:\My Nextkast Library\Sweeps – Sweeps are kept here for the software to use

PLEASE NOTE; The designated library location drive (folder) MUST be available to NextKast as NextKast is started or library will show as blank or default to the contents under C:\nextkast\music. Refreshing the library after NextKast is opened will not find a library that was unavailable at program start. NextKast plays all selections directly from the file in the library location as specified in NextKast under the “settings” tab.

ALSO If you use a library location other than the default then once you set that location folder in “settings” then re-start NextKast...it will automatically generate the subfolders Music, Playlist, Rotations, and Sweeps under that new Libray Folder that you specified in settings, thus making it easy to set your music files into catagorties under the music subfolder either via Nextkast or by using Windows to copy your mp3 files into the Music subfolder.

Typical categories might be Male, Female, Instrumental, Country etc. The number of catagories is almost limitless so you can have whatever you wish for better program control especially in automation mode. (See Part II)

## A Word About Audio Files

NextKast supports the playing of wav files as well is ideally suited to play mp3 files. As music files are brought into the NextKast Library, if they are mp3 files, then NextKast will use the information (artist and title) as found in the mp3 file tag. IF there is no file tag on the mp3 file (many sometimes do not have tags) then NextKast will use the artist and title information from the Windows filename.

For example most libraries of audio files use the ARTIST space – space TITLE naming convention for windows audio files. That is how Nextkast will display that audio file as song title and artist. However if that audio file contains an ID3 tag of whatever version, then Nextkast will use the artist and title information in that tag to display artist and title. Most stations copy the Windows mp3 filename information (artist – title) into the ID3 tag for standardization. This can be done in mass using the free utility mp3tag software which can be downloaded free at

<http://www.mp3tag.de/en/download.html>

However Nextkast will operate with or without tags but tag use is recommended.

# Main User Interface Buttons Described



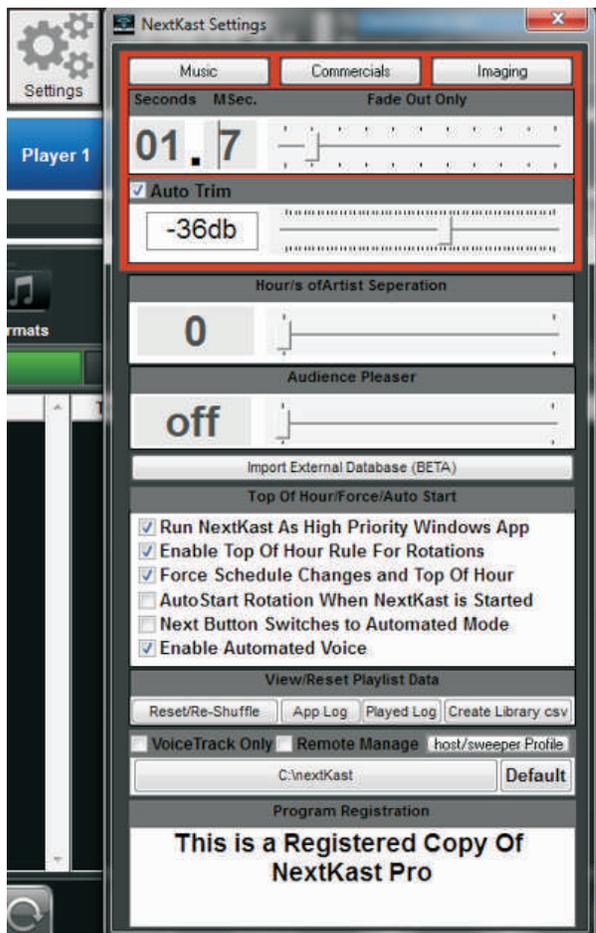
**RADIO CMP:** This button toggles on off and when orange color is on which engages the built in limiter-compressor-expander. To change the compressor settings simply right click this orange button to access the settings of the sounds. The button is off and the audio processor bypassed when it is white in color. The settings of the compressor are defaulted and are also user adjustable.

**HELP:** Left clicking this button will display options to Send a bug report, or open some help videos regarding nextkast, or check for availability of a version upgrade. If an upgrade is available it is strongly recommended to download it, execute it using all defaults including restarting of nextkast at the end. (on an update do not check "make a desktop icon" because there already is a desktop icon from the original install.)

**MUTE PLAYBACK SOUND:** This toggle button when white is not muted and when red in color the system sound card is muted. (Careful as this might be the on-air sound when using your pc to feed a transmitter)

**MANUAL-AUTOMATED:** This button is toggled between fully manual (red) programmer at console mode, to fully automated (green) software play out unattended operation. These two modes will be covered individually in detail further on here.

# Settings Window



**Crossfade time** will set the time for crossfades in Automated mode. Each type of Category ( Music / Commercials / Imaging ) can have it's own fade time.

**Fade only mode**, double click on crossfade time label in settings to change fade to use autotrim nextstart and not move back the crossfade time into previous track.

**Auto Trim** functions to end or start a selection when it's audio decays to the level set. Each type of Category ( Music / Commercials / Imaging ) can have it's own Auto Trim.

**Artist Separation** Will enforce same artist play separation by hours and fractions of hours. Artist separation is ignored for the category types Commercials and Imaging. Multiple artist can be checked by the system if they are separated by the word 'feat' or entered into the mp3 tag as multiples.

**Audience Pleaser (streaming only)** Default is Off and is only used if tune out specs are known from your streaming provider, which will only pick songs with set audience tune out levels.

**Enable Top of Hour Rotations** This when checked will force a new rotation in Automated at approximately the top of the hour when the next available track ends.

**Force Schedule at Top of Hour** This when checked will force any existing schedule for the next hour to start at exactly top of hour.

**Autostart when Nextkast starts** If checked then Nextkast will start up running the scheduled rotation or play list.

**Reset play times** will reset all stored last-played history and song order

**View App Log** will show the program start and stop dates and times

**View Played Log** will show the log of songs played and when. A separate log is also kept in the nextkast Directory to log all commercials played ( files located in category folders that are of the 'Commercial' Type)

**Set Remote Drive** permits Library to be on a different drive and folder. This is a very important consideration as many times the full library will not want to be on a C drive(default) but may be on another drive or on an accessible network drive and may be also under a windows folder such as "Master Library" as set using "settings" button in Nextkast usually at install-setup time but can be changed as required. (This drive must be available as Nextkast starts up)

**Sweeper/Talent Profile**

**See Sweeper Profiles Voicetrack Job Section in this help File**

## Library Location / Software Updates

NOTE: The named drive file location for the library MUST be available to Nextkast when NextKast is started (opened ) or else that library cannot be found by NextKast and will come up blank. Also on initial installation NextKast will default the library automatically to C:\NextKast\music\ but you can change this using “settings” button to point to any available drive and folder and a restart of NextKast will recognize the revised location and build NextKast’s subfolders there.

INSTALLATION after download or update is best accomplished using the default values including “start NextKast after finish”

### UPDATES

SOFTWARE UPDATES are triggered by the white HELP button sub-menu “check for update”and will install the new version if required right over the old version with all settings intact. Again take the defaults on any update and the program will operate with the new version and all settings that the old version had. This update operation can be done with Nextkast running and the installation-update will close the program as part of that process and then optionally start it up again as the update completes with the original program settings all intact. (on an update do not check for a desktop icon because it already exists from the original install)

### LIBRARY suggestions

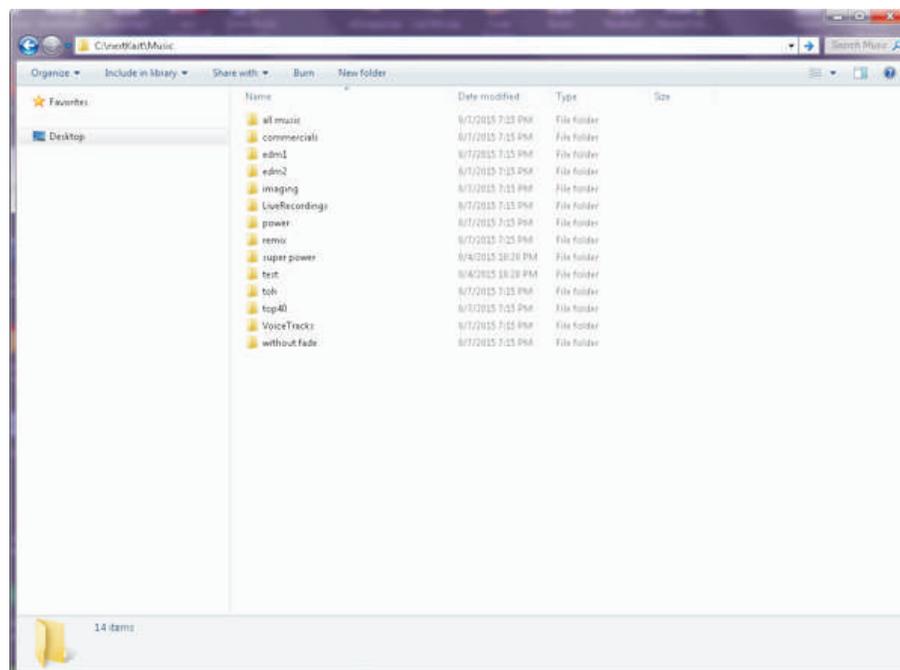
To make any radio automation playout system perform properly, some advance thinking and decisions need to be taken in advance to layout the music files that the software will play either manually or in automation. With Nextkast you can use any of your existing (mp3/wav) music files from their current locations on your hard drive BUT organizing the files in Windows folders based on your category preferences will allow Nextkast to play them in a more organized and controllable fashion. For example having your library of music under a Windows folder called, say “Music Library” on any accessible drive and all of your music and other audio files in Windows subfolders under Music Library folder will prove much easier to configure but is not a requirement of Nextkast.

# Library Location

Your music files when introduced to Nextkast(see below) will be copied into category within the Nextkast library which is located as earlier stated, by the drive and folder location entered into the “default” location specified under “settings” inside Nextkast. Initial installation will default to C:\Nextkast\Music and create those folders as part of the install BUT upon opening the Nextkast you can change that default to any existing drive and EMPTY folder by selecting settings where you will browse to the folder you wish to place the Nextkast music library under. THIS folder is NOT the folder and categories where your music files are now.....it is instead a top folder where Nextkast will build its own copies of each of your music files using categories that you will build-designate from within Nextkast.

NOTE: Although Nextkast does not use a database to find it's/your music...what it does is make its own copy of your music file and place that copy in its own(Nextkast's) music library folder, the location of which is set out in the settings tab of NextKast.

To recap; Make a Windows folder name such as “NextKast Master Libray” on an accessible drive and aim Nextkast at that folder using the settings tab in Nextkast. (default browse in Nextkast).....now you are ready to introduce your music files, wherever they may be, into Nextkast.



# Screen Modes

The Nextkast screen is divided into six horizontal sections basically. The top of the screen has the major program setup and control buttons. Under that are the two virtual CD players that handle playing the files. The third down horizontal area is black in color and has a large plus sign on it's right side + . This is the area where all of your categories will appear and there can be multiple lines so a scroll mouse bar will appear near the + side if multiple lines of categories are generated...see CATEGORIES.

Below the Category space is FOUR VERY IMPORTANT MODE bars which select how the program will operate and with what features as you select one of the three modes. The selected mode will be hi-lighted in Green and each mode will be explained further down here. For now select "Play list Rotation" on the left of the line to be green. The screen below changes per which mode you have selected and you can do most operations in operating the software by using one of these three modes. See MODES.

Below the mode button bars is a large black area where the music files will appear as you operate and some other required controls are there as required for the three various modes...more on that below.

Playout only screen with only controls needed during playout. The playout only screen was designed to focus on showing only what is needed when a live host / or playout only controls are needed.



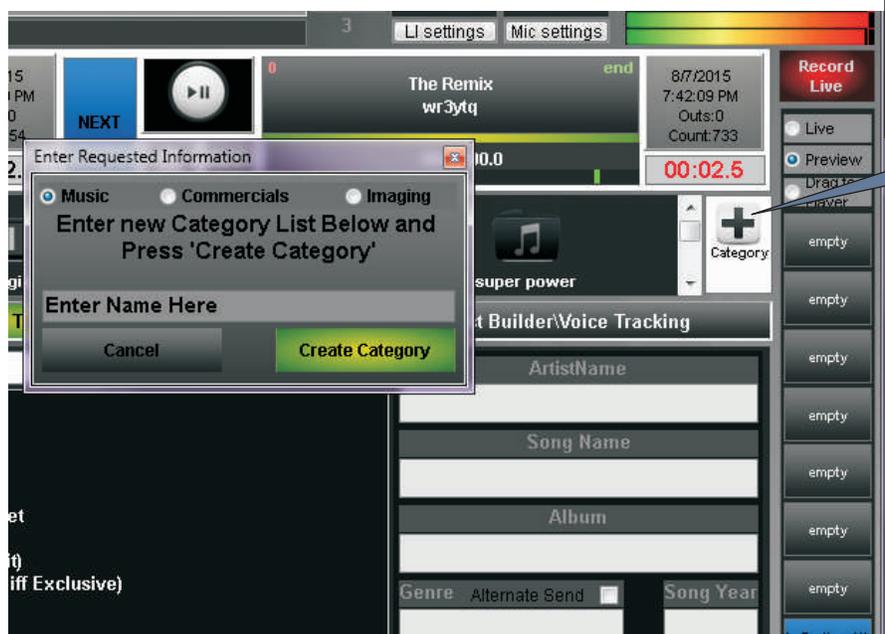
## Getting Started

Before you bring your music and audio files into Nextkast you need to consider what CATEGORIES you want within Nextkast. They might be examples such as

Power  
Recurrent Gold  
Top 40  
Commercials  
Drops and Sweepers  
Slow  
Etc....

Make as many categories as you please...using the simple procedure below.

Whatever your preferences are, and there can be as many as you want...dozens and dozens if you wish, you must now first create those blank categories with Nextkast to make them ready to receive your music audio files. See CATEGORIES. Be sure to select category type, so for Music select Music, for commercials select Commercials, and for Drops and sweepers select Imaging. If you do not require different cross fade times, Music type can be selected for all.

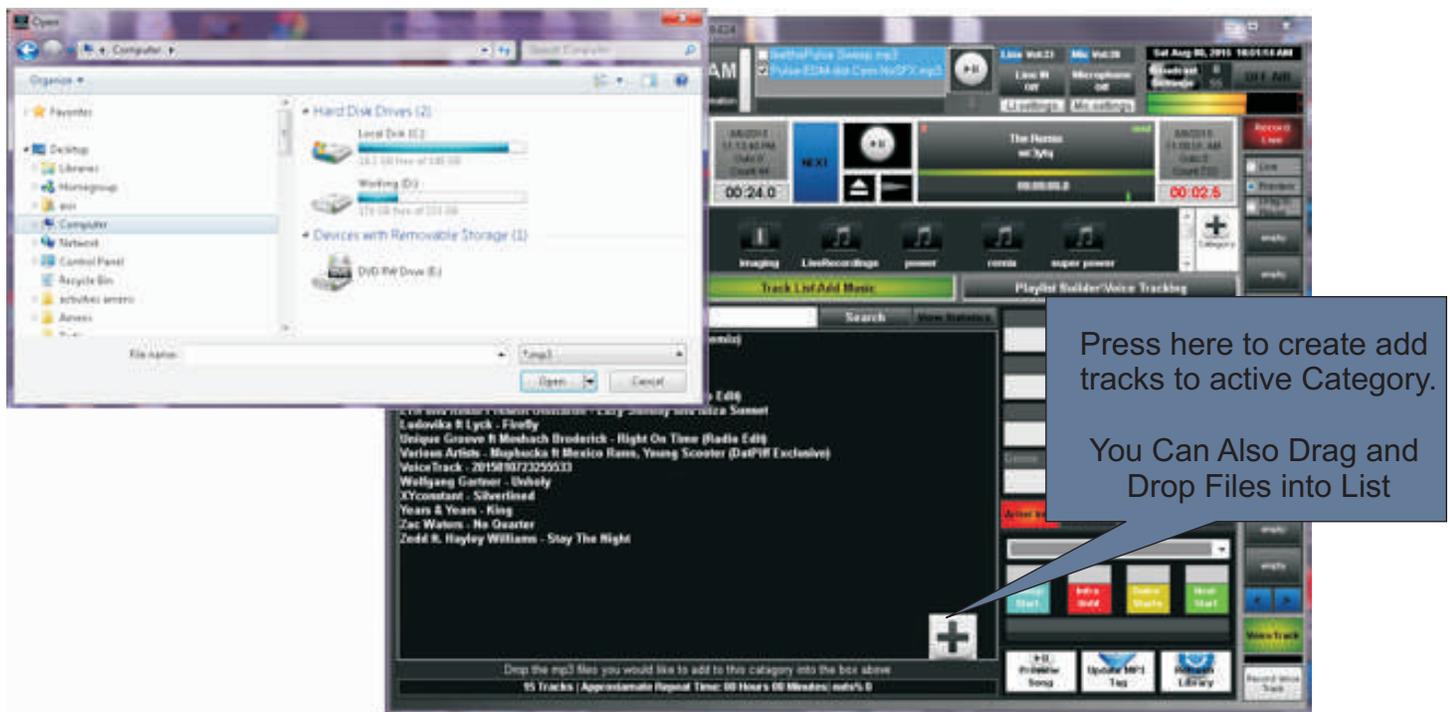


### CATEGORIES:

As mentioned the next first step is to define “your” music categories that will be used inside Nextkast. To do this hit the + plus symbol to the right of the categories area and name your category repeatedly. Select the type of Category this will be ( Music/Commercials/Imaging) Then press “create category”. Each Category so made will show up in the scrollable space to the left of the + plus symbol. And have a music note icon with it. If using “Natural Log” traffic software with this program then one of your categories must be “advertising” otherwise you can name them as you choose.

