



Q-Sys

Release Notes Rev. E

Release 1.2.242

September 2010

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Release Notes

This topic covers pertinent information, including the known issues, for the Release 1.2.242, September 2010.

Installation Software Requirements

	Q-Sys Designer	WMI Web Management Interface	UCI User Control Interface (web)	UCI (AIR)
Microsoft Windows Vista (32 or 64 bit) SP1 or Microsoft Windows XP Professional Version 2002 SP3 Microsoft Windows 7 (32 or 64 bit)	Required	N/A	N/A	N/A
Microsoft .NET Framework 3.5 SP1 (click for info)	Required Installed Automatically ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A
Apple Bonjour for Windows (click to download) ²	Optional ³ Installed Manually	Optional Installed Manually	Optional Installed Manually	Optional Installed Manually
Adobe Flash version 10 or later (click to download)	Not Required	Required Installed Manually	Required Installed Manually	Required Installed Manually
Adobe Air (click to download)	Not Required	Not Required	Not Required	Required Installed Manually
<p>1. Internet access required.</p> <p>2. Enables entering the Core, I/O Frame, or User Control Interface name (<a href="http://<name>.local">http://<name>.local) instead of the IP Address in a web browser address line.</p> <p>3. Required to discover and upgrade 1.1 Cores and I/O Frames to Q-Sys Release 1.2. In addition, it is required to downgrade hardware from 1.2 to 1.1.</p>				

Compatibility

The latest Q-Sys Designer software (1.2) can open any older Q-Sys Designer file (1.0 or 1.1). Generally, a newer version file cannot be opened by an older release of software, for example neither Q-Sys Designer software release 1.0, or 1.1 can open a version 1.2 file.

		Q-Sys Designer File Version		
		1.0	1.1	1.2
Q-Sys Designer Version	1.0	Can Open	Can Open*	Cannot Open
	1.1	Can Open	Can Open	Cannot Open
	1.2	Can Open	Can Open	Can Open

* Opening up a newer file in an older Q-Sys Designer version may lead to loss of data when the file is saved. For example, if a property of an object was added in 1.1, if the file is opened in 1.0, that information is discarded. If the file is then saved over itself as a 1.0 file, any additional 1.1 data is lost.

New and Changed Features

Components

Control Script Component

The LUA script editor now uses auto completion.

Signal Snake Component

The Signal Snake is located in the Schematic Library.

Loudspeaker Custom Voicing Component

This component is now in the Inventory. Loudspeaker Custom Voicing is available for all loudspeakers that do not have Intrinsic Correction™.

Container Component

The Container Component can now be password protected.

New Continuous Ambient Compensator Component

The Continuous Ambient Compensator controls the level of a program, for example background music or announcements, in a situation where the ambient signal level varies.

Subtractive Ambient Compensator Component

The Subtractive Ambient Compensator component is no longer available in release 1.2. Q-Sys still supports this component in existing designs. QSC recommends that you use the new Continuous Ambient Compensator in place of the Subtractive Ambient Compensator.

Generic and Generic Distributed Loudspeakers

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Added Custom Voicing for these loudspeakers.

General

Change the Properties of Multiple Components

You can now select multiple components and change Properties for all of the selected components. If the components are the same, you can change all of the Properties. If the components are different, you can change only common Properties. In the Inventory, use Ctrl-click and Shift-click to select multiple Inventory items. In the Schematic, for this release, if you select multiple Inventory components, you must select the components one at a time using Ctrl-click, or using the crossing box (drag a box to the left that crosses the components), without selecting the audio pins.

Graphic Tool - Polygon

Create polygonal shapes and assign controls to them to enhance your design. For example, you can create a room in a floor plan using the Polygon tool, and then assign a paging button to that room (polygon shape). When you click the "room", it activates the paging zone. You can also use the Polygon tool to help organize your design - you do not have to assign a control to it.

Q-Sys Designer Compressed File Format

The design files created by Q-Sys Designer (.qsys file extension) are now in a compressed format. The compressed file format is 80-90% smaller than the uncompressed. For example, a 2.7 MB design file would now be 360 KB. The compatibility of the various releases and the existing file formats is:

- 1.2.xx or later - can open 1.0, 1.1 and 1.2 design files
- 1.1.x - can open 1.0 and 1.1 files
- 1.0.x - can open 1.0 files

Pressing Delete when a Pin is Selected

Selecting a component pin and pressing the Delete key now will delete the Signal Name and any attached wires. Previously, pressing delete only removed the Signal Name. If you select the Signal Name or wire by itself and press Delete, only what you have selected is deleted.

