Release Notes Rev. D

Release 2.0 February 2011

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Release Notes

This topic covers pertinent information, including the known and resolved issues, for Q-Sys Designer Release 2.0, February 2011.

Important

If you are upgrading a system from Q-Sys Designer 1.2 to 2.0 the following may apply to your system.

- If you have defined User accounts in release 1.2, you must recreate the Users using the Q-Sys Design Administrator. This includes assigning the new User accounts for UCIs (User Control Interfaces).
- If you have created any scheduled events, they must be recreated using the Q-Sys Design Administrator.
- If you have created any UCI panels and displayed them with Adobe AIR, you can now use the Windows UCI viewer. Adobe AIR no longer works with Q-Sys UCIs.

Installation Software Requirements

Software Package	Q-Sys Designer
Microsoft Windows 7 (64 or 32 bit) Microsoft Windows Vista SP1 (32 bit) or Microsoft Windows XP Professional Version 2002 SP3	Prerequisite
Microsoft .NET Framework 3.5 SP1	Prerequisite Installed automatically by the Q-Sys Designer installation program. [1]
Apple Bonjour for Windows	This is required only if you are upgrading from Q-Sys Designer release 1.0 or 1.1 to release 2.0. User must obtain and install

1. Internet access required.

Q-Sys Designer / Design File Compatibility

		Q-Sys Designer File Version			
		1.0	1.1	1.2	2.0
Q-Sys Designer Version	1.0	Can Open	Can Open*	Cannot Open	Cannot Open
	1.1	Can Open	Can Open	Cannot Open	Cannot Open
	1.2	Can Open	Can Open	Can Open	Can Open*
	2.0	Can Open	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 2.0, if the file is opened in 1.2, that information is discarded. If the file is then saved over itself as a 1.2 file, the additional 2.0 data is lost.

New and Changed Features

Please read the following information carefully. There are many changes and additions for Q-Sys Designer 2.0, some requiring your attention when you upgrade your Q-Sys Designer installation to this release. Some of the more notable additions include the Q-Sys Design Administrator interface, the Q-Sys Device Configurator interface and the Public Address functionality. As with any upgrade containing major changes, there may be a substantial impact to your current designs. Before you upgrade be sure you understand the changes that are required for your system.

Major Design and Management Interface Changes

Q-Sys Design Administrator Interface

The Q-Sys Administrator replaces and enhances portions of the Web Management Interface which has been removed.

- Accessible in Q-Sys Designer or as a stand-alone application. The stand-alone application download is available on the QSC web site. The stand-alone application does not provide an Emulate mode.
- Provides design-level security
- Manages the following:
  - PA System, including Page Stations (and Page Station Security), paging Priorities, and PA Zones
  - Commands, including PA Page Command, PA Message Command, Control Change Command, and Snapshot Load Command
  - Command Schedule, enables scheduling of Commands you have created.

IMPORTANT: If you are upgrading from Q-Sys Designer 1.2, you must recreate your schedule.

- Users, including Username, PIN, security for the Administrator, External Control, and Loading from the Core & Connecting. In addition you can control the user's access to Page Stations and PA type Commands.

IMPORTANT: If you are upgrading from Q-Sys Designer 1.2, you must recreate all User accounts.

- UCI (User Control Interface) security, including logon requirements, and which users have access.

IMPORTANT: If you are upgrading from Q-Sys Designer 1.2, you must reassign the security permissions for the UCIs.

- Audio Files, including uploading audio files for general use, and Messages and Preambles for the PA System.
- Event Log for a design in Run mode or Emulate mode.

- Q-Sys Administrator uses an HTTP-based audio file management command set in support of external control systems (such as messaging products) for uploading and deleting audio files. This command set supports Unicode characters.
- FTP is deprecated due to its inability to support Unicode characters.

Q-Sys Configurator

The Q-Sys Configurator replaces the network functionality of the Web Management Interface. In version 2.0 the network settings, for all networked Q-Sys devices, are maintained in the Configurator. In addition security for all networked Q-Sys devices is provided through the Configurator.

Design Inspector

The new Design Inspector identifies orphaned controls and un-terminated named signals in your design. The Design Inspector is an accordion bar in the left-side pane.

UCI Viewer

Flash-based remote control User Control Interfaces, both browser-based and Adobe AIR based, are no longer supported. Instead, an installable Windows application - Q-Sys UCI Viewer - is provided for this purpose. Running the application initiates a discovery process to find any Q-Sys UCIs running on the network to which the device running the UCI Viewer is connected. You can download the UCI Viewer from the QSC website.

Components

AcousticDesign™ Loudspeakers

Added support for the AcousticDesign AD-C820, AD-