If you make a category that you want to delete simply right click it’s icon and delete it and its contents (which are at this point empty). Clicking the Category Icons in Track list Mode or Play list BUILDER or Tracklist / Add Music Mode will show the music file content of the Categories which are empty at this point...but now lets add your music to each category.

## Adding Music Files to The Categories



To add music to any of the created Categories you need to be in the TRACKLIST/ADD MUSIC Mode:

There are several ways to add one or many music files to any Category. (note as previously mentioned..using an outside program such as the free MP3TAG.exe to make sure that all your music mp3 files have a valid mp3 tag is highly recommended prior to adding those files to Nextkast.

First select one/any of the categories that you made above in Nextkast by clicking it's icon to light it up blue. (will later appear as white highlight) This is one of the categories that your music files will go into.

There is a large + symbol to the lower right of the large black music file box in this mode. Clicking this + will open a Windows file browse window to allow you to select a folder on your disk where you keep your music files and open it to show those files. By windows selecting (hi-lighting) one, some or all of those files shown and clicking open then those files will be added to the Nextcast music library in that category. If preferred you can simply open a windows explore folder window and directly drop and drag(left mouse) music files from a Windows folder right into the black Nextkast Box and those file or files will be added to (copied into) the highlighted category and displayed in the Nextkast box.

You can add the same audio file to as many categories as you require AND if you try to add it to the same category more than once the program will know and will just overwrite the file so you will not get duplicates within a category.

Removing a song from a category you simply select the song in the Nextkast box and right click it and delete...NOTE it will only remove it from the Nextkast music library folder...it will still exist in your own original music folder on your drive.

NOTE: You can also drag entire Directories into the Category area, this will import the Directory as a category and all the tracks in that directory.

# Marking Your Tracks for Sweepers/Intro/Outro Next Start/URL Embed



IMPORTANT Please note that there is a BLUE Progress Bar at the bottom left of the screen and it shows that Nextcast is busy updating or importing files so do not proceed with further operations until the blue bar disappears showing the program is available to edit further files etc. There is a line of four buttons allowing you to add additional artist, cue and more comment information to the tag info to the highlighted song in the song list totally optional. The fourth time button option allows you to prevent the song from playing at certain hours and days if you wish.

The next line of four buttons allows you to specify sweep in, intro time to post, the outro begin time(fade) and the start point of the next item IF in automation. These can be left blank in all but the most demanding situations as the program has default settings for this under the settings heading at top of screen and that generally handles most situations.

The bottom three buttons are important:

Preview Song allows the selected song to be played in the preview player (neither of the virtual CD players)

**Update Tag Info** would only be used if you entered additional information above using the artist, cue, more and time buttons above.

**Refresh Library** can be used anytime to update to right now the state of the audio files in all the categories. Use it often.

## URL EMBED

Embedded URL's into MP3 file now accept streams and remote mp3 files. The URL button for each track allows nextcast to play either a remote mp3 on another server, or a stream from another server. In the case of an mp3, the nextstart marker of the original file will affect the remote MP3 the same way. If the URL is a stream, the length and Nextstart marker of the original mp3 being used will also cause a nextstart. The Name of the File being used as the carrier will pass through as the Meta Data when stream is playing This is great when you need to broadcast a stream for a certain amount of time before moving to the next element.

# Adding Additional Track Info



**Artist Info** allows the editing of the Artist, Song Name, and Album. Genre and Song Year can also be added.

**Related Artist** -Enter artist that may be related, artist repeat rule will include these. Enter name and press enter key to add, highlight and press delete key to remove

*The alternate send option (when checked) will send an alternate text to the encoder to what is currently playing. This can be useful when certain strings need to be sent to ad insertions system.*

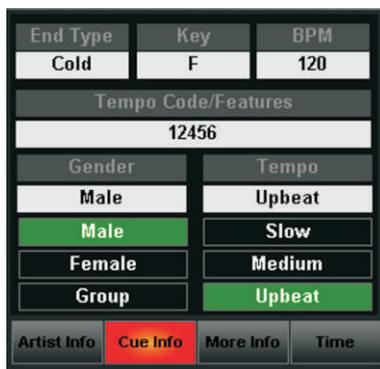
**Sweep Start** - is the point when the sweeper will play. If a sweeper is not marked, it will play right at the start of a track, when enabled in a rotation.

**Intro Until**- is a marker that indicates the start of the song body

**Outro Starts**- marks when the songs body has ended

**Next Start** - is the mark that marks when the next track should start, if this is not marked and auto trim is enabled, it will be set automatically.

A specific **sweeper** can be marked to the song by selecting it from the list and pressing update mp3 tag. Sweepers get added to the available list by dragging the file into the top center sweeper player.



**The Cue Info** tab has other information from the track that will be displayed when the track is loaded into an active player. The End Type is displayed on the player when a track is loaded and **Tracks marked 'nofade' will NOT fade out when next start occurs. Tracks Marked 'Cold' will not cross-fade**

**Gender** - this will indicate the gender of the track. Only mark gender for tracks you do not want to play concurrently, for instance, if you do not want two female tracks to play after one another, then mark all female tracks, Do not Mark the Male Tracks.

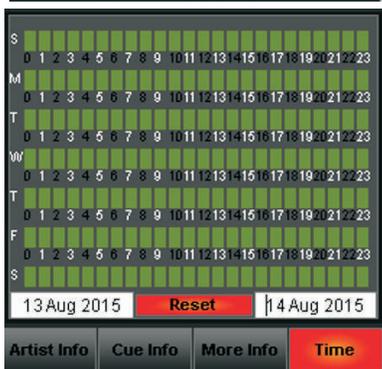
**Tempo** - this also works just like the gender, only mark tracks you do not want to concurrently play - like two slow songs in a row.

**Rating system** - favor tracks (1-5 setting available)

This allows tracks that are marked between 1 and 5 to play more often than the rest of the category. this feature can be used to play more popular tracks more often. For instance if you want a tracked to be picked 5X more than others than you would set the rating to 5 for that track. Remember to update mp3 tag after you change the rating on any particular track.

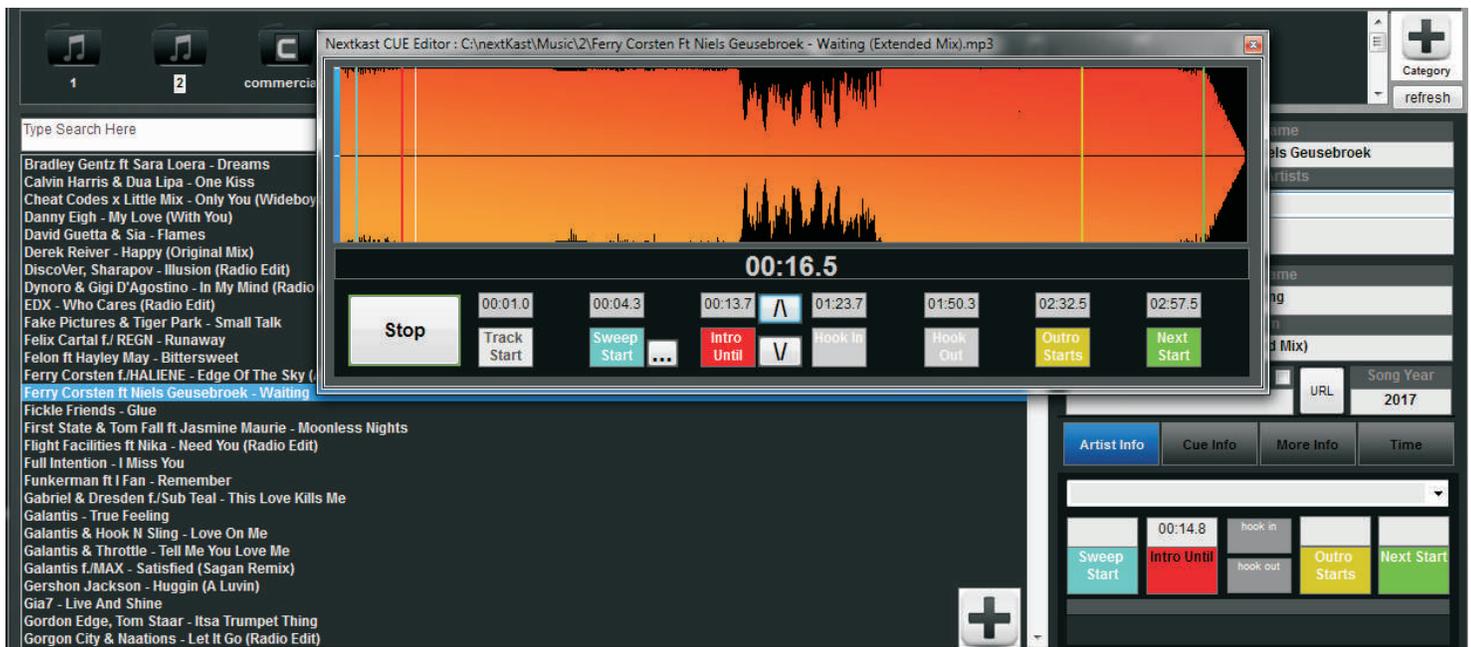


**More Info Tab** contains other information about this track like Composer, Publisher and record label.



**The Time tab** allows the restriction of either daily and hourly time for the system to play the track, or a date range that the track will be allowed to play. The illustration shows a track that is allowed to play all days of the week, all hours, but will only play August 13th, 2015 to August 14th, 2015.

# Cue Editor Window



In addition to the simple cue editor available in the tracklist add music screen nextkast also provides a larger view to edit cue markers. To open the screen simply double click on the track for the Cue Editor to appear.

Operation is similar to the simple cue editor, press the cue label to mark, but in addition you can fine tune a mark using up and down arrows that become visible when you click on the value text box.

A static sweeper can also be assigned using the ... button next to the sweep start label.

When the window is closed a dialog will confirm changes are to be saved and all the cue markers will be saved and updated as requested.

# Overlay Sweepers/Automated Announcements

NOTE At the top center of the screen there is a third “sweeper” player.

The sweeper player is intended for playing overlay sweepers over song transitions or to play dry sweepers over songs at marked times. The Sweep Start shown on the previous page can be marked at a point in the track to trigger either the active sweeper (highlighted blue) or a specific sweeper as assigned. The check marks to the left of the tracks listed in the top sweeper player indicate that the sweeper will be included in the rotation of sweepers played. Each time a sweeper is played the next available sweeper in the list will rotate. For a sweeper to play over a track or during the transition, the Enable Sweeper transition must be checked next to the category in the rotation list. This ensures that when that track is being played that either the next rotated sweeper will play when the Sweep start mark is reached, or the assigned sweeper will play when the sweeper start mark is reached. If no sweep start marker is set, then nextkast will play the sweeper right at the start of the track.

A Static Sweeper can also be assigned to a track, and will play regardless of whether the sweeper checkbox is checked. Static sweepers can be assigned by selecting ‘Choose Custom Filepath’

## Automated / Microsoft Speech Announcements:

We have added the ability to automate Song Title announcements and other announcements using the sweeper player. When NextKast Loads you will notice 3 - “Automated ..” options in the sweeper player list. They allow for the software to make announcements using the MS speech voice

1. Automated Title Announcement: This will announce the track title as a sweeper..
2. Automated Station ID & Title Announcement: This will announce station ID located below large clock and song title/
3. Automated Message & Title Announce: This will announce the message typed in the send message textbox found by clicking the button next to the clock and the song title.



## Manual / Live Assist / Automated

This TRACKLIST/ADD MUSIC MODE mode can be used to easily move tracks single or multiple(shift click) from one category to another by right clicking the file or files.... We have stayed in the TRACKLIST/ADD MUSIC MODE thus far because it is this mode that an operator will use to actually manually search, select and play music and commercials and jingles on air and search for requests. You could call this live assist. The play icon on the top bar on screen must be set to RED – MANUAL. In this mode the operator will search and pick his/her music etc from ALL categories and “load it into either player”. He will use the player play button to start the item. Once a search phrase is entered and SEARCH is pressed then the results are displayed on a sub-search screen. Scrolling and hi-lighting the desired line will give an option box to Load to Player or Preview or to display all the contents of just the category that that selection is in. The usual action would be to “Load Into Player” The sub-search screen stay open to allow multiple searches to continue or an X at right to close it and return to your category display.

In this TRACK LIST/ADD MUSIC mode where your Category contents are displayed the Manual or Live Assist is accomplished by “Searching” for music or other audio files such as Jingles or whatever and via that search, “Loading To Player” to be manually played so you can only get two items ahead because you have two players.

You will use the manual playback button to start the CD player and the song can be manually faded early using the right arrow fade button.

IMPORTANT: This “manual live assist” has the Manual/Automation in the Manual mode meaning the button is Orange in color. If you wish to operate in a “semi automation mode” while in manual live assist then you can place the man/auto button to “green” and the software will go from one player playing to the other player playing automatically BUT you must continue to search and load the selections into the players but automation (Man/Auto button green)will fade one to the other and play. search and insert tracks on current rotation or playlist by

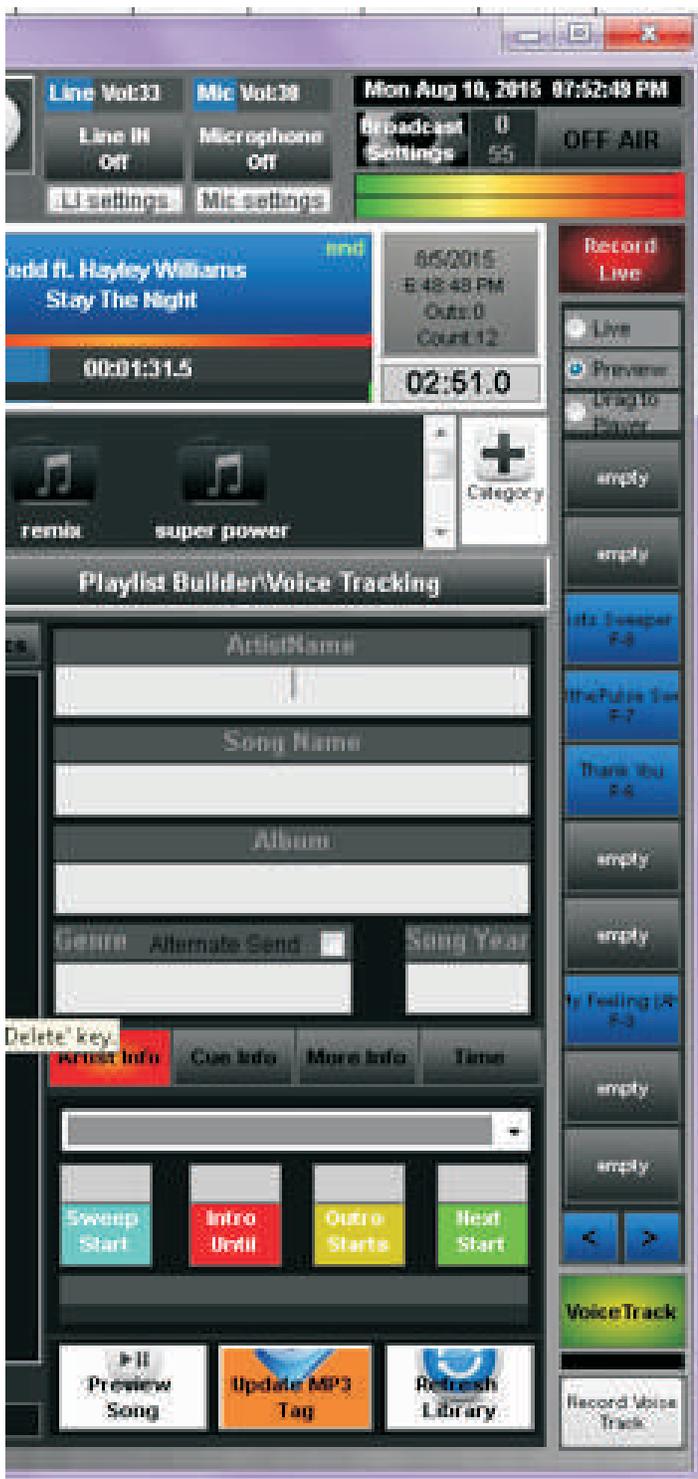
### Added a track into Current Hour Via Search and Insert

A user can double click anywhere in the active rotation or play list to insert a new track. The search window will appear, search for the track to insert, and then double click the track to insert. Make sure to hit refresh occasionally on the search window to make sure the search library is up to date. Double Clicking on place where you want to insert track, then double clicking on result to insert.

