



**xPoint**  
Executive Videoconferencing Room System

## **xPoint v1.5 New Features Guide**

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# 1 OVERVIEW

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Emblaze VCON's xPoint is a room conferencing system that offers high-quality videoconferencing capabilities. Utilizing the newest H.264 video standard and clear, crisp audio, the xPoint brings users face-to-face with other people and organizations.

This document highlights the new features incorporated in version 1.5 of the xPoint system.

## ***New Features in this release***

The following are the new features in this release:

- Embedded MCU for multipoint sessions
- Recording and playback
- Session Multicasting
- Streaming for Windows Media Player
- Side-By-Side view
- System shutdown from the remote control
- Display files from USB disk on key while in idle mode
- Display running text (on screen ticker)
- Far End mute indicator
- Telnet interface

## 2 FEATURES DESCRIPTION

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### ***Embedded MCU***

The embedded MCU (optional component) enables connecting up to 6 endpoints simultaneously from various locations. This MCU capability includes the host system and an additional 5 endpoints, one of which can be connected through ISDN.

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**Note:** Before using this functionality, please verify the licensing capabilities of your system. Go to the license page by selecting using the remote control:  
*Menu → Settings → General → License*. Verify that the option “MCU” is marked with a checkmark sign (✓).

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### **Using the Embedded MCU:**

The embedded MCU offers three major capabilities:

1. Outbound calling
2. Inbound calling
3. Layout and call management

### **Outbound calling:**

Once a point to point call is in progress, you have the ability to make outbound calls to other systems and connect them to the active session. In order to make an additional outbound call, select the “Dial” button on the remote control or select “New Call” through the on screen menu. This will open the “New Call” screen where you can enter the address of the endpoint you wish to call.

### **Inbound calling:**

When the MCU capability exists in your system, up to 5 inbound calls can be answered (depending on the answer mode setting) and added to the multi call session. This allows you to accept multiple calls without prior configuration or scheduling.

### **Layout and call management:**

When more than two endpoints are in one session simultaneously, the system which acts as the conference host has a number of in-call options:

Layout management: You can set the layout of the composite image using a number of options:

- **Auto:** The system will change the layout automatically according to the following logic: with up to 4 participants, use the 2x2 layout; for 5 or more participants, use the 5+1 layout automatically.
- **VS: (Voice switched)** There is always only one image which contains the video stream of the dominant speaker. The current dominant speaker sees the previous dominant speaker.
- **2x2:** The screen is divided into 4 quadrants of the same size. Each quadrant contains an image from one endpoint. If there are more than 4 endpoints in the call using this layout, the dominant speaker will appear, replacing an image of a non dominant speaker.
- **5+1:** This layout divides the screen to six parts where one is larger than the other parts and contains the image of the dominant speaker at any given time.

## MCU Settings

The following settings are available for the MCU module. You can access these settings by selecting using the remote control: *Menu* → *Settings* → *MCU* or on the xPoint web management *Configuration* → *Calls* → *MCU settings*

- **Layout:** Set the default layout for a multipoint call (See under “[Layout and call management](#)”)
- **Answer Mode:** Set the default answer mode
  - Accept : Automatically accept incoming calls
  - Reject All : Automatically reject all incoming calls
  - Manual : Display a prompt each time a call comes in
- **Highlight dominant speaker:** Display a frame around the quadrant of the dominant speaker
- **Names Overlay:** Display the remote station name overlaid on each participant image

## Recording and playback

The recording and playback functionality allows you to record both point to point and multipoint (MCU based) sessions and view them at a later time. You can also download the recorded session file from the xPoint and share it during a session with the parties connected, through the data sharing mechanism.

**Note:** Before using this functionality, please verify the licensing capabilities of your system. Go to the license page by selecting using the remote control:

*Menu* → *Settings* → *General* → *License*. Verify that the option “Recording/Streaming” is marked with a checkmark sign (✓).

### Recording

The Recording option is only available while the system is in a session. When you wish to start recording the session, select using the remote control:

*Menu* → *Media* → *Start recording*

The recording will last as long as the call is in progress and will end automatically when the last participant disconnects. To stop recording during the call, select using the remote control *Menu* → *Media* → *Stop recording*

You can also operate these actions from the xPoint web management by selecting *Call view* → *Start recording*

### Storage Limits:

The amount of recorded video is limited to the size of the internal or external drive, whichever is used. There are two alerts generated by the system, one is for low storage space, the second is when there is more storage available. You can see the amount of storage available on the internal drive on the xPoint web management pages on the top right. It is recommended that you delete any unwanted recordings to clear storage space, and also download and backup any important sessions on your local computer or network.

