



AVScheduler Setup Notes

Broadcast Electronics Tech Note

THE INFORMATION IN THIS ARTICLE APPLIES TO:

All AVScheduler versions

SUMMARY

While AVAir can use AudioVAULT playlists, more often an EVT file generated by AVScheduler is used. AVScheduler imports traffic and music scheduling information, allows it to be integrated with other events such as news, weather, liners, and talk segments, and then combines and translates that information into an Event File that AVAir can understand. This paper is intended to answer some basic setup questions like:

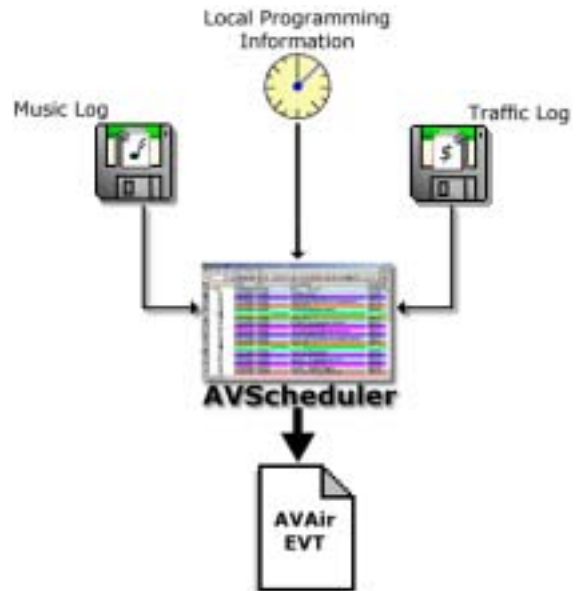
- What is AVScheduler and why do I need it?
- What do I need to do with my traffic and music scheduling programs?
- How does AVScheduler work?
- What is "Schedule Build?"
- What is the step-by-step procedure to set up AVScheduler?

WHAT IS AVSCHEDULER AND WHY DO I NEED IT?

AVScheduler is a component of the AudioVAULT software suite that writes the AVAir Event File. Instead of "scheduling" events itself, AVScheduler imports information from music scheduling programs and traffic scheduling programs. It can combine those files with local programming information and create a single file called an event file that contains a list of every event listed in order from the Legal ID at midnight to the last song in the 11 o'clock hour.

For the on-air talent, having the single Event File is great because it's like having all your carts pulled for the entire show. For the Programming staff, having the single combined file allows them to have a sequential overview of how all the elements in an hour or a day flow.

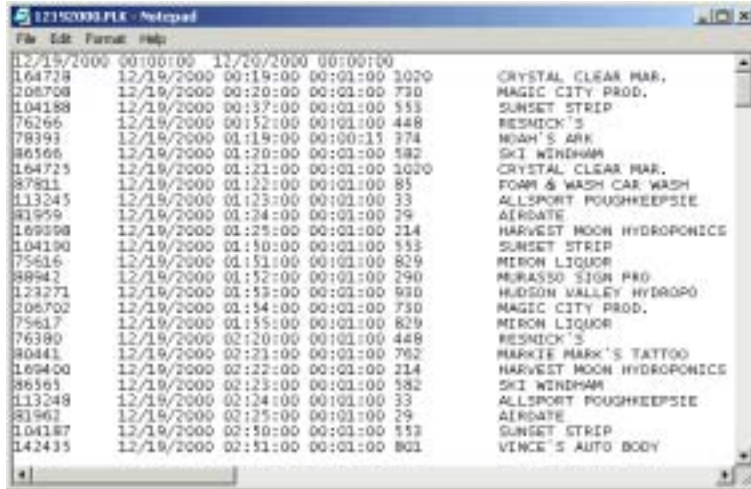
For Traffic directors, AVScheduler allows you to check what is scheduled against what AudioVAULT audio files are actually available with a feature called Log Check. AVScheduler will also give the Traffic department a way to modify the AVAir schedule without having to go into the on-air studio. There are even reconciliations that will report discrepancies between what was scheduled in AVScheduler and what was actually played in AVAir.



So to answer the original question, AVScheduler is a way to integrate schedules from your Music and Traffic programs into a single Event File. You need it to interface those programs with the AVAir software. You'll love it because of the flexibility it will provide.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO WITH MY TRAFFIC AND MUSIC SCHEDULING PROGRAMS?

AVScheduler reads a computer file commonly called an ASCII (ask-ee) file. This is a simple file that you can open in a text editor like Windows' Notepad.



Most scheduling packages can write a file like this as part of an Automation Interface.

You will need to contact your scheduling software providers to get information on how to produce an ASCII export. Once the file is created, send it to Broadcast Electronics' Digital Customer Service team to verify that it will work with AVScheduler.