Semi Live Voice tracking can also be done in this screen, refer to Voice track shortcuts in this manual



## Sound FX / Hot Buttons



On the right vertical side of the screen are 10 Pages of 10 (100) Hot Buttons for instant play. These also can be loaded with jingles, ids, advertisements etc for use in live assist(manual) by simply finding the audio item you wish to load either within the Nextkast program screen OR directly from any Windows displayed folder and using drag and drop to place the audio in the Hot Button position. These Hot Buttons are available for playing instantly and do not fade or overlap but are a very convenient source for Live assist-Manual effects. The Hot buttons can also be activated from the keyboard buttons f1 to f10. The hot buttons also will be recorded into the voice tracks if triggered during a voice track recording.

The three option buttons above the FX buttons determine how the samples get played back.

There are three options:

**Live:** this will play the FX on the air as it is pressed

**Preview:** This will allow you to hear the sample/fx but it will not go on air.

**Drag to Player:** This will allow you to drag the FX button onto the next available Player to play on air.

# Automation Operation

Automated playout of the software requires at this point that a music library exists that Nextkast knows of it's location and that it contains audio files (likely mp3) that are organized into some or many categories.

Nextkast works on PLAYLISTS and is fully compatible with play list files from Winamp (.pls) as well as allows users to generate their own play lists (preferred) within Nextkast.

Automation is turned ON by clicking the Manual/Automation button on the top left of the screen.

IF you are operating in Live Assist mode you may operate "semi automation" under the Tracklist/Add Music green mode whereby the players will fade one to the other providing you manually drag and drop and eject the selections from the track list BUT real Automation mode occurs when you are in the Playlist/Rotation Screen with the Automation button green. To do this you must prepare the music library to generate Rotations or Playlists which we shall now cover.

ROTATION is a listing of categories within the software that is built once by the user and instructs the automation playout what music categories to pick each selection for one or more hours of unattended automated playout. (Voice tracks are covered later may be optionally part of any rotation) Many refer to rotation as a "clock" that keeps the automation playout picking music, voice tracks, advertisements, station breaks etc on it's own but following the user rules of the rotation. A rotation can be many hours long or just one hour.

To supply the automation with guidance you must set up the rotations ahead of time BUT once set up the same rotations can be used over and over indefinitely so they are usually just set up initially but can be modified or replaced if desired.

So, assuming that you have a "Library" of songs etc set up in Categories within Nextkast a let us now look at defining the Rotation(s) that automation will use to select a variety of songs to playout each time it is invoked.

# Setting Up A Rotation

Rotation generation (and playout) is done in the PLAYLIST/ROTATION SCREEN which is the leftmost of the three Mode Buttons just below the Categories Window about a third of the way down the screen. See screen capture below;

Now pay particular attention to the “new” area of icons at the bottom of the Nextkast screen....you will only have a “home icon “ starting out. These icons each represent a single Rotation for now and later we will also get into “playlist icons” which are also here...but starting out now just pay attention to the Rotations.

To begin to define a rotation there is a button at the lower right of the screen titled “New Rotation” that starts a generation of a fixed rotation. Upon starting with this button a screen will display showing ALL your current categories (right) and a blank rotation list (left). You need to Name the rotation by placing the cursor in the name area and typing a suitable name such as “morning only” or “overnight” or “lunch hour” or whatever fits that your automation playout will use this as a template for picking it’s selections during that time.

Now using the displayed Categories, DRAG and DROP category icons onto the Rotation List and each drag and drop represents one selection in the rotation you are building AND the bottom of the Rotation List displays the amount of time (approximately) for that rotation as you build it. You can continue until you have MORE than one hour or go on as long as you wish. Double Clicking on a rotation will add it to the bottom of the list for faster rotation creation.



New Rotation Button

# Save The Rotation

IF YOU ARE BUILDING A ONE HOUR ROTATION THEN GO OVER BY A MINUTE OR TWO BECAUSE NEXTKAST WILL FADE THE LAST SELECTION AT TOP OF HOUR IF SET TO DO THAT IN “settings” – Force Schedules at Top Of Hour checked AND Enable Top Of Hour for Rotations

If you are unhappy with your drag and drops then the List under construction can be cleared with the Clear Rotation button.

This screen can be accessed and modified simultaneously while Nextkast is playing live to air. When you are satisfied with the rotation then do a “Save Rotation” and this rotation will show up as an icon at the bottom of Nextkast with the file extension “rot” and you can close (X) this screen.

You can call up this Rotation at anytime in Playlist/Rotation screen mode from the main screen by clicking it’s icon on the bottom of screen and waiting for it to load up and it will start playing if in Automation or will be ready to play if in Manual.

## Sub-filtering of elements in rotation like Genre, Gender, Tempo, Features

When each rotation is created flow of the hour can more precisely be controlled via the sub-filtering drop downs. If your track library is marked with these traits for instance, you can always start the hour with a Male, upbeat song. Each of the types can use the default type names in the list, or each of the types like Genre, Tempo, Features, and Gender can be custom created. So for instance if you type in the custom type in the tempo field of a track called 'happy' and you want a happy song to play at that specified category point in the rotation, you would enter 'happy' in the Tempo field of that position in the rotation.

Scheduling will be covered at the end.



# Activating the Rotation

Note: During rotation generation there are small square boxes to the left of each category after it is dragged into the rotation list. These boxes, if checked, will call the top center auxiliary player to play whatever is loaded into it (dragged) and selected. It will play simultaneous with the next selection on the rotation list. This feature is not particularly used in automation and is more suited as a third player for live assist mode. These boxes can be checked and unchecked manually as the rotation is playing to air by an operator if desired.

When a rotation is saved, it can be played by picking its icon at bottom (or Scheduling) then a blue bar will show indicate the next selection that has been picked by the software using the rotation rules laid down earlier. The selection just above the blue bar will show where the current playing selection was...and since it has moved out to the player that is playing a "next" substitute selection will be showing from the same category because the rotation is just that...a list that when the bottom is reached will cycle around to its top and continue over again with different selections from the same categories specified. (this will not occur if rotation is scheduled via scheduler covered later)

Sweeper check boxes can be changed (checked or unchecked) at any spot below or above the blue bar but not at the blue bar as it will not be recognized (too late)

While the rotation is playing the expected time to air for each selection is shown in the TIME ON column. The squares in that time on column do not have any function. IF the rotation is Manually paused then the time column waits until the rotation is put back in automated before it updates the time to air of all selections except the one currently playing.

Individual selections can be added by dropping them into a player from the Tracklist screen while the rotation continues to play its selection IF the mode is switched to Manual. Then that selection can be started with the player play button. While that manual selection is playing then at any point the mouse can be put back to Automate and the rotation will start up again when the manual selection finishes playing. (the next rotation selection will be dropped from playing to compensate for the manual track that played)

>>If a rotation is playing to air you can still use the Tracklist Add Music mode and/or the Playlist/Voice track mode without interrupting the on air Rotation in Automate.

The screenshot displays the NextKast Pro software interface. At the top, there are playback controls for the current track, 'Fade Into Darkness (Club)', and the next track, 'Arty - Kate (Radio Edit)'. Below this is a 'Playlist Rotation Screen' with a table of tracks. A blue bar highlights the current track in the rotation list. A callout box points to this bar with the text: 'Click the rotation here to make is Active and start automation'.

Sweeper	Category	Time On	Track Name	Length	Re-Pick
<input type="checkbox"/>	edm2	09:36:29 PM	Hollywood EDM Minute6 - G	00:01:02.2	clickToRepeat
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	remix	08:29:45 PM	The Remix - wr3yq	00:00:02.5	ClickToRepeat
<input type="checkbox"/>	edm1	08:29:47 PM	edmMinute - edmMinute	00:00:08.7	ClickToRepeat
<input type="checkbox"/>	toh	08:29:56 PM	atWork1 - test	00:00:05.9	ClickToRepeat
<input type="checkbox"/>	all music	08:30:02 PM	Various Artists - Muphacks ft Mexico Ram, Young Scooter (Dat...	00:02:55.6	ClickToRepeat
<input type="checkbox"/>	remix	08:32:58 PM	The Remix - wr3yq	00:00:02.5	ClickToRepeat
<input type="checkbox"/>	without fade	08:33:00 PM	Lost Frequencies - Are You With Me	00:03:07.2	ClickToRepeat
<input type="checkbox"/>	power	08:36:07 PM	Bad Boy Bill DJ Bam Bam ft Miss Palmer - Looking for Somethin...	00:03:00.1	ClickToRepeat
<input type="checkbox"/>	remix	08:39:07 PM	The Remix - wr3yq	00:00:02.5	ClickToRepeat
<input type="checkbox"/>	all music	08:39:09 PM	XYconstant - Silverlined		
<input type="checkbox"/>	remix	08:42:04 PM	The Remix - wr3yq		
<input type="checkbox"/>	commercials	08:42:06 PM	bbeFitness.org - bbeFitness.org		
<input type="checkbox"/>	remix	08:42:45 PM	The Remix - wr3yq		
<input type="checkbox"/>	without fade	08:42:45 PM	Dash Berlin - Go It Alone(Radio)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	remix	08:46:59 PM	The Remix - wr3yq		
<input type="checkbox"/>	edm1	08:46:01 PM	edmMinute - edmMinute		
<input type="checkbox"/>	edm2	08:46:10 PM	Hollywood EDM Minute7 - H		
<input type="checkbox"/>	top40	08:47:12 PM	Kylie Minogue - Put Your Hands Up Basto remix	00:02:58.0	

# Creating and Saving a Playlist

To generate(make) a Playlist to be followed by the automation software to play specifically and exactly the named files in order then you use the Playlist/Voicetrack mode.

The audio file contents of the highlighted Category will be shown on the left of the screen while the right side will show the Playlist contents. Files are added from any selected Category by dragging the file or files from the left side to the right side. You will be prompted for a Playlist name as you drag the first item over. The name will end with .m3u (Winamp compatible)

If the playlist is completed by watching the lengths as shown on the right time columns in the Playlist display pane....say a one hour or half hour approximate list length, the you may save it by clicking the save button below the playlist pane.

Once saved the playlist will appear as a single pls icon on the lower area of the screen with the Rotation icons. Remember that rotations are templates where the music files are picked differently each time the rotation is run BUT a Playlist is always going to play the exact music as it was built to play....always.



# Playlist Generation and Playing

There is a second way (recommended method ) to build multiple playlists here by using the Generate button which will allow you to make separate playlists playing random selections For specific hours up to 24 for specific days.

Press the Generate button and select start date, start hour and how many hours to create NextKast will generate the hours in the form of Date Folders ( date for the playlist to play) and hours 1-24.pls that indicate what hour the playlist should play. These generated playlist will start automatically when the Enable Schedule check box is checked on the Playlist/Rotation Screen. Nextkast will use the rotation schedule to determine which rotations are used to create the playlist. More will be said about this in the Scheduler Section later.

Advertising/Traffic logs can be merged, but requires the logs to be saved in a category name 'Advertising' with the files as dates. We currently accept files from 'Natural Log'. Please contact us if you need to merge other formats more information on page 48.

Once Genrated ,these hours will appear on the icon bar at bottom as SUB-ICONS of a single icon with the day month year digits ID. These SUB-ICONS can be used in Scheduler which will be covered at the end of this manual. If Sub-icons are being displayed you can get back to the top icons by clicking HOME icon.



To play the playlist to air go to Playlist/Rotation Mode click the Icon at bottom that represents your playlist...it will appear in the playbox with a playlist sign to indicates that it is a playlist that is playing and not a rotation. If in AUTO then the playlist plays. When enable Schdule is checked, the generated playlist will start automatically on the date and hour they were created for.



## Day Segment Separation

Day Segment separation allows the scheduler to separate when tracks get picked in a more dispersed method. The easiest way to visualize it is you can break the day up into 6 sections. When songs are picked nextkast will make sure that song is played for all 6 sections before it will play again in the first section. In Voice tracking scenarios where the library is small this can make it so all songs are played evenly through all the hosts time slots

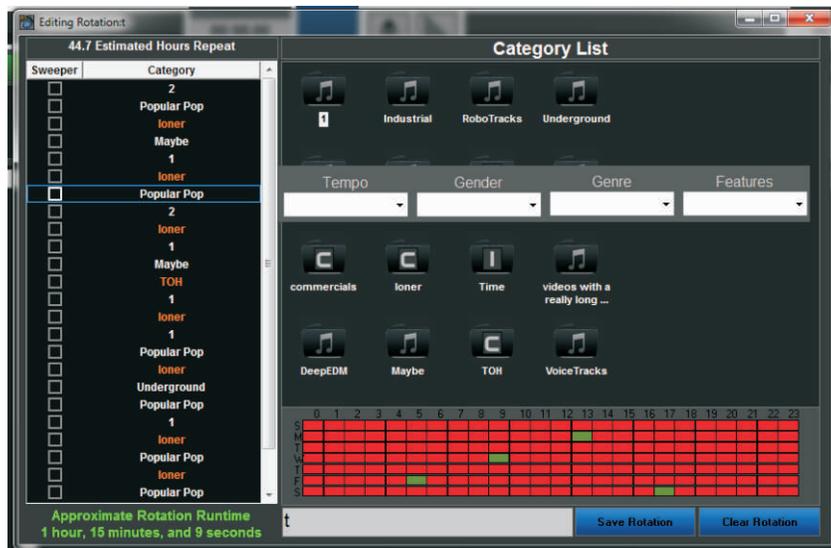


## iPass ( multi-pass song Scheduler)



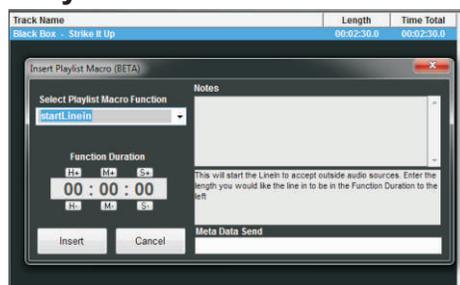
Multi Pass scheduling allows for categories like a 'power' category to have precedents for artist separation. The feature has up to 10 levels of priority, 1 being first and 0 or 10 being last. When iPass is enabled and categories are set to level, nextkast will do a multi pass play list generation. iPass must also be enabled in the Settings window for this feature to be activated. This feature only work for playlist generation and not in rotation

## Hour Flow Specifier



Hour flow specifiers allow you to filter Tempo, Gender, Genre, and features for a specific rotation. This gives you the control to specify the 'flow' for the rotation/hour.

## Playlist Macros



Playlist macros can be inserted into a playlist or rotation to allow for the triggering of mics, line in, break notes, playing of intros and much more. The feature has a built in help menu to guide you through each feature as new ones are added frequently. To insert a playlist macro, simple right click on a playlist or rotation and select insert playlist macro. Playlist macros can also be saved as elements in a category

# VoiceTracking

The value of voice tracking is in being able to insert your voice clips into a Playlist and thus announce the music selections and make it appear the the program is live. This is done as an option in the Playlist Builder/Voicetrack Mode.

After building your play list as shown on previous page you can then voicetrack your generated playlist between any, all, or no selections.

Make sure your MIC input is selected in the Mic Settings on the main page and you have set your MicFX/ Attenuation etc. before starting to voice track.

Clicking any selection in the playlist just built or loaded and the Voicetrack dialog appears at the bottom of the screen. You will see the outgoing songs' end and the incoming song beginning and a space between where your voice recording will be recorded.

Press the LEFT PLAY button to hear the last few seconds of the ending song and when ready to talk open the Mic with the "Press here to Record" in red in the center....talk.....when ready to start your next song hit the middle white bar titled "Mark Next Start" this will start the new selection and you recording will continue which will go over the new song beginning as an intro...when done hit the now green center bar to stop the recording and press the far right now STOP button to end the session.

Note: You can play sample/FX buttons when voicetracking, this will record a background to your voicetrack if needed.

As soon as the VoiceTrack recording is stopped Nextkast will re-load the tracks, and playback the voicetrack with the cue point as recorded with the outgoing and incoming tracks. Keep in mind you can re-mark the voicetrack start and next start if you press the "R" button before you preview. To Delete the voicetrack highlight it in the playlist, and press the delete key or right click and select delete.