Dragging an Inventory Item into the Schematic

You can now drag an Inventory Item with multiple child Components into the Schematic, and all of the associated components move into the Schematic. As in previous releases, if you select a single component of an Inventory item and drag it into the Schematic, only that component moves to the Schematic.

Find Now Works with Snapshot Banks

You can now select a control listed in a Snapshot Bank, press Ctrl + F to open the Context Finder, then jump to the control in the component's control panel from which it came. You can also select the control in the component's control panel and locate it in the Snapshot Bank. Selecting a component in the Snapshot bank locates the component in the Schematic.

UCIs now Support Meter Labels

In previous releases, you could not place a meter label (scale) in a UCI. In this release you can.

Horizontal Faders and Meters

When you drag a Fader control or a Meter into the Schematic or a UCI, you can adjust the size of the control. When the width of the control exceeds the height, the control automatically changes to a horizontal display. The directional movement of the horizontal item is from left (low) to right (high), unless you change the Reverse Action Property to Yes.

Drag Text Fields to Change Values

When you drag a control into the Schematic or a UCI from a control panel, then change that control to a Text Field, you can now change the values from the Text Field (in Run or Emulate mode), by clicking and dragging up or down in the same way you would change a Fader, Knob, or Combo Box control.

Remote Access with Q-Sys Designer

Q-Sys Designer can now connect to Cores on other subnets, whether in a different room or different continent.

Right-click in Q-Sys Designer

With multiple Schematic elements selected, a right-click presents a control for aligning and distributing the elements.

Label Controls added to Matrix Mixer

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You can now choose to have Label Controls in the Matrix Mixer by selecting Yes for Label Controls in the Matrix Mixer's Properties. This feature, when enabled, provides text fields by each input and output channel. You can add custom identification for the channels using these labels.

Limiter Performance for QSC Intrinsicly Corrected Loudspeakers

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On QSC Intrinsicly corrected loudspeakers, the limiter performance has been enhanced to better preserve the tonal balance when limiting is engaged.

External Control

External Control Protocol

The following commands have been added to the External Control Protocol:

- Change Group Poll No ACK
- Change Group Schedule No ACK

The following command responses have been added to the External Control Protocol:

- core_not_active
- control_read_only <control_id>
- too_many_change_groups

The End of Message (EOM) for Commands has changed.

- Release 1.1 allows, but does not require, a null character to terminate a command. Responses were terminated with null, carriage return, line feed.
- Release 1.2 doesn't recognize the null and requires a line feed or carriage return, line feed to terminate a command. Responses are terminated with carriage return, line feed.

New Extract External Controls

This new feature allows you to extract a listing of all the controls you have made available for External Control. The list is in XML format, and includes various identifying and descriptive pieces of information about each control and the components from which the control came. This file is primarily designed to work with Medialon show control systems (<http://www.medialon.com/>).

Network

New Q-Sys Discovery Protocol (QDP)

QDP is a Q-Sys protocol used for discovery on routable networks. The Core and I/O Frames no longer have to be on the same subnet.

Q-Sys 1.2.x now uses QDP for discovery. As a result of this, Apple Bonjour / mDNS have been deprecated in Q-Sys, and is no longer required for version 1.2 and later. However, mDNS is still functioning in version 1.2, and required for the following scenarios:

- To enable Q-Sys Designer 1.2 to discover and update version 1.0 and 1.1 devices.
- To enable Q-Sys Designer 1.1 to discover and downgrade Cores and I/O Frames for troubleshooting purposes.

NOTE: The latest version of Apple's Bonjour for Windows, evidently, no longer includes an Internet Explorer plugin for displaying a list of mDNS-discovered links. There is a plugin for Firefox, called BonjourFoxy, which does provide this functionality in Firefox. It works in conjunction with Bonjour for Windows. You can install the latest Bonjour for Windows as a part of other Apple software, such as iTunes, and if so the Internet Explorer plugin for Bonjour will disappear.

Operating System

Q-Sys Supports Microsoft Windows 7 (32 or 64 bit)

Microsoft Windows 7 requires some firewall changes to support Q-Sys Discovery Protocol.

BETA Version Features

There are a number of features in Q-Sys Designer currently in a BETA version. These features are marked as such in the Q-Sys Designer user interface, and in the associated help topics. A BETA feature is labeled as such to indicate that it is not as polished as we'd like it to be. It is functional, but there might be caveats and rough edges associated with it. In addition, a BETA feature is more likely to change in the future.