### Playback

There are a number of ways to view pre recorded sessions:

- Download the recorded session:

Through the xPoint web management, select “Recording Archive”. In this page you can see all previously recorded sessions. To download a recording to your computer, right click on the name link and choose “Save Target As...”. After the file is downloaded, you can watch it locally on your computer using the Windows Media Player, send it via e-mail, or archive it on your local hard drive.

- View the recorded session directly:

To view the recorded session directly (without previously downloading the file), through the xPoint web management, select “Recording Archive” and click on the session name you wish to view. This will launch the Windows Media Player on your computer and will start showing the session.

Name	Date	Time	Size	Duration
<a href="#">rename</a> xPoint	24/07/2008	09:47:30	7.16 MB	00:03:43
<a href="#">rename</a> Board Meeting	27/07/2008	11:50:48	1.35 MB	00:00:31
<a href="#">rename</a> Marketing	27/07/2008	13:05:38	82.57 MB	00:46:06
<a href="#">rename</a> Distance Learning	27/07/2008	14:52:03	101.43 KB	00:00:09

Figure 1: Recording archive

- View in idle mode:

You can view any previously recorded session when you are not in a call by selecting the file from the list. To access the file list, using the remote control select *Menu* → *Data Sharing* → *Recordings*

- Share the recorded session as a data stream:

When you are in a videoconference session on the xPoint, select using the remote control *Menu* → *Data Sharing* → *Recordings*. The list of recorded sessions is presented. Highlight one from the list and select “*Share*”. The recorded session will be shared with the remote side of the call. To end the sharing select *Menu* → *Data Sharing* → *Stop Sharing*

### **Recording Settings**

The following settings are available for the recording option on the xPoint. They are located in the settings screens under “*Media*”:

**Recording Drive:** Set the default storage media:

**Internal:** Save recording to the internal storage

**External :** Save recording to an external USB thumb drive



Note: The xPoint date and time settings must be set accurately in order for the recordings to be saved with the correct date and time. The time and date settings are under *Settings* → *General* → *Admin*

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## ***Session Multicasting***

Session multicasting allows you to broadcast your session using the special networking transport technology called “multicasting”. The multicasting technology allows users to send a video stream that can be received by multiple recipients, all of whom are listening on a single multicast address.

Multicasting a session from your xPoint allows countless passive viewers to see this session, which is usually targeted at lectures, or any session that passive viewers can benefit from.

Multicast sessions can be viewed by all Emblaze-VCON endpoints, the Emblaze-VCON Broadcast Viewer, and the Apple© Quick Time viewer.

### **Start multicasting**

To start multicasting your session, use either the menus on the screen or through the xPoint web management.

- On screen menus: Select using the remote control:  
*Menu → Media → Start Multicasting*
- Web Management: Call View → Start Multicasting

### **Viewing Multicast**

When a multicast is active, Emblaze-VCON endpoints can view that session by selecting the IP address of the multicasting system from the list of multicast session names.

You can also view the multicast from the xPoint system that is generating the multicast, through the web based management by clicking on the “view multicast” icon on the bottom on the menu list.



**Figure 2: View Multicast web menu**

## ***Session Streaming***

### **Streaming**

Session streaming for Windows Media Player allows any system with the Microsoft™ media player application to view an ongoing session from the xPoint system.

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**Note:** Before using this functionality, please verify the licensing capabilities of your system. Go to the license page by selecting using the remote control:

*Menu → Settings → General → License.* Verify that the option “Recording/Streaming” is marked with a checkmark sign (✓).

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To start streaming your session to Windows Media Player clients, use either the menus on the screen or the xPoint web management.

- On screen menus: Select using the remote control:  
*Menu → Media → Start Streaming*
- Web Management: Call View → Start Streaming

### **Streaming Viewing**

To view an ongoing streaming session, use one of the following methods:

- From the xPoint web management by clicking on the “*View Streaming*” icon on the bottom on the menu list. This will take you to a page with the media player embedded in the page and the ongoing session.
- Run the media player on your PC. Select *File → Open URL...*  
The URL format is `HTTP://IP_OF_ENDPOINT:12100`  
(The port number is modifiable through the settings, please verify).