To make the process quicker there are keyboard shortcuts defined at the end of this manual, that will help speed up the process. **Refer to Voicetrack Shortcut key Section for more**

The screenshot displays the software interface with three main sections: Playlist, Track List, and Voice Tracking controls.

**Playlist (Left):** Lists tracks such as "Bootmasters ft Trevor Jackson - This Day (Visioneight Remix)", "Calvin Harris and Alesso ft Hurts - Under Control2", and "Junior Jack - My Feeling".

**Track List (Middle):** A table with columns for Track Name, Length, and Time To... The track "1 Bastille - Bad Blood" is highlighted.

Track Name	Length	Time To...
Hollywood EDM Minute6 - G	00:01:0...	00:01:0...
The Remix - wr3ytq	00:00:0...	00:01:0...
edmMinute - edmMinute	00:00:0...	00:01:0...
atWork1 - test	00:00:0...	00:01:0...
Lillywood and Robin Schulz - Prayer In C (Remix Ra...	00:03:0...	00:04:1...
The Remix - wr3ytq	00:00:0...	00:04:1...
Tiesto and Wolfgang Gartner ft Luciana - We Own T...	00:03:3...	00:07:4...
<b>1 Bastille - Bad Blood</b>	<b>00:03:2...</b>	<b>00:11:1...</b>
Junior Jack - My Feeling	00:03:3...	00:14:4...
The Remix - wr3ytq	00:00:0...	00:14:4...
saDanceRadio - Dave Aude PROMO	00:00:2...	00:15:1...
The Remix - wr3ytq	00:00:0...	00:15:1...
Munroe - My Melody (Radio Mix)	00:03:3...	00:18:4...
The Remix - wr3ytq	00:00:0...	00:18:4...
edmMinute - edmMinute	00:00:0...	00:18:5...
Hollywood EDM Minute - B1b	00:01:0...	00:20:0...
Hagenaar and Albrecht ft Sarah McLeod - Love is H...	00:02:5...	00:22:5...
The Remix - wr3ytq	00:00:0...	00:22:5...
Armin Van Buuren ft Ana Criado - Ill Listen	00:03:5...	00:26:4...
The Remix - wr3ytq	00:00:0...	00:26:4...

**Voice Tracking Controls (Bottom):** Includes buttons for "PLAY", "1 Bastille - Bad Blood 00:03:32.6", "R Mark Next Start", "Junior Jack - My Feeling 00:00:00.0", and a red "X" button. A red bar at the bottom says "<-Press Play Button To Start".

Voice Tracking can be done remotely using the setup described later in this manual under "Remote Voice Tracking and Management. This is an alternative to that process.

Once play list are generated they can be exported as zipped files and imported by remote djs to be voice tracked, then returned to be imported to the main station PC. This gives the station full control of the station while still allowing for remote Voice Tracking / Previewing.

Here are the steps:

1. Once the playlist has been generated load it into the Playlist Builder Screen as shown below.
2. Press the Export VT Job button, This will compress and save a zipped file to your desktop named after the playlist name.
3. Email the zipped VT job from your desktop to your DJ.
4. They will save the zipped VT job file to their desktop, and select import VT job from the Playlist Builder Screen.
5. They can then use the Voice tracking Module to Voice track as normal, the tracks sent will contain 15 at start and 15 seconds at the end of track or until the intro until and outro until markers.
6. Once the voice tracking is done the DJ will press the Export VT job button, this will create a VT job zipped folder on their desktop. The DJ will email you this zipped folder.
7. Station owner then saves the Dj's zipped file from email to desktop and press the import VT job button. The Voice Tracks, and updated playlist will now be imported and ready to

Track Name	Length	Time Total
www.radiodiversity.org - RadioDiversity.org	00:00:58.3	00:00:58.3
BRM - Glittering Cutter	00:03:44.8	00:04:43.1
promo10 - New Music	00:00:05.2	00:04:48.3
Andezzz and Mr. V - House Music Is You	00:04:15.5	00:09:03.8
Flume ft Kai - Never Be Like You	00:03:23.8	00:12:27.6
Deorro ft Erin McCarley - I Can Be Somebody	00:03:16.2	00:15:43.8
Midout_Damian Wild - Echoes	00:03:34.0	00:19:17.8
Dusk Till Dawn - Sit and Wait	00:03:06.5	00:22:24.3
startNext - You Are	00:00:06.6	00:22:30.9
Andrea Fissore - Fresh Beats (Here To Groove Edit)	00:03:09.7	00:25:40.6
VoiceTrack - 0625080144+Andrea+Fissore	00:00:01.6	00:25:42.2
Promo 13 - 1 EDM Mix	00:00:09.9	00:25:52.1
Andy Moor_Somna ft. Amy Kirkpatrick - One Thing About You	00:03:51.6	00:29:43.7
Orjan Nilsen - 10 Years Of Orjan Nilsen	00:03:02.1	00:32:45.8
Da Buzz - Something About You	00:04:09.5	00:36:55.3
promo4 - The Best Mix	00:00:07.1	00:37:02.4
Coldplay - Adventure Of A Lifetime	00:04:06.0	00:41:08.4
Armin Van Buuren ft Emma Hewitt - Intense, Extended	00:03:50.0	00:44:58.4
Nervo - It Feels (Original Mix)	00:03:09.4	00:48:07.8
Lost Frequencies - Are You With Me	00:03:04.5	00:51:12.3
startNext - Pulse Edm dot com	00:00:05.1	00:51:17.4
	00:01:01.7	
	00:01:01.7	
	00:00:09.9	
	00:04:07.5	
	00:04:00.5	

Click to Export VT Job and zip/save to Desktop

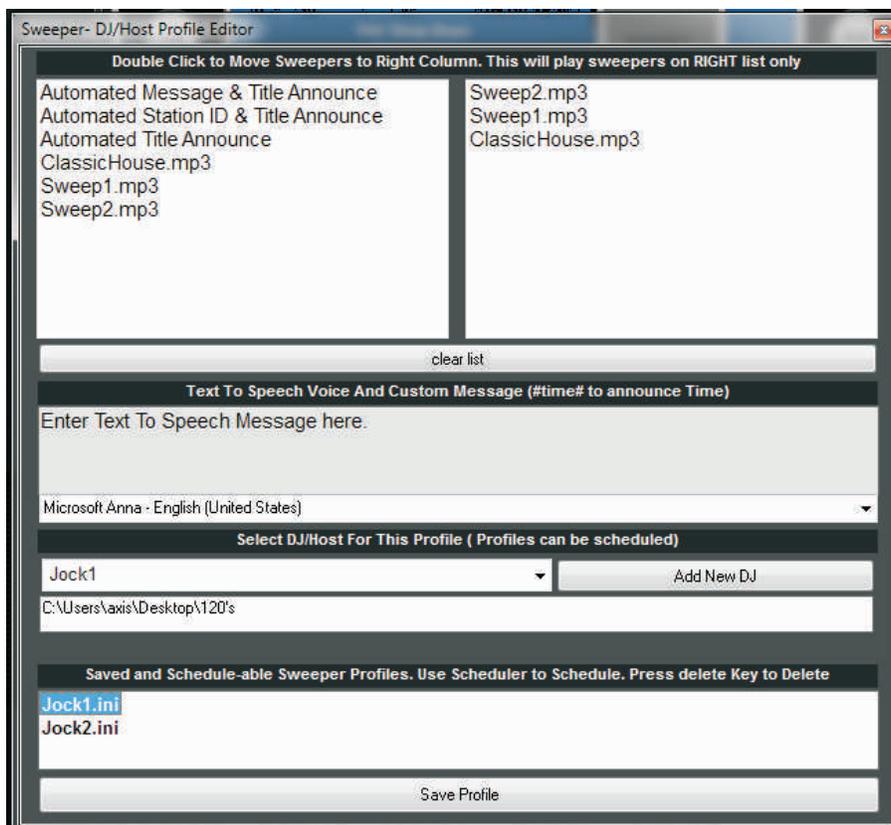
Click to Import VT Job

Save Load Clear/New Simulcast Export VT Job Import VT Job Generate

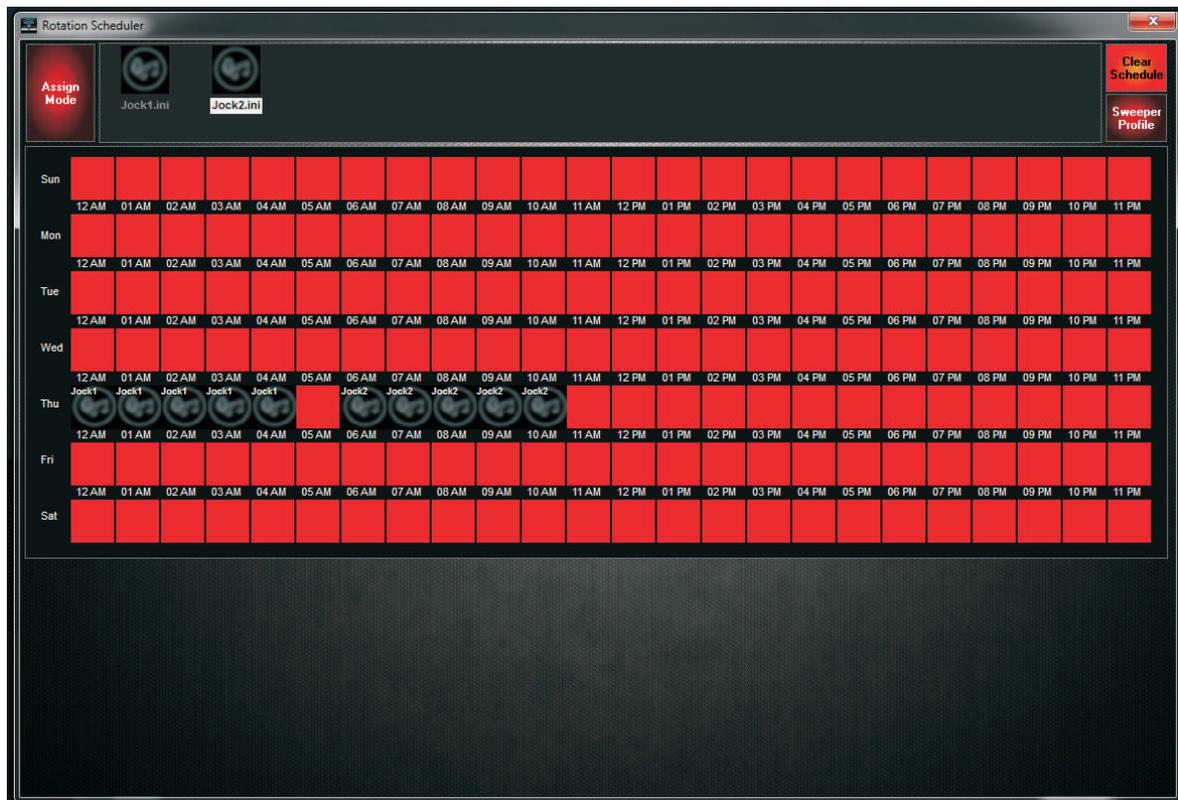
When a days play list is generated from NextKast, All jocks/talent that need to Voice track specific hours can be scheduled, so that once the playlist is generated the Voice Track jobs can automatically be exported and placed in the cloud shared folders for each jock.

### Here are the steps to get this process working:

1. Create Shared Folders on the local machine for all jocks. This would be for example a folder/s shared via dropbox, google drive etc..
2. Once the cloud shared folders are created go into Nextkast and click the Profile button located in the settings window.
3. Here you will create a Profile that includes Sweepers, DJ name/VTJob Folder Path, Automated Voice Settings. Add the DJ/Host into the drop list and specify the path for each person. To delete a jock, press the delete button
4. After the hosts are entered, you can now create a Sweeper/Jock Profile. Select the host, and sweeper for the profile and press the Save profile Button. Name each profile according to Jock name as an example.



5. Once all needed profiles are saved, Open the Scheduler in NextKast. Press the schedule Mode button 3 times until it reads Sweeper Profile. All profiles you saved will be visible on the top list box. Drag or make active and click on the hours that each jock will need to receive VT Jobs.



6. Once all this is set up, every time you create a play list with a sweeper/jock profile scheduled, the VTJob will automatically get exported to the shared folder.

7. The jock can then import the VTJob, perform the VoiceTracks and Export the result back to the shared folder.

8. When the program/music director is sure all VTJobs are complete, Goto the Playlist Builder Screen and Click on the date folder for the date the Jobs were due. Then Click on Import VT job Button. A dialog will confirm you are requesting all VT jobs to import, the the process will complete automatically.

### VT Job Auto Import when linked to DJ profiles

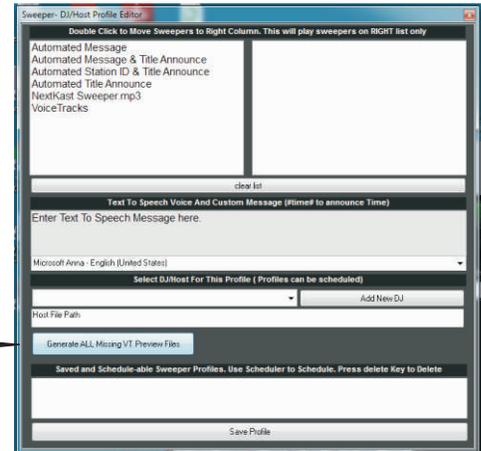
As noted above, Nextkast allows a user to link a DJ profile to the Schedule, for instance a host/talent can be scheduled for certain hours /days of the week. These profiles allow for the selected sweepers in the sweeper list to change and be specified by schedule, as well as allows for VT directories to be set for each voice talent. This allows the station manager to create the play list and then automatically distribute the Voice tracks jobs to the talent via a shared cloud folder. The talent will then do the Voice Track job and export it back to the shared folder. NextKast will then **automatically** look for completed VT jobs in that same folder and import the updated play list and voice tracks. This system gives the station manager and talent the power to do great voice tracking in an all automatic and powerful process.

Nextkast has two methods of doing remote voice tracking. Method one, the original method uses a shared drive system (cloud drive like drop box etc..) to sync vt jobs.

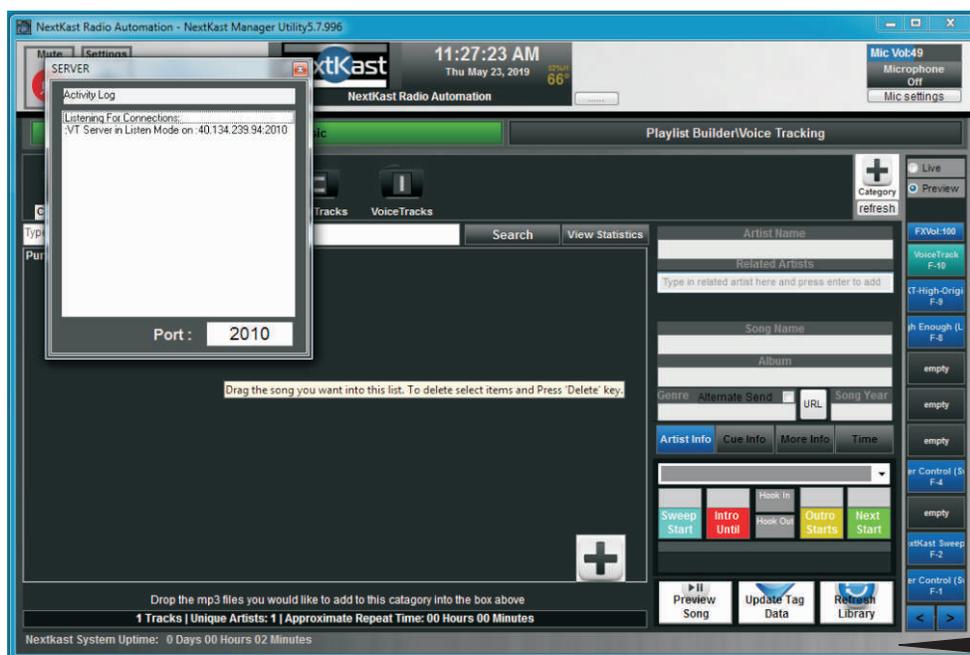
The new option available allows the user to use the management machine as the server, thereby removing the need for third party drive share apps.

To set this up requires the user to open a port on their internet router to allow network traffic through. This process varies by internet provider, but many times help from the internet providers support team will aid in getting this done. The user must pick a port for the vt server to run on and then make an exception in the router config to let traffic on that port through. As an example we will use port 2010 in this help document.

VTJob exports can also be sped up by going into the Host Sweeper profile window and pressing the generate All Missing VT Preview Files. This will generate files needed for vt Jobs in the background. It will take from 30 minutes to several hours for large libraries



Once this is done we can set up the server portion of the process. The VT server is built into NextKast Manager. Because of this, the nkManager app will need to stay open at all times on the management machine. Follow the instructions on the previous pages to set up dj/host profiles and host schedules.