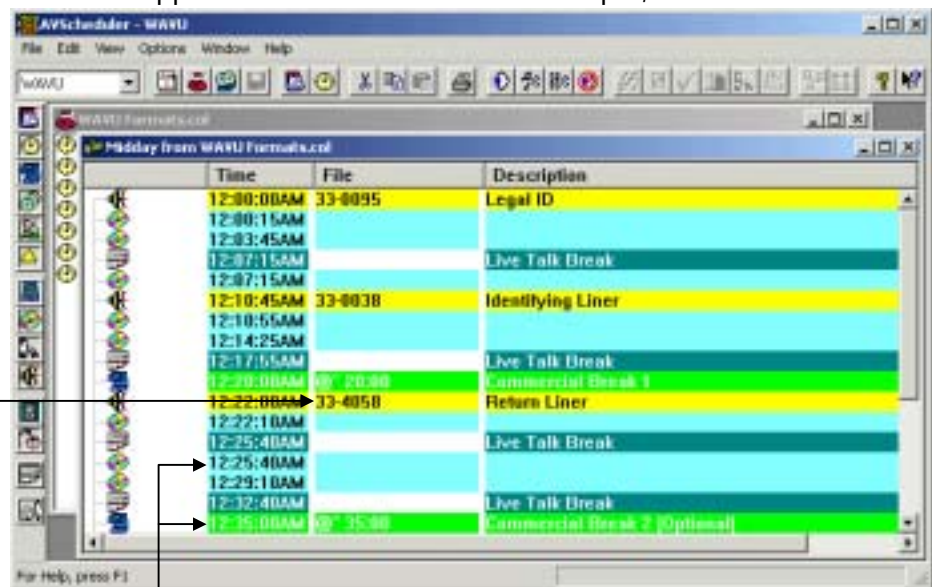
HOW DO AVSCHEDULER COLLECTIONS WORK?

AVScheduler allows you to build a collection of templates that will be able to accept information from your music and traffic scheduling software. These templates are divided into two collections: a Formats Collection and a Days Collection.

The Formats Collection holds hour-long templates consisting of events. As you build a Format Hour, you include every event that happens in that hour. In this example, we start off the hour with a Legal ID, play 2 songs, go into a talk break, play a song, play a liner, do 2 more songs, and schedule a talk break into the 20-after commercial break.

We've assigned cut numbers for the Liners and IDs that will play every time we use this format.

For events that will change depending on the day like songs and commercials, we'll add empty events that will act like "containers." We'll fill in these containers when we go through the import process. These containers **must** be there so that when we import music or traffic, the events will have somewhere to go.



The Days Collection holds 24-hour long templates consisting of Format Hours. This allows you to organize and reuse template combinations...this Monday will follow the same basic outline as next Monday.

When we schedule a specific Date, AVScheduler reads the information stored in the Days templates to create a 24-hour long skeleton file called a CSAW file. Once that file has been created, we fill in the empty containers with information from the traffic and music scheduling software. The containers are already embedded in the local programming (IDs and Liners, for example) that we defined as we built the Formats collections, so when AVScheduler writes the Event File based on the CSAW, we have a 24-hour long file with every event in sequence.

WHAT IS "SCHEDULE BUILD?"

As you build the Formats templates, it's very important that the number of empty containers matches the number of events scheduled in your traffic and music programs. For example, if Programming schedules 15 songs an hour, you need to set aside 15 empty song containers every hour to not only accept all the import data, but also to make sure each event is written to the Event File in the right place.

So what happens if Programming decided to start scheduling 16 songs overnight? Not only do they have to tell their music software to start scheduling 16 songs overnight, the AVScheduler Formats will have to be modified to reflect the change with the additional containers for the extra songs. We need to make the change in two places.

To avoid this, it's possible to store all of the information we normally store in the Formats Collection within the Music Scheduling software instead. **PowerGold**, **Music Master** and **RCS' Selector** and **Linker** products are capable of creating a file that allows us to do a Schedule Build import.

With the Schedule Build import, programming information is stored in the music output file. When we import the file, the CSAW or skeleton file is created on the fly based on that information. The advantage is that when a change is made, it only has to be made in one place. The disadvantage is that until the music file is imported, containers don't exist to accept traffic information, so music **must** be imported before traffic. The output file must be in a specific format for Schedule Build to work. Contact Digital Customer Service for more information.

SETUP STEP-BY-STEP

1. Contact the vendors of your music and traffic scheduling programs. Have them teach you how to export an ASCII automation file.
2. Send the resultant files to Digital Customer Service. If you would like to use the Schedule Build feature, we can help you configure the output file.
3. AVScheduler keeps all of its collections and data files in a single Windows Folder called a Data Directory. The next step is to use Windows Explorer to create the Data Directory. Create the directory on a machine that is always accessible, like the on-air workstation.
4. When you first start AVScheduler, it will ask you to create a station and identify that station's Data Directory. Type in your call letters in the **Station Name** field. Then use the **Browse** button next to the **Please select a folder to contain the station's data files** field and browse to the Data Directory we created in step three.
5. Go through AVScheduler's setup options to define the AVAir directories and the import definitions.
6. Build your Formats and Days templates. (Unless you're using Schedule Build.)

For additional information on this topic, please contact Broadcast Electronics Digital Customer Service at 217.224.4700. You can also email specific questions to service@bdcast.com.