Currently in BETA

- Channel Group
- HoverMon
- Paging components
- User Control Interfaces
- Event Scheduler (Web Management Interface)
- Continuous Ambient Compensator

Removed from BETA

- AES3 Input/Output
- E-Mailer
- Matrix Mixer 2-D Panner
- WAN Stream Receiver
- WAN Stream Transmitter

Resolved Known Issues

Q-Sys Designer Cannot be Used on the AUX LAN ports

Issue: Q-Sys Designer cannot connect to a Core on its AUX LAN ports.

Audio Player Sometimes Causes a Core Restart

Issue: The Audio Player occasionally causes the Core to restart the design within the first minute after starting, if the design is saved with the Audio Player in the looping state. On rare occasions, the design may restart after the Audio Player has been playing for a long time.

Audio Player file drop-down list does not work in User Control Interfaces

Issue: When an Audio Player file selector control is placed in a User Control Interface page, it does not display properly (scale) on a remote interface.

Audio is lost after network failover

Issue: When a redundant network system fails over from LAN A to LAN B, the audio output starts making a "popping" sound after about 15 minutes, then is lost completely after a few more seconds.

Some Crossover Component controls affect only one channel

Issue: When a Crossover Component has more than one channel, the Master Gain, Master Mute, and Master Invert, controls only control the first channel.

Graphic Equalizer Component Master Bypass button affects only one channel

Issue: When a Graphic Equalizer Component has more than one channel, the Master Bypass button bypasses only the first channel.

4-Channel Amplifier Occasionally Loses Channels 3 and 4 when Switching between Redundant I/O Frames in Automatic Mode

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Issue: If you have, a 4-channel amplifier connected to a DAB-801, and switch from the active I/O Frame to the standby I/O Frame, with the Automatic Mode button ON, the amplifier is identified correctly but channels 3 and 4 of the amplifier are occasionally lost.

Custom Voicing for the Generic Distributed Loudspeaker does not Hold

Release 1.2.242

Issue: You can assign a Custom Voicing component to a Generic Distributed Loudspeaker in the loudspeaker's Properties, but when you click away from the loudspeaker component, the assignment is lost.

I/O Frame in a Redundant I/O Frame System Momentarily goes Active if Disconnected, then Reconnected

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Issue: If you have an I/O Frame-redundant system, and the active I/O Frames is disconnected then reconnected, the reconnected I/O Frame becomes active for a short period of time and could cause an interruption in the audio.

Copying a Container Component, Containing an Inventory Component, Corrupts the Design

Release 1.2.242

Issue: If you copy then paste a Container component, containing any Inventory component, the design is corrupted. The Container component, after pasting into your design, would no longer contain the Inventory component, but the wiring would still be in the container. In some cases, you could not wire anything to the Container

component. Currently, if you copy and paste a Container with an Inventory component in it, the Inventory component is added to the Inventory list.

Upgrading from Q-Sys Designer 1.0 or 1.1

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Issue: In version 1.1, Signal Links were replaced by Signal Names. If you upgraded from 1.0 to 1.1, the Signal Links worked, but could not be modified. Conversion to Signal Names was accomplished manually.

In this release of version 1.2, you are given the option to have the Signal Links in your 1.0.x design converted to Signal Names or not. If you choose **not** to convert the Signal Names, they work as described above. If you choose to convert them, and there are any Signal Links in your design that are not connected to anything, they are deleted. The first channel of any multi-channel Signal Links is converted to a Signal Name, but the subsequent channels are deleted. You must rewire them manually. All other Signal Links are converted to Signal Names.

Issue: In version 1.2, Loudspeaker Custom Voicing was moved to Inventory. If you upgraded from 1.0 or 1.1, Custom Voicing would be lost if the Loudspeaker or Loudspeaker component was selected and the Custom Voicing was not in Inventory.

This release of version 1.2 automatically converts existing Loudspeaker Custom Voicing to Inventory.

IMPORTANT: As in any upgrade, it is important to make a backup of your design files before upgrading.

Loudspeaker Custom Voicing Alignment Delay

Release 1.2.242

Issue: The limit to the Loudspeaker Custom Voicing Alignment Delay control was 10 ms, however, the underlying implementation limits the value to 2 ms.

The usable and adjustable value is now 5 ms.