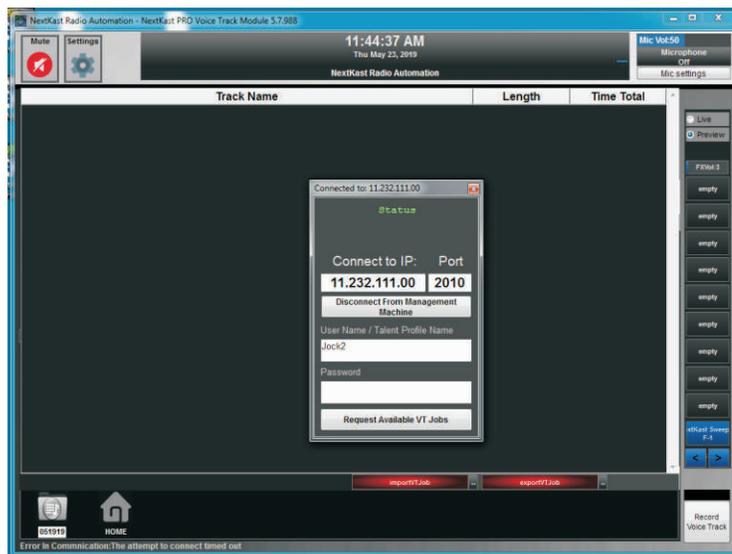
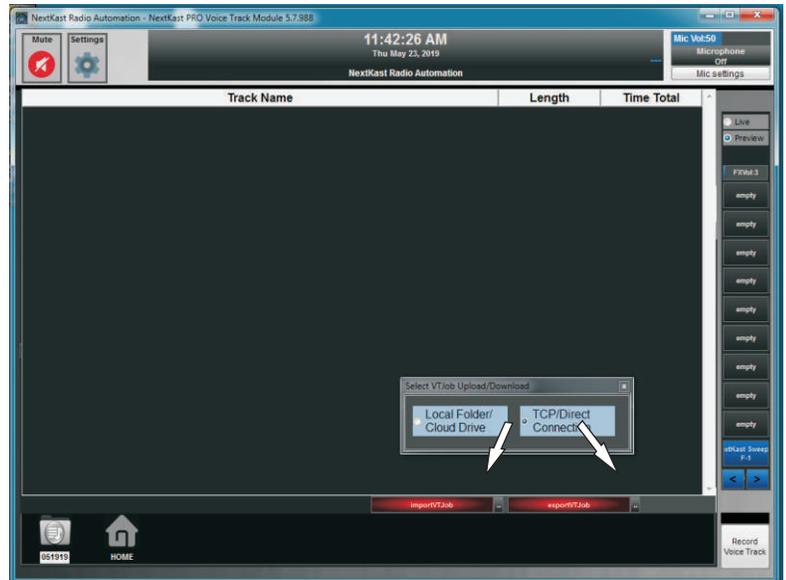
## NOTE

When server is started for the first time, You will receive a windows dialog asking to allow nextkast through windows firewall, make sure to ALLOW

Double click anywhere on the bottom of the nkManager Screen to open and start the VT Server



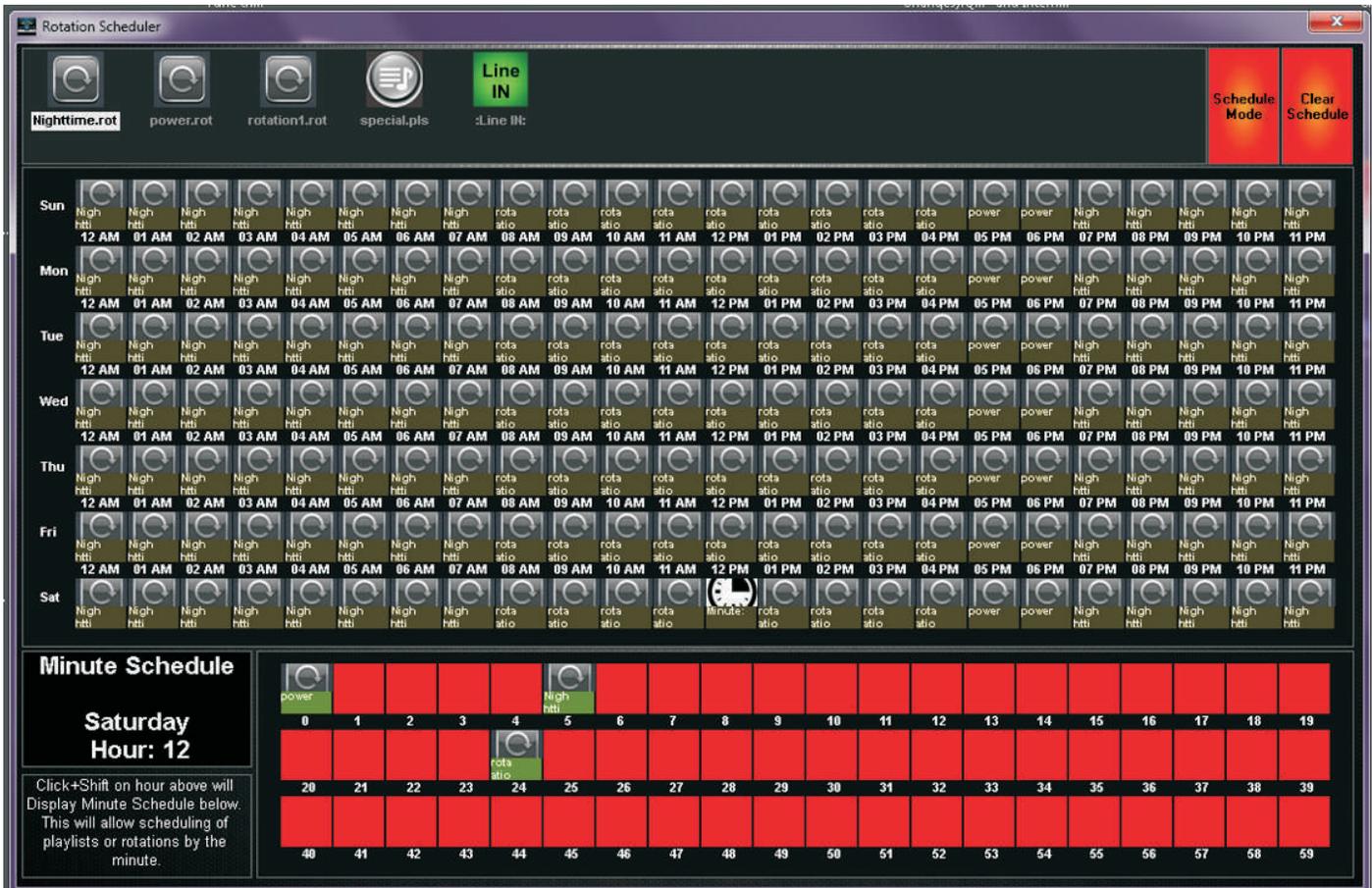
Install the VT Module onto a remote machine. To configure it to talk to the server press the '.' button next to the importVtJob button. Select TCP / Direct Connection. The client window will appear. Enter IP and port for the server. Enter the user name which will be the talent dj/host name and password. Then press Request Available VT jobs. If there are pending VT jobs on the server they will be downloaded and imported.



Then proceed to voicetrack the first hour as normal. Once VT is done, press the Export VT job Button, which should also be in TCP mode. Then to send VT job to server press the Upload DONE VT jobs button. This will send done vt job to server and import it. When succesful, a confirmation dialog will appear letting you know the the DONE vt job was imported to the server.

Tracks can also be added from the server library in the VT module. right click in an active list and select insert new track, search for the track and double click on it. The track will display in red, click on the missing track and select Request missing track button. The track will download and the list will reload.

# Scheduler



The Scheduler screen allows the scheduling of rotations/ Playlist / Or LineIn events by the Hour or by the Minute. Keep in Mind if you are generating playlist from NextKast with the Playlist Generator, they will be automatically scheduled by Nextkast.

All changes will occur as close to the top of the hour when 'Top of the hour' is checked in settings screen. If you need the change to fade out current programing and occur immediately please check the 'Force Schedule changes' in the settings screen. You can also force events by double clicking on the item in the schedule and select Force from the menu that appears. By default minute events force, and hourly events do not.

The most common task using the scheduler is to schedule different rotations for different days and hours. For instance your daytime rotation may be different than your nighttime rotation and you would want to schedule them accordingly.

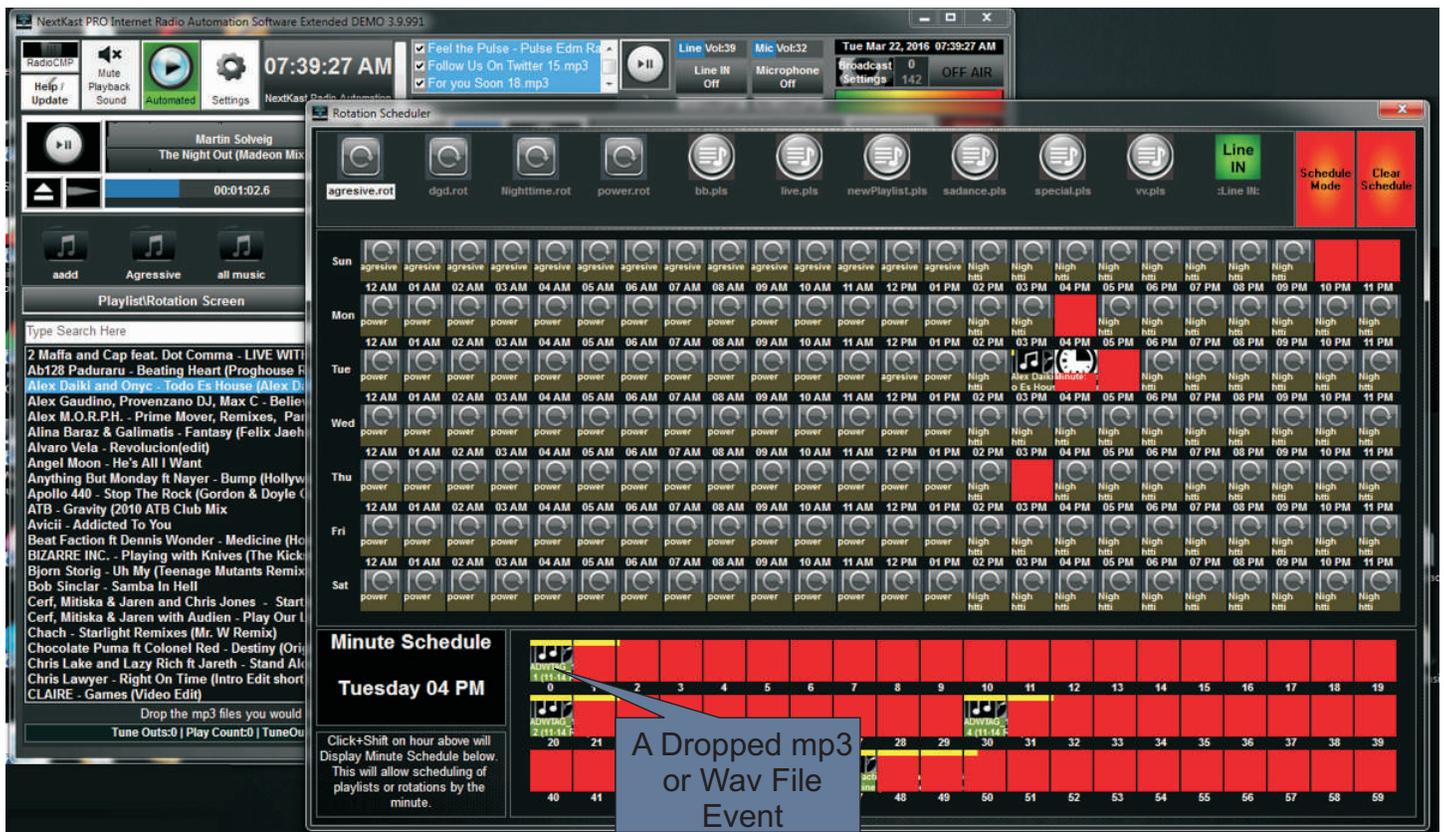
Note: The playlist generator will use the schedule of rotations to generate playlist from rotations that are scheduled, if no rotations are schedule it will always pick the first one in the list.

To schedule a rotation or custom playlist simply pick the rotation on the top list view and click on the hours you would like this rotation to be active. If minute changes are required, first select the hour, then click on the minute, a clock icon will appear in any hour that has a minute schedule assigned.

To delete an assignment simply right click on the hour or minute.

This schedule can also be put in Audience pleaser mode(by clicking the Schedule Mode Button), to allow the scheduling of different audience pleaser amounts per day/week/hour. See settings page for more information on Audience pleaser. The record live can also be scheduled and will be explained next.

# Schedule mp3 or Wav Events



The Scheduler also allows for the activation of media events like playing mp3 or wav files on specific times. Although it is recommended to use the playlist or rotation methods to create events in a particular hour, sometime just dragging and dropping an media event is much easier and desired. It is also recommended that you have at least one rotation active, so that when the triggered event is complete, NextKast can go back to the rotation or playlist.

The manner in which the file plays is determined by what the settings tab on the main screen indicates. If "Force Schedule Changes and Top Of Hour" is checked then the event will happen immediately, so for the illustration above right at 4pm , Tuesdays at 0 minutes the current playing file will fade out and the requested file will play. If the Force is not checked the requested file will load into the next available player and will be next in line to play.

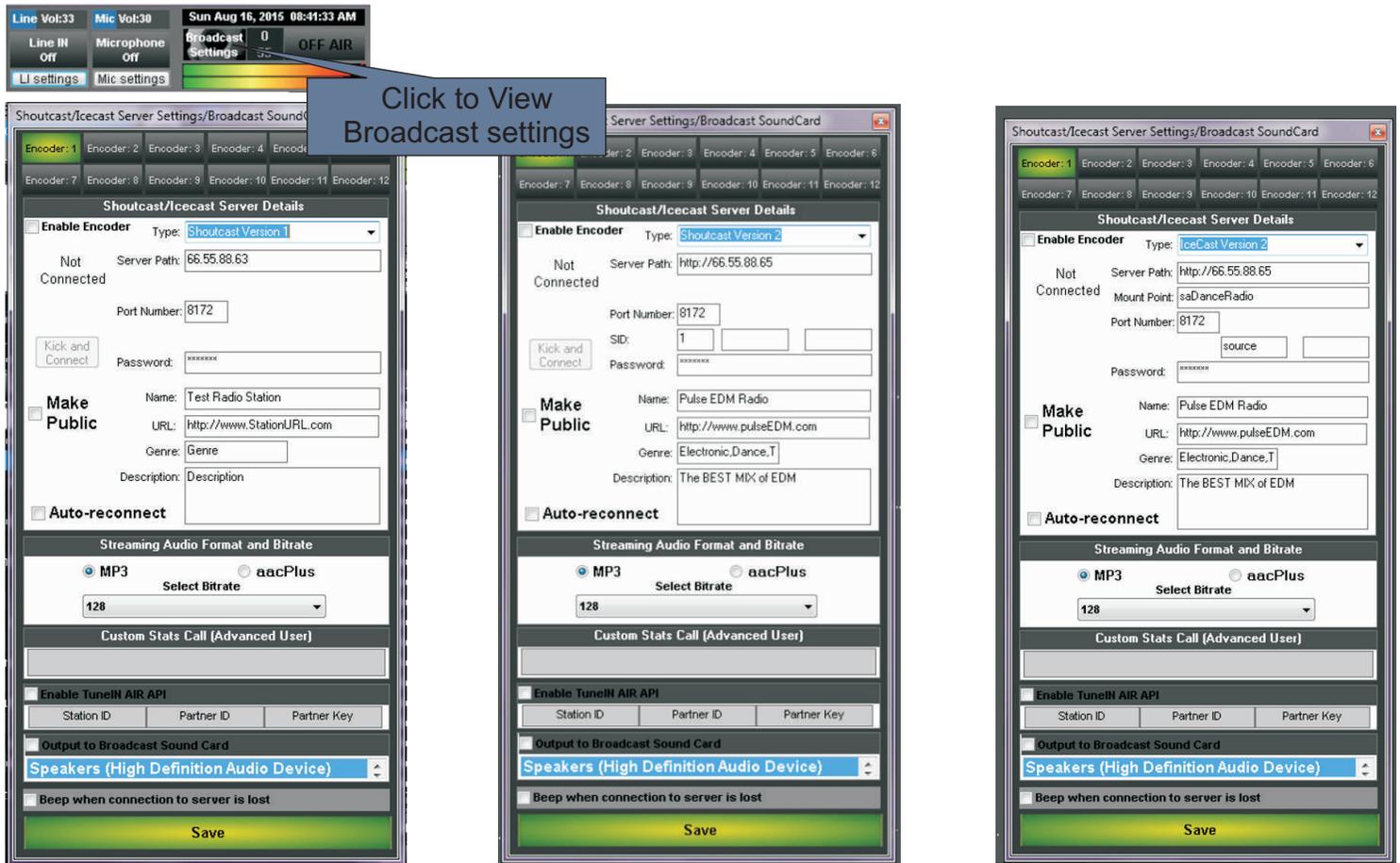
Files can be dragged and dropped from the NextKast library or from any other folder/file on your computer. Files can be triggered on the hour or the minute of the hour, and can be removed by right clicking a square.