### **Streaming Settings**

The following settings are available for the streaming option on the xPoint. They are located in the settings screens under “*Media*”:

**Number of steaming ports:** Set the maximum number of streaming clients. Valid values are between 1 and 20

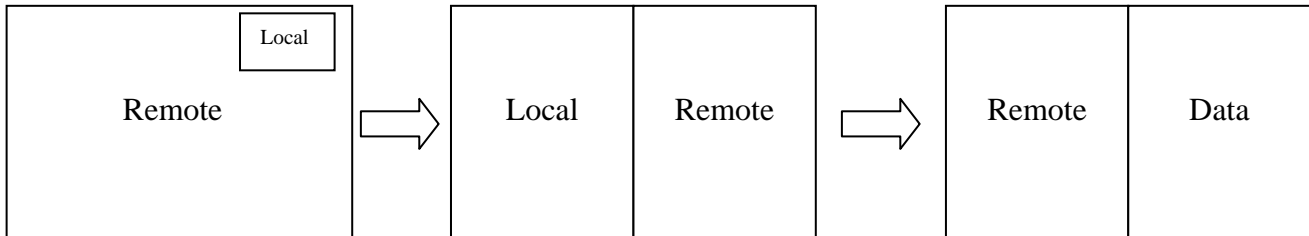
**Streaming Port:** Port number for streaming to media player viewers.

## ***Side by Side View***

A new “side by side” viewing mode is available with this release.

The side by side view enables viewing both the remote and local video streams in a point to point call, or the remote video and the shared data on the same screen laid out side by side. This is an enhancement to the PIP (picture in picture) functionality, where the image of the local video is displayed inside a small frame on top of the remote side image.

To access this view, on the remote control, press the “PIP” button on the remote control until you see both sides on the screen. If data is shared, the remote video and the data are displayed side by side on the screen

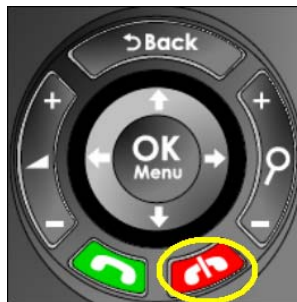


**Figure 3: Side by Side View options**

## ***System Shutdown from Remote Control***

If you wish to completely shutdown the xPoint system, you can now do it from the remote control instead of from the actual codec switch.

To shutdown the system, press and hold the red “Hang-up” button on the remote control until the shutdown prompt appears. If you select “Yes”, the system will shutdown immediately.



**Figure 4: Shutdown from the remote control**

## ***Display files from USB key in idle mode***

An added capability to this version is the ability to display files from a USB key connected to the system while in idle mode. You do not need to be in a call to open display files. The file types are the same as for data sharing including most image formats, video formats and Microsoft™ office files.

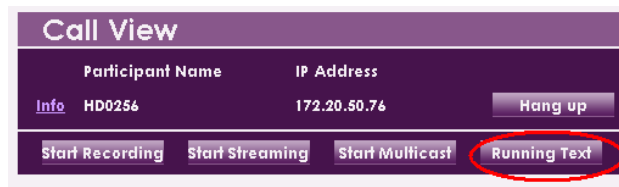
To view files in idle mode select using the remote control: *Menu → Data Sharing → USB*

The list of files and folders is presented, browse to the file you wish to display, select it using the OK button on the remote control and select “Open”.

## ***Display running text (on screen ticker)***

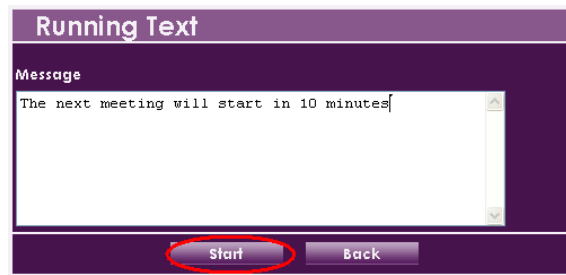
You can display a text message on the screen, which will be displayed to all participants, either in a point to point call or on a multipoint call. This functionality is only available through the xPoint web management and only during a call.

To enter the text using the xPoint web based management pages, click on the “Call View” button. This will open the call view window. In this page, click on the “Running Text” button to open the running text window



**Figure 5: Display running text option**

Enter the text you want to display in the “Message” field, and press “Start”. The text is displayed on the video running from right to left, appearing continuously. The message is shown to all participants.



**Figure 5: Setting running text**

To stop displaying the running text in the running text page, click on the stop button.

### ***Far End mute indicator***

An indication that the remote side has muted its microphone is now available. The indication will appear on the screen if it is supported by the remote system (note: this option is not available in all videoconferencing systems). When calling between xPoint systems and one side has muted its microphone, the mute indicator will show.



**Figure 6: Far end mute indication**

### ***Remote Control integration API through Telnet***

The ability to control the codec through an external remote control system such as Crestron© and AMX© is now available. This functionality enables conference room integrators utilizing touch panel screens an easy to use programming interface used over telnet connection to the codec. The API specification can be found in a separate document.



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Executive Video Conferencing from byram

[www.emblaze-vcon.com](http://www.emblaze-vcon.com)

Doc Rev. 1