Known Issues

Compiler

Inaccurate DSP Resource Usage Report on Cores 3000 and 4000

Issue: DSP resource usage is underreported as the network channel count approaches the limit.

Workaround: Keep the DSP resource usage under about 90%.

Controls

Orphaned DSP Controls

Issue: When a control had been dragged from a component, and then the component is deleted, the control remains, but cannot operate or have an effect.

Workaround: Manually select and delete the orphaned controls.

Update: When you select an orphaned control, the Context Find popup tells you the "Source of control does not exist."

Control Networking

I/O Frame specified as Network Redundant, Core has only one network interface enabled, incorrect status is displayed in I/O Frame.

Issue: If a Core has only one network interface enabled, and in the design an I/O Frame is specified as having redundant networking, audio stream dropouts result in an incorrect status of "Compromised" rather than "Fault" in the I/O Frame Status Component.

Workaround: If you intend to run without redundant networking, do not specify redundant networking in the design.

Cannot switch between Cores when one has LAN-A removed, the other has LAN-B removed

Issue: In a redundant Core, redundant network, system when the LAN-A connection to one Core is removed, and the LAN-B connection to the other Core is removed, you cannot switch between the Cores using Core Redundancy Controller in Q-Sys Designer.

Workaround: None known

DataPort Amplifier Backup Panel (DAB-801)

Amplifier Occasionally Misidentified when Switching between Redundant I/O Frames with the DAB-801 Automatic Mode Button OFF, and a Manual Backup Engage Button ON

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Issue: When using a DAB-801 in the following scenario:

- redundant I/O Frames,
- in the DAB-801 control panel, the Automatic Mode button OFF and
- one of the Manual Backup Engage buttons ON and
- switch from the active I/O Frame to the standby I/O Frame

Q-Sys occasionally misidentifies the type of the amplifier:

- The Status in amplifier's control panel displays "Fault – Wrong Type".
- Additionally, if a 4-channel amplifier is identified as a 2-channel amplifier, the Status display will include "Channel 3 disconnected, Channel 4 disconnected".

Workaround: Manually make the other I/O Frame active, or disconnect then reconnect the DataPort cable.

4-Channel Amplifier Occasionally Loses Channels 3 and 4 when Switching between Redundant I/O Frames with the DAB-801 Automatic Mode button OFF, and a Manual Backup Engage Button ON

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Issue: If you have, a 4-Channel amplifier connected to a DAB-801, and switch from the active I/O Frame to the standby I/O Frame, with the Automatic Mode button OFF, and a Manual Backup Engage button ON, the amplifier is identified correctly but channels 3 and 4 of the amplifier are occasionally lost. The status in the amplifier's control panel displays "Fault - Channel 3 disconnected, Channel 4 disconnected".

Workaround: Switch back to the other I/O Frame.

Firmware

Core and I/O Frame status not being reported to the Web Management Interface

Issue: If a Core or I/O Frame network interface is down, or other changes are made, for example the IP Address, it doesn't always get reported to the Web Management Interface.

Workaround: None known

Downgrading from Q-Sys 1.2 to Q-Sys 1.1 causes Internal Fault

Issue: When downgrading from Q-Sys 1.2 to Q-Sys 1.1, the system will generate an Internal Fault.

Workaround: After downgrading, power cycle the Core. When the Core restarts, it will be at the Q-Sys 1.1 release level.

Web Management Interface

Web Management Interface not accessible by name if LAN A is disconnected

Issue: With both LAN-A and LAN-B of a Core connected (and enabled) to the same network, when LAN-A is disconnected, the Core is not accessible by entering `<corename.local>` in the browser address bar, or by Bonjour.

Workaround: Enter the Core's IP Address in the browser address line.

Web Management Interface and User Control Interface not getting updated

Issue: Because of Windows Internet Explorer's infamously aggressive caching, the Web Management Interface or the User Control Interface might not get updated correctly after a firmware update on the Core.

Workaround: Change Internet Explorer's caching option.

In Internet Explorer 6: Tools > Internet Options... > General tab > Temporary Internet files > Settings... > Check for newer version of stored pages: > Every visit to the page.

In Internet Explorer 7: Tools > Internet Options > General tab > Browsing history > Settings > Check for newer version of stored pages: Every visit to the page.

Q-Sys Designer

WAN Stream Transmitter/Receiver - Multicast Option Removed

Issue: The multicast property has been removed from both the WAN transmitter and the receiver. Multicast does not work reliably with multiple network interfaces enabled.

Workaround: None known.