To edit a minute of an hour, first click the hour which is indicated to the left of the minute schedule and then click the minute of that hour you want to assign.

# Schedule Live Recordings

The Scheduler can also schedule Live Recording events. Place the scheduler in live record mode, click the Schedule Mode Button until it says "Record Mode". You can now click on hours that you would like automatically to record. Right Click to erase Record Live assignments for hours.

# Broadcast Settings



Because Nextkast is specifically designed for internet radio, it has built in encoders that will push your stream to shoutcast1 and 2, IceCast 1 and 2, and Live 365. There is also a built in [www.tunein.com](http://www.tunein.com) section that allows you to push song title and artist to tunein.com automatically.

It is crucial you set encoder type correctly when setting up an encoder. Your stream provider will give you details about server path, server type, and password. These details need to be entered in the appropriate boxes in the broadcast setting screen. When done make sure the 'Enable Encoder' checkbox is checked and the "auto Re-connect" is enabled. Select your bit rate and encode type.

With shoutcast2 make sure to enter the SID (normally '1'). In Icecast2 and shoutcast2 only modify the source and source password boxes if you are not connecting using the default account.

For stations broadcasting to a separate transmitter, the 'Output to broadcast soundcard' checkbox will send the same audio going to the encoder to a second sound card. This will allow you to preview tracks and voicetrack in studio while not interrupting the audio feed to the transmitter.

If you are using the TuneIn Api ( please contact [tunein.com](http://www.tunein.com) for details), make sure to enter the StationID, PartnerID, and Partner Key.

# Micro Server



The Micro Server option found as the last Option in the Broadcast settings page allows you to broadcast from your PC without the need for having a stream provider. This becomes convenient for two reasons:

- You want to do a live broadcast and you would like the Studio Nextkast to re-broadcast/simulcast the remote Micro Server.
- You are testing or have a very small audience and a FAST internet connection and would like to not use a stream provider.

The Micro Server is very easy to set up, when you enabled it, The Public Listen Link will appear as is show above.

\*\*\*\*\* IMPORTANT\*\*\*\*\*

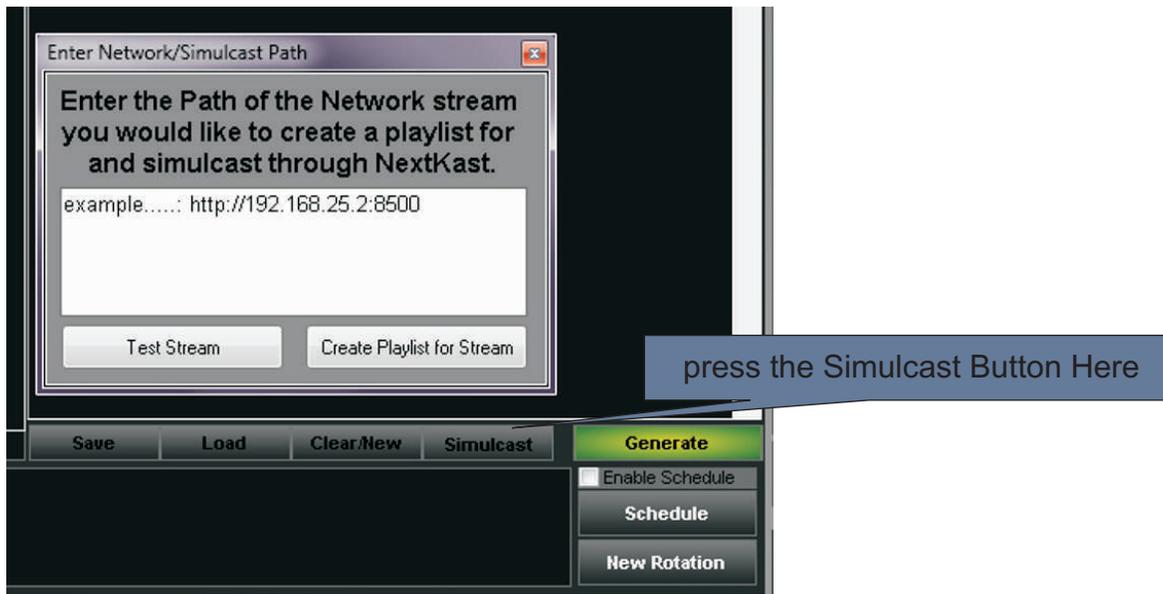
For Listeners outside your local network, you will have to open a port on your router to allow the stream to go through. This requires you to log into your router config page and open the port you are broadcasting through, '8000' is the port shown above and can be changed.

For the listener to connect they will have to paste/open the listen link shown in the micro caster field as shown above into their media player.

For simulcasting, you would set up the link in NextKast as shown on the next page.

**More Help on this topic on Page 51**

## Simulcasting Another Stream



Nextkast Makes it easy to set up playlist that contain URL's of streams to re-broadcast.

Press the simulcast button, the Simulcast window will appear as above.

Enter the stream URL to create

Press the test Stream button to test the stream.

If correct, press the 'Create Playlist Stream' button

Nextkast will then create a playlist that contains the URL of the tested stream.

Name the playlist and then Schedule the playlist (stream) to Play when needed. Keep in mind meta data from stream will be passed through. To modify meta data being sent, use the URL Embed option described on page 18.

## 'repick' Category to Fill in Hour

broadcast version

A user can manually create a category named 'repick'. The user can place tracks in this category and Nextkast will pick only from these tracks at the end of a playlist hour as a filler to make it to TOH.

The intention is the user fills this category with varying length tracks. Nextkast will only use this category when it gets to the end of an hour, and will try to pick a track that will fill the hour as close as possible. It is a good idea to place fade early friendly songs in this category if you are using force schedule changes in settings.

# Microphone and Line Input / Easy External Mixer Setup



The Mic and LineIn settings buttons can be viewed by clicking the LI settings or Mic Settings buttons as illustrated to the left.

The Volume levels above each controls the Windows Level for the active device.



Select the Microphone from the available list and the select Master Volume. You can refresh list if you are un-pluggin and re-plugging the device.

The audio Attenuation Level can be adjusted, this will lower whatever element is playing when the mic is active

When checked, the Microphone FX enhances the audio coming from the microphone to sound fuller. There is also an optional NoiseGate that can be enabled

When the Mute Mic Monitor checkbox is checked the audio from the Mic will go directly to the encoder and not



Select the Microphone or Line IN from the available list and the select Master Volume. You can refresh list if you are un-pluggin and re-plugging the device.

## Simple External Mixer Option

**IMPORTANT:** When using this feature please remember you are now dependent on the sound card you are Using for sound quality (high quality sound card recommended), since the audio going to the encoders are now run through the sound card, and not directly to encoders digitally.

The 'Use External Mixer' Option in NextKast will allow the use of an external mixer to mix the NextKast Audio Output with other sources like mic and other players. The function works by allowing the output from players/FX/Sweepers/Voicetracks etc playing on main output sound card to be run into an external mixer, then using the external mixer to add sources ( like mic etc..), and then inputing the mixed result back into nextKast through to the Internal Encoders. This solution prevents the feedback/echo that can occur if you are using a mixer to both add microphone and other inputs, as well as mixing the audio produced by Nextkast players.

This feature can also be used as a way to use external hardware or software sound processing, but still use the nextkast internal encoders.

# Sound Processing

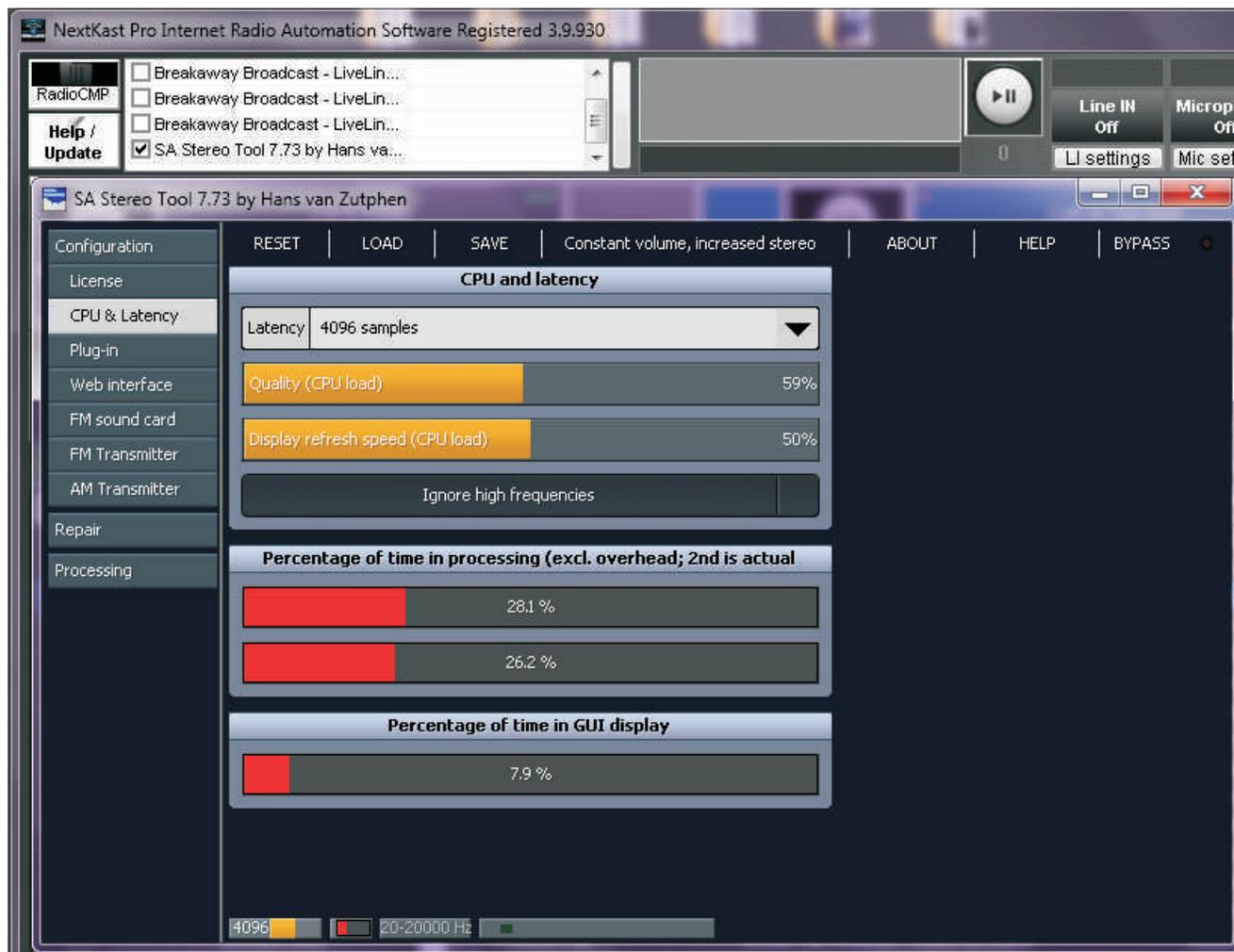


Left Click to Edit  
Sound Processor

The Sound Processing window allows you to change settings for the Auto Gain, Sound Compression, and a 10 Band Audio Equalizer. This allows you to customize the sound of your station as per your preference.

The Expander Button enables a special set of processing to expand and enhance audio, this can be enabled or disabled per your preference.

## External Winamp DSP ( Stereo Tools,Breakaway etc..)



We have implemented a way for NextKast to use external DSP software to run inline instead of using our internal Signal processing. This allows the inline use of Winamp compatible plug ins.

For Nextkast to recognize and the ability use a plugin, that plug in .dll file will need to placed into the /plugins directory in the NextKast directory. Some software also requires that it know where the dll is located, meaning the software will need to be configured to work with nextkast

Once the dll is in the plugins directory, simply disable Radio CMP, top left button shown above, and right click on the Radio CMP button. A list box will display all available plugins. Check the plugin you would like to use and that is it.

# View Statistics

At the top of the music file box just below the three mode buttons is the **Search line**. Enter any partial search criteria in the white area and click search. A global search will be done through ALL categories and the results displayed. This is used for requests as once the song is displayed after search the search result, then it can be previewed or loaded to player for airing just by lighting it up with the mouse which displays an option menu of what to do with the song.

There is a **View Statistics** button which will bring up a different screen which allows you to check off one or more categories and display play history and listening stats of those tunes.

The View statistics screen will allow the user to move tracks and use the tune-out ratio to order tracks by popularity. Check the categories you would like to observe/move tracks in, then press the Process Report. Right Clicking on a track or tracks moves the tracks from category to category. This report is useful to move music for online stations because it gives you the tune-in/out popularity of each track sorted in a list.

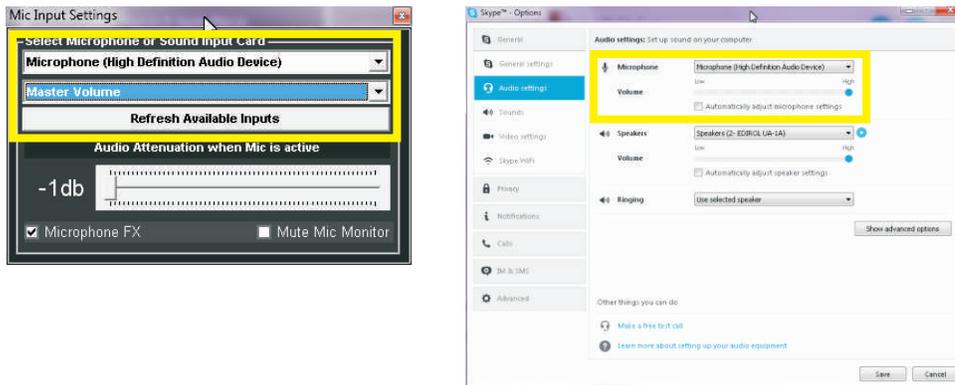


## Remote Voice Tracking and Management

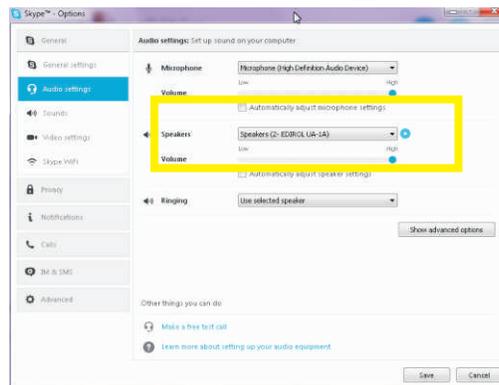
1. Create a “nextKastRemote” (name is up to you) directory on your C:// Drive of your Broadcast machine
2. If you have already been running NextKast then copy these Folders from broadcast machines c:/nextkast directory to the newly created “nextKastRemote” Folder:
  - /Music
  - /Playlist
  - /Rotations
  - /Samples
  - /Station Drops
  - /Sweepers
3. Once all folders have been copied, Load a drive sharing app like oneDrive, Google Drive, Dropbox, etc...
4. Change folder location of your drive sync app to the “nextKastRemote” directory you created and copied folders to and start the sync process.
5. Once your Sync is complete you will set the broadcast machines system drive in the settings window of nextkast to the “nextKastRemote” folder. You will have to restart NextKast for this to take effect.
6. On the Voice Track Machine then create the “nextKastRemote” folder on the c drive as was done on the broadcast machine
7. Install your Folder Sync App as before on Voice Track Machine : Change folder location of your drive sync app to the “nextKastRemote” directory you created and copied folders to and start the sync process.
8. On Voice Track machine set the remote drive to “nextKastRemote” in the Settings Window of Nextkast.
9. Anytime you work on the VT machine make sure to pause Sync Software, when done resume Syncing.
10. All actions like generating playlists, Recording Voicetracks, Moving Tracks, etc will be reflected on both Broadcast and VT Machine

## Taking Skype / VOIP calls

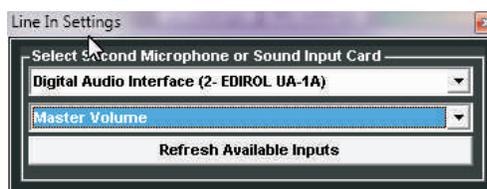
You will need two sound cards and a patch cable  
In Nextkast set your mic input to the primary/skype microphone  
Make sure nextkast and skype are using the same mic Input  
This will be using your first sound card



