

MPEG-1, 2 & 4



VBrick StreamPlayer Plus for Linux/Solaris Release Notes Version 4.0.0

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Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide release notes for the VBrick StreamPlayer Plus for Linux and Solaris software, and includes:

- Overview
- Installation instructions
- Feature enhancements
- Caveats

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Overview

The StreamPlayer Plus for Linux and Solaris empowers viewers to watch live DVD quality MPEG video and audio on Workstations using Linux or Solaris operating systems, anywhere the network reaches. StreamPlayer Plus automatically displays a "Program Guide" that lists live or stored videos that are available for viewing. Users can select the program name, and instantly view television quality video on the workstation.

Requirements

Linux

This release has been developed and tested on Red Hat 8 and 9. In order to test the browser plugin, it is necessary have Mozilla 1.0 (or higher) and/or Netscape 6.3.2 (or higher) installed.

NOTES:

- While it is likely that the StreamPlayer Plus for Linux will run on other Linux distributions, VBrick will only provide support for the Red Hat releases indicated above.
- The X Server must be set for at least 15-bit color depth. For information about how to configure the X Server, see 'man XF86Config'.

Solaris

This release has been developed and tested on Solaris 8.0. It is recommended that the application run on a Sun UltraSPARC Ili or better processor, such as that found on the Sun Blade 150. For best results, we recommend a Sun UltraSPARC III Cu processor, such as that found on the Sun Blade 2000.

Installation

Installation instructions are in the StreamPlayer Plus for Linux/Solaris Users Guide.

Features

This release of StreamPlayer Plus for Linux and Solaris provides the following new features:

- Plays MPEG-4 ISMA compatible live streams and files using both UDP and RTP over RTSP tunneling.
- Records MPEG-4 live streams to disk in ISMA compatible file format.
- Provides for display of MPEG-1 and MPEG-2 Close Captioning if the closed captioning is available in the stream.

The StreamPlayer Linux/Solaris Users Guide provides details of the features incorporated in this release. The User's Guide is available on the VBrick Product CD received with the order or on the VBrick web site at www.vbrick.com.

Caveats

Solaris

- Prior to installation, the X Server must be set for at least 15-bit color depth. For information about how to configure the X Server, see 'man XF86Config'.
- The values given to tune the Solaris kernel are minimums.
- At high resolutions and high refresh rates, the video RAM on the PGX64 card cannot keep up with the required data rate, and corruption of the video image may result. The following graphics modes have been tested and are known to work (H x V x refresh_rate):

- 1024x768, 75 Hz
- 1024x768, 85 Hz
- 1280x1024, 75 Hz
- 1600x1200, 60 Hz

At resolutions or refresh rates higher than those listed above, some video images -- notably those encoded at high resolutions -- will appear with noticeable artifacts on the right hand side of the video window. If necessary, you can change video resolution with the `m64config` command, for instance:

```
/usr/sbin/m64config -res 1024x768x85
```

- After making any changes to the graphics configuration, it is necessary to log out and log back in for the changes to take effect.
- If the "Stop" button is selected to stop a steam and the audio is disabled by selecting the speaker symbol, when the "Play" button is selected, the video buffers and plays with audio even though the speaker displays the red circle with line through it. This is a known issue in the xine-lib audio-output driver for Solaris.

Linux and Solaris Players

- If the installer fails to auto-discover the correct Netscape and Mozilla plugin directories, the administrator can install the plugin by hand by running the script at `/usr/local/vbrick/bin/install-plugin.sh`. For example, if Netscape's plugins directory is `/opt2/SUNWns/plugins`, the administrator could type `"/usr/local/vbrick/bin/install-plugin.sh -d /opt2/SUNWns/plugins"`, and this will install the VBrick plugin in the specified directory. For full script instructions type `"/usr/local/vbrick/bin/install-plugin.sh -h"`.
- QSIF is not a recommended configuration on the VBrick when StreamPlayer Plus for Solaris or Linux is being used as the decoder. When QSIF is used, the audio may

not be synchronized properly with the video. In addition Closed Captioning Display may not be correctly scaled with QSIF.

- In order to play unicast MPEG1 or MPEG2 streams, the IP address of the Computer itself (as opposed to the source computer) must be entered in the IP address field.
- Changing source parameters of an MPEG4 stream while playing the stream will result in player failures.
- If an MPEG4 stream with a key interval of 0 is played, video quality will be degraded.

Recording functions

- The StreamPlayer Plus for Linux and Solaris forces some constraints on the total duration and batch duration:
 - Total duration must be greater than 30 seconds, and must be a multiple of 30 seconds.
 - Batch duration must be a multiple of 30 seconds.
 - Total duration must be an integer multiple of batch duration.

Embedded StreamPlayer

- Before implementing the embedded StreamPlayer, please review the installation instructions to make sure that the StreamPlayer Plug-In to Netscape or Mozilla is installed correctly.
- It is necessary to have Netscape 6.2.3 or higher installed in order to embed video in a web page.
- When embedding the video in a web page, the resolution in the HTML file should be set to 800 x 600 or higher. Setting the resolution too low produces horizontal distortion lines.
- When viewing a stream or file embedded in an HTML page, occasionally selecting full screen will not increase video window size. If this happens, attempt the process again. If this does not work, close and reopen the browser.