Next you will need to set the skype output sound card(speaker)  
to the second sound card



In NextKast Line In Setting Select The same Soundcard as picked in  
Skype under Speaker



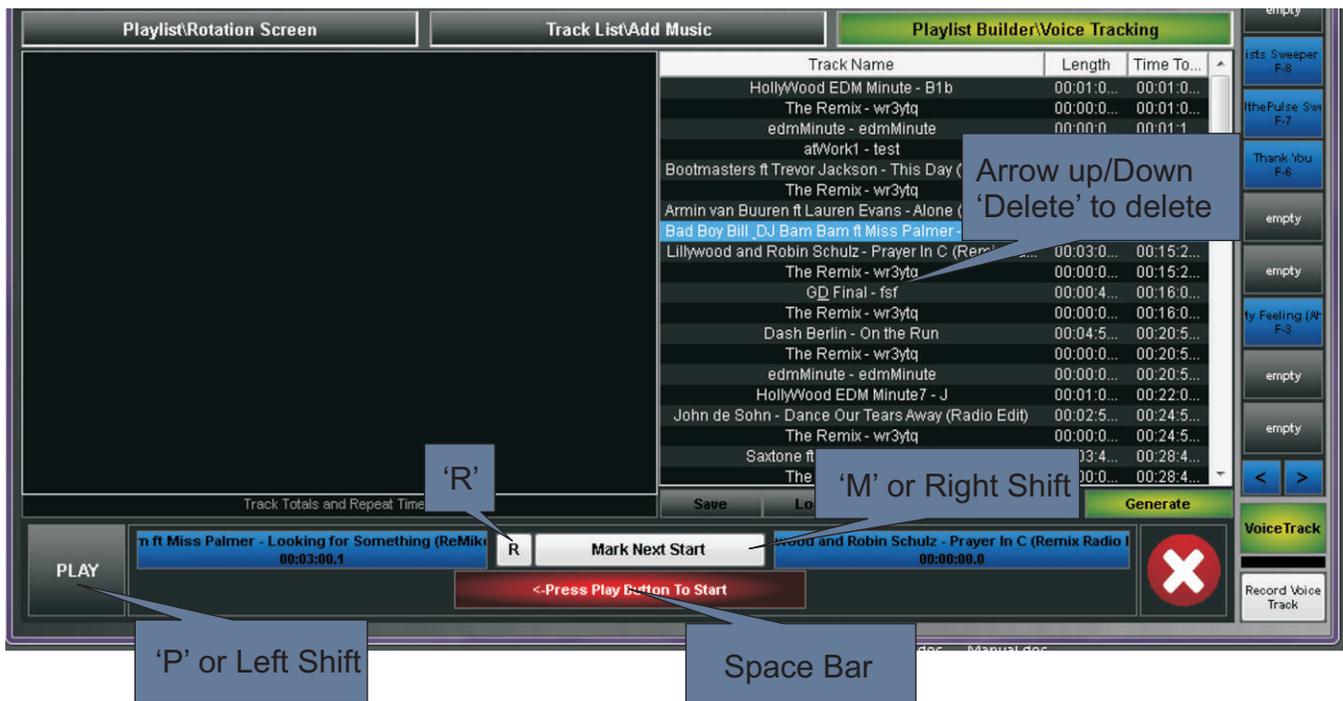
Finally loop the output of the second sound card into the  
input of the second card  
To broadcast a skype call both the mic button and Line in should be on.  
You will have to adjust the volume of both

# Shortcut Keys Main Page



- Ctrl & D - Disable Tool Tips
- End - Mute Playback in Studio
- Home - Manual or Automatic Mode
- F11 - Start next track
- Page Up/ Down - Toggle Operation Screen
- F12 - Microphone on/off
- F1 - F10 - Hot Button FX/Samples

# Shortcut Keys Voice Tracking and Tricks



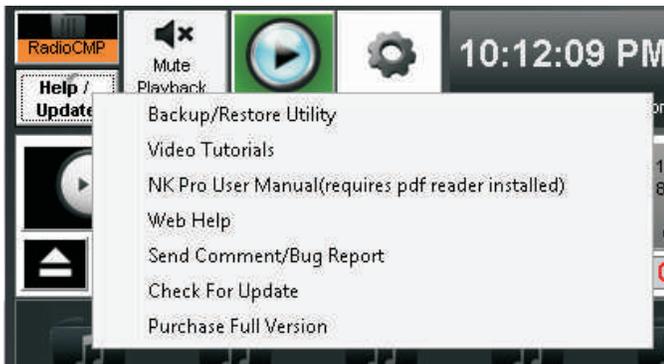
Alternatively the space bar can be used to advance each step of the voice tracking process.

After a Voice track is done the VT start and next song cue points can be adjusted by simply clicking in the waveform where you would like it to start. While the VT is playing if you click on the VT waveform, the marker for next start will be modified to that position. If you click on the waveform of the incoming song ( on the right), nextkast will calculate a VT start position so that the VT will end where you click ( commonly used to hit the post of a song) Note: if no VT next start is marked, and the next Track intro until is marked the VT will hit post automatically, in addition the 'mark to intro' button will do the same.

## Ability to voice track active hours both in rotation and playlist modes.

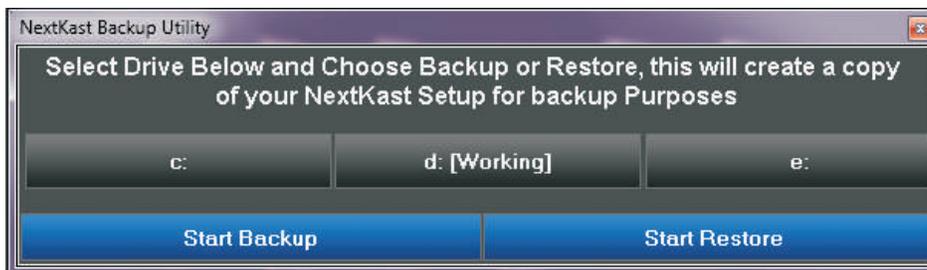
Active hours both in playlist mode and rotation mode can be voicetracked semi-live. This means the user can click in the active hour/track , then select 'Insert Voicetrack'. The voicetrack editor will appear and a VT can now be created. This works in rotation mode as well as playlist mode

# Backup and Restore Utility



The Backup and Restore Utility provides a trouble free way to back up and restore your software and state, including music, rotations, play list and settings. This will ensure that if you need to move to another PC because of hardware failure your system will be back up like it was in no time.

The backup utility can be activate from the Help Menu as shown above



## Backup Process:

Select the Drive to Backup to, make sure there is enough space on that drive. This will create a NKBackup folder on that drive and make a copy of your current NextKast Setup

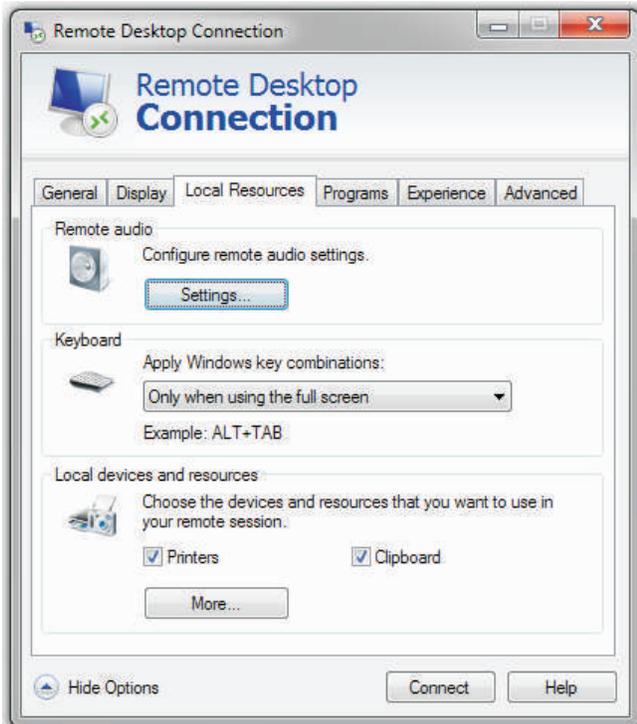
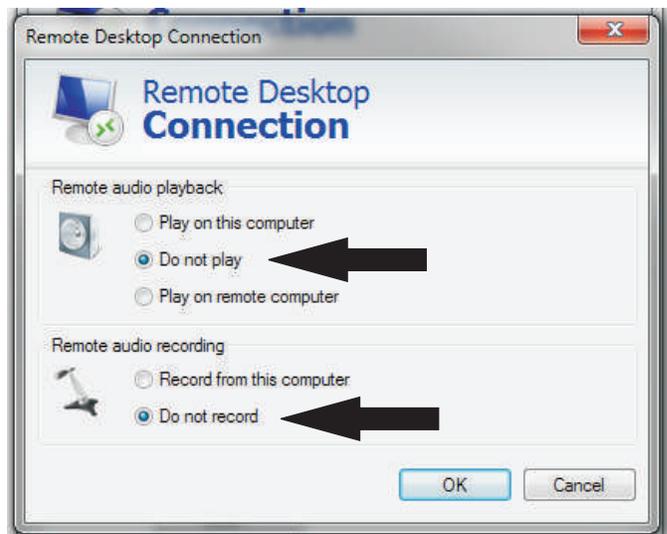
## Restore Process:

Select the Drive where you saved the backup. Press the start restore button, you will get a warning that your current state will be overwritten. Once the restore is complete it may be necessary to restart Nextkast.

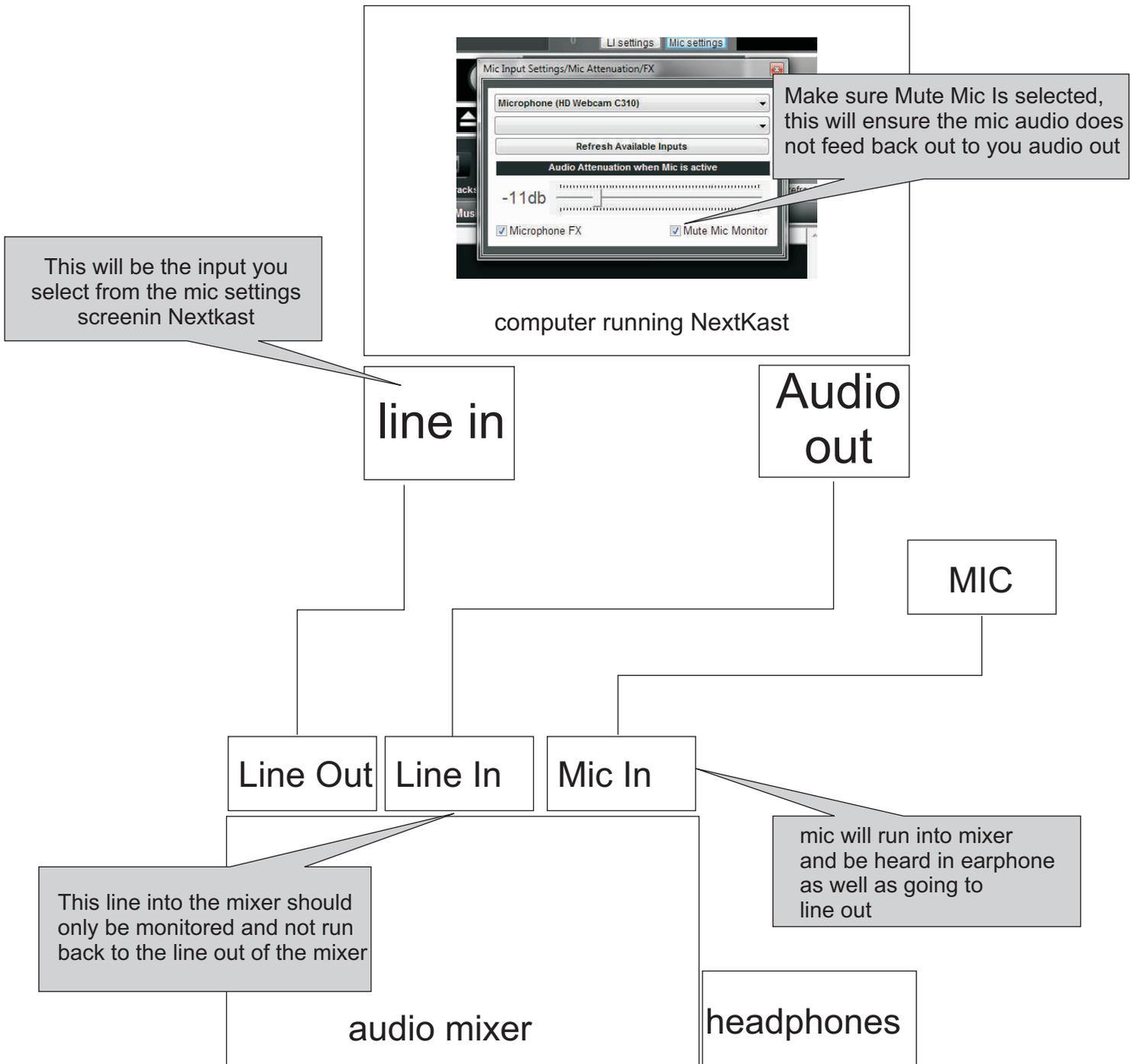
# Running On Windows Server

Nextkast has the ability to run on a windows server ( for example windows server 2012) This option will allow you to run your station from a server farm with more robust internet connection and backup power etc...

There is a special consideration to take, although installing and setting up Nextkast is the same there is one important thing to note. When using remote desktop to log into your windows server, please note you will need to make sure to disable sound when connecting. This allows Nextkast to run without a sound card, and work properly on Windows Servers.



# Complex Possible Wiring with External Mixer Option



## ALTERNATIVE Multi Sound Card Option

NextKast can route the sound of Player1 & VT1, Player2 & VT2, FX & Sweepers, and Studio Each to its own soundcard. This is useful if the user would like to use an external mixer and encoder in a Broadcast situation. The sound card setting is available in the broadcasts settings window. When switching back to default mode (single or dual sound card) NextKast will need to be restarted.

## ALTERNATIVE Line In Option Described on page 55

## Importing Logs/Playlist From External Music Schedulers

broadcast version

Nextkast has the ability to import .3MU playlist from External Scheduling Systems Like Music1 There is a special consideration to take:

1. Create a Directory Called "\ExternalPlaylist\" in the System Path Directory most commonly in the C:\\Nextkast Directory but can also be elsewhere.
2. In Music1 or other scheduling software select the above created directory as the export path for playlist generation
3. Nextkast will monitor the ExternalPlaylist Directory and when a new .3mu playlist is found will import and convert the playlist into the normal Date-hour as if Nextkast generated the hour.
4. Nextkast will play out the converted playlist as if it was generated in Nextkast.

## Merging Traffic From Natural Log

broadcast version

Nextkast has the ability to merge Traffic Logs (advertising playlist) from Natural Log

1. From Natural Log you will export (set it to the REDUGA output format in older versions, Nextkast in newer version) generated logs to a directory you would need to create in the C:\\nextkast directory called "\Logs\"
2. You would also need to create a folder in the nextkast directory called "\Commercials\", this directory will keep all traffic audio assets. Commercials can also be loaded into a standard NK category names 'Commercials'
3. When generating playlist in Nextkast, check the Enable Traffic Log Merge checkbox. Nextkast will then merge the Natural Log Traffic logs with the generated playlist to place the commercials at the approximate times they were scheduled, waiting for end of songs by default. In addition we can use the Play list Macro Option. This will more precisely place commercials in the hour specified positions required when merge is selected on play list generation
4. When scheduling blocks of commercials, place a marker at the start of each commercial break in Natural log named #commercial break# ' Then in your rotation place a 'mergeExteralTrafficLog' macro in every position where the commercial set needs to play, NK will merge all commercials for that block
5. Merging traffic can also be achieved after play list import or generate by right clicking on date folder in play list and selecting 'Merge Traffic'.

## Merging Traffic From Marketron

broadcast version

Nextkast has the ability to merge Traffic Logs (advertising playlist) from Marketron Traffic Software to include Radio Traffic and Marketron Traffic

1. To configure RadioTraffic to work with NextKast, you will first need modify the station configuration to utilize RCS NextGen as the automation system. In the administration module, open 'Stations'. Select the station you want to configure and double click. Once the station configuration is visible, select the 'Files' tab. Select the 'Product' to RCS NextGen using the drop down selection tool. This supports a cart number length of 6 . The 'Automation Log Path' is where RadioTraffic will export the log to which will be C:/nextKast/Logs/.
2. You would also need to create a folder in the nextkast directory called "\Commercials\", this directory will keep all traffic audio assets. Commercials can also be loaded into a standard NK category names 'Commercials'
3. When generating playlist in Nextkast, check the Enable Traffic Log Merge checkbox. Nextkast will then merge the Marketron Traffic logs with the generated playlist to place the commercials at the approximate times they were scheduled, waiting for end of songs by default. In addition we can use the Playlist Macro Option. This will more precisely place commercials in the hour specified positions required when merge is selected on playlist generation
4. When scheduling blocks of commercials, set block option in Radio traffic to true. Then in your rotation place a 'mergeExteralTrafficLog' macro in every position where the commercial set needs to play, NK will merge all commercials for that block
5. Merging traffic can also be achieved after play list import or generate by right clicking on date folder in play list and selecting 'Merge Traffic'.

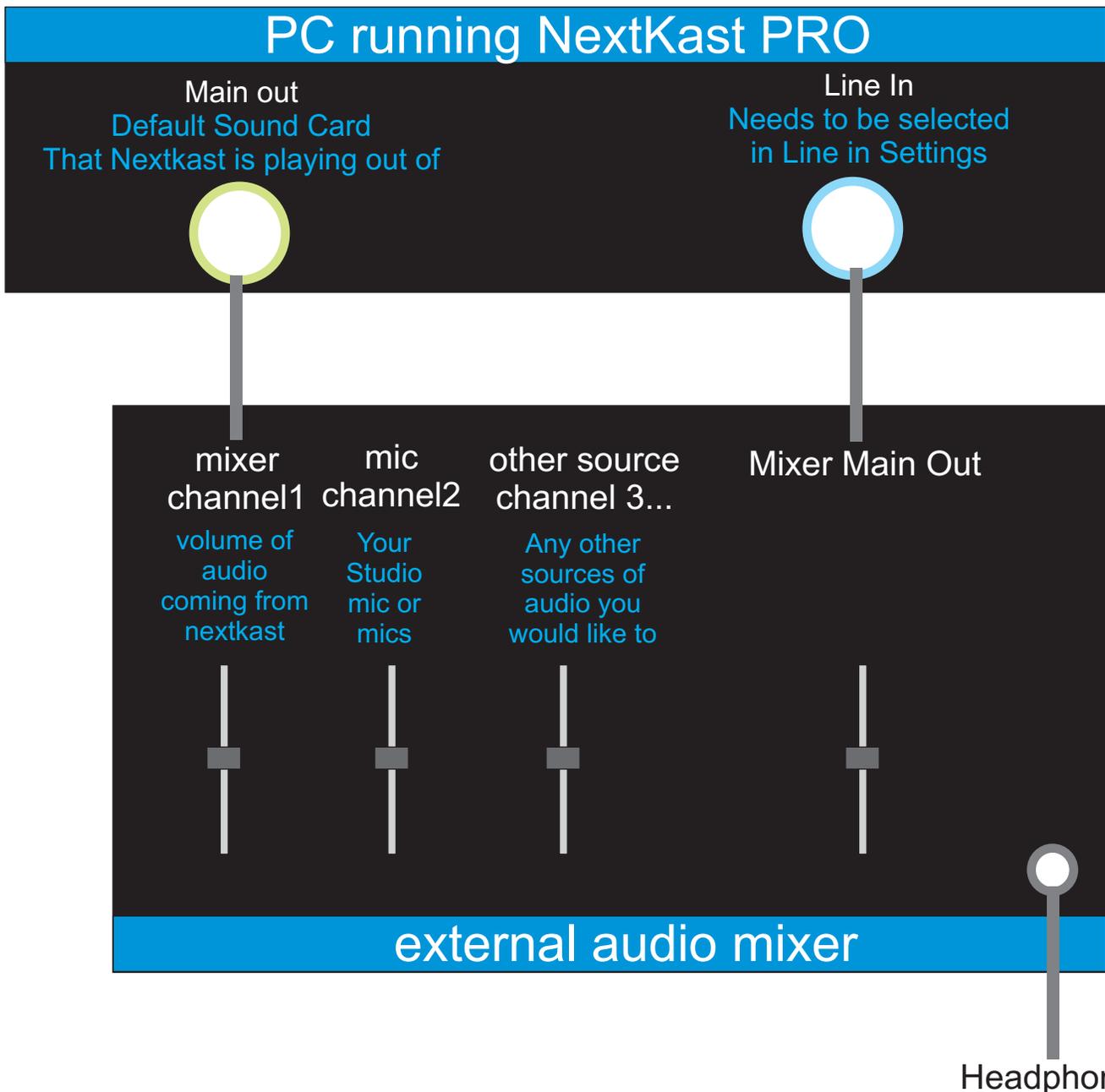
# External Mixer Using Nextkast Linein Feature

By default Nextkast uses the default sound card in windows.  
Run the Default sound card audio out into one channel of your physical mixer  
Run the Main out of the Physical mixer into the line in of your sound card.

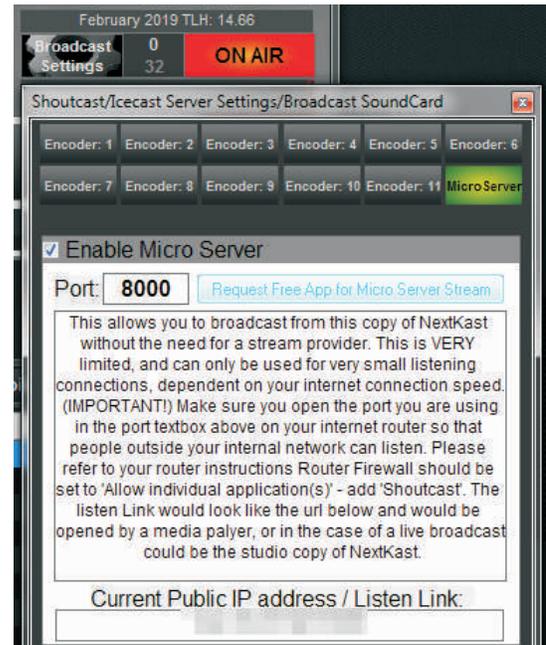


In the Line In setting in Nextkast, Check use external Mixer.

Now when line in button is pressed audio is channeled from the audio out, into the mixer ( giving you volume control of the audio playing from nextkast) , then Mic's and other sources can be added to your mixer. The mixer main then is fed back into NK



# NextKast MicroServer Quick Start



The Nextkast MicroServer feature allows you to start broadcasting immediately without the need for a stream provider. In addition with the help of a FREE phone app you can listen to your stream via the app from all over the world.

Here are the instructions to get started. Please note follow the instructions on the second page FIRST to make sure the ports are open on your router to allow this feature to work.

# Configure Router to Open port 8000-8005 for Shoutcast

## 1. Customize Firewall

The screenshot shows the AT&T router's web interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'Home', 'Services', 'Settings', and 'Site Map'. Below this is a section titled 'Key Things to do Using Your Gateway' with a 'Refresh Page' button. It lists several tasks: 'Troubleshoot' (Go to online support), 'Wi-Fi' (Modify security or settings), 'Restart your System' (Reboot the gateway), 'Home Network' (Find a computer, share a file), and 'Customize Firewall' (Adjust firewall settings for gaming and applications). At the bottom, there is a 'Gateway Status' section with a 'More Info' button.

## 2. Find Shoutcast in the List

### 2) Edit firewall settings for this computer

- Maximum protection - Disallow unsolicited inbound traffic
- Allow individual application(s) - Choose the application(s) that will be enabled to pass through the firewall to this computer. Click ADD to add it to the Hosted Applications list.

Filter Applications by	Application List	Action	Hosted Applications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>All applications</li><li>Games</li><li>Audio/video</li><li>Messaging and Internet</li><li>Phone</li><li>Servers</li><li>Other</li><li>User-defined</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Rogue Spear</li><li>RTSP</li><li>Scour Media</li><li>SCP Secure Copy</li><li>Shiva VPN</li><li>ShoutCast Server</li><li>SIP</li><li>Slingbox</li><li>SMTP Server</li><li>Soldier of Fortune</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Add</li><li>Remove</li></ul>	

[Add a new user-defined application](#)

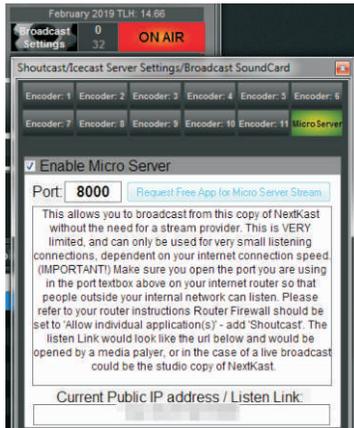
## 3. Add Shoutcast To allowed Applications

### 2) Edit firewall settings for this computer

- Maximum protection - Disallow unsolicited inbound traffic
- Allow individual application(s) - Choose the application(s) that will be enabled to pass through the firewall to this computer. Click ADD to add it to the Hosted Applications list.

Filter Applications by	Application List	Action	Hosted Applications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>All applications</li><li>Games</li><li>Audio/video</li><li>Messaging and Internet</li><li>Phone</li><li>Servers</li><li>Other</li><li>User-defined</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Active Worlds</li><li>Age of Empires</li><li>Age of Kings</li><li>Age of Wonders</li><li>Aliens vs Predator</li><li>America Online (AIM Talk)</li><li>Anarchy Online</li><li>AOL Instant Messenger</li><li>Asheron's Call</li><li>Audiogalaxy Satellite</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Add</li><li>Remove</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>ShoutCast Server</li></ul>

# Request Your Free Listen App



Making sure you have opened the port on your router and Enabled the Micro Server, Click the 'Request Free App for Microserver Stream Button. This will take you to a webpage to request your private listen app for this stream.

A screenshot of the myRadio Tuner website. The header features the text "UNLIMITED SKIPS" and "myRadio Tuner" with a blue circular logo containing "MyRadio TUNER". Below the header is the tagline "The Exclusive Online Radio Directory". The main content area is titled "Add Custom Internet Radio Station / Free mobile App Request". It includes a form with several fields: "Internet Station Name\*" (required), "Station Listen URL\*" (required) with an example and instructions, and "Contact Email Address\*" (required). There is a file upload section for a station logo (150px X 53px, .JPG ONLY) with a "Choose File" button and "No file chosen" text. At the bottom of the form are two buttons: "Click here to Test Stream FIRST" and "Submit".

The Station URL will be filled in, make sure to Enter Station Name, Email Address and add a Logo if desired. BEFORE PRESSING SUBMIT make sure to press the 'Click here to Test Stream First' button. This will confirm that your micro caster is working. If this test fails revert back to making sure your router is configured properly as mentioned in the prior page.

If submitted successfully, you will receive a link you can share to listen to your station from a webpage, or iphone/android app.

A great feature available in the Broadcast version is the possibility for nextkast to automatically insert requested tracks from your website and even mention requesters name and location(if enabled ) all automatically.

This feature does require some web experience to embed the search script onto your station website, so consider getting the help of a web developer if you think you may need it. Having said that we have made this as easy as possible to implement

Here are the steps required to get this working.

1. If you have not already Set up an ftp account with your hosting company
2. Enter the ftp details in the web request window found in the settings window
3. Enter the path of that webserver with '/retrieveRequest.php' at end of path
4. Press upload initial files Button
5. On your server you will see these files have uploaded, if that did not succeed upload them manually:

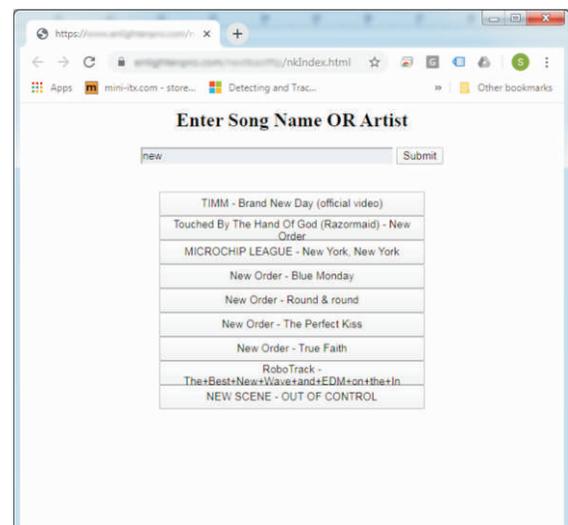
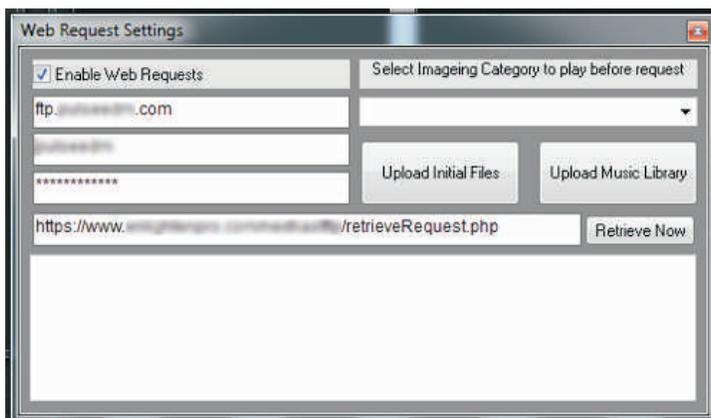
These files are in the nextkast/WEB folder:

nkIndex.html  
search.php  
retrieveRequest.php  
request.php

These files will be in the NextKast Directory and also need to be uploaded:

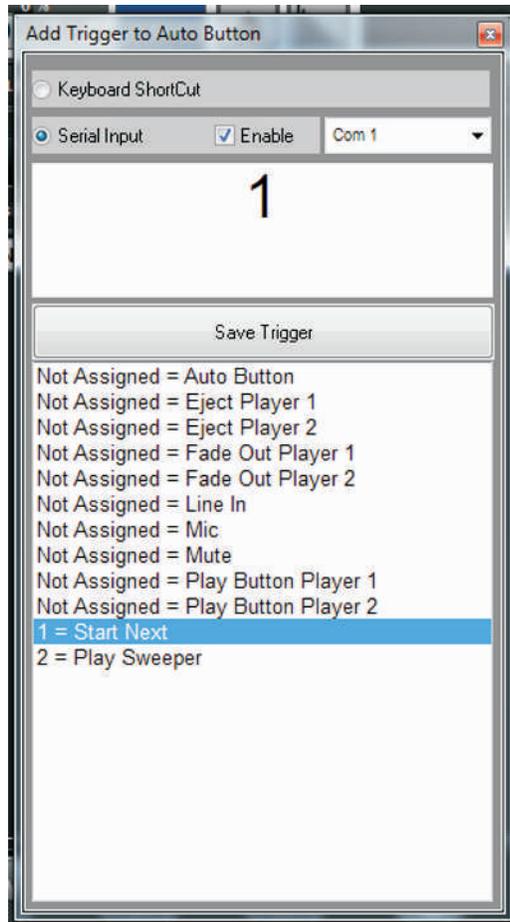
requests.db3  
SongList.db3

When you navigate to nkIndex.html you should be able to search your library and click on a song to request. You can then enter your name and location and press submit. Once the request is complete for your initial test you can press the retrieve button once, to pull the request, and a second time to insert the request.



**Nextkast can respond to triggers/contact closures from an external relay contact board like the SRC-16 Plus – Serial Remote Control or SRC-4 – Serial Remote Control or any compatible device that uses the same serial message format.**

**To use this feature click on your settings window and then press Keyboard Shortcuts/ Serial Triggers button. This window will appear.**



**Select the serial Input box, enable it, and select the com port that your Serial Device is on.**

**To assign, click on the action/command you would like to assign, then enter the relay contact that will trigger that event.**

**Press the save trigger button and that is it.**

**It is possible to leave the serial enable on indefinitely, but also possible to turn on and off triggering using the playlist macros command `startSerialListen` and `stopSerialListen`.**

A common question/concern we get is a customer asking why an artist repeated too soon(if I set my artist repeat at 6 hours), or a song is getting played too much. Here are some tips to diagnosing such issues.

Music scheduling is an art, simply applying rules and not providing the software the resources to accomplish them will not yield proper results All tracks do have to be properly tagged with correct artist and title. any blank title or artist fields will cause issues you have to take into account.

how many times the category appears in the rotation

how many tracks are in the category

how many unique artist are in the category

What is your artist repeat set at?

what is your title repeat set at?

do you have audience pleaser enabled?

Here are some features built into Nextkast that will help you diagnose song scheduling issues.

The simplest way to diagnose this issue is to look at the song error log found in the settings window.

Here are some terms to look for:

1. Search Depth, this number refers to how deep in the list of a particular category Nextkast had to search for a track that follows all the rules set, a number below 30% is optimal
2. If artist or title repeat is set too high for the amount of tracks in a category, Nextkast will indicate that in the Song Pick Error Log
3. All other broken rules etc will be listed here, make adjustments and then try your rotation or playlist generation again.
4. Last final recommendation, Nextkast can run hypothetical play list generation, where played data can be searched using the played search screen. this allows adjustment of song pick parameters like artist and title repeat, and the ability to view the tracks as if they played out. This setting can be enabled in the settings / adv / debug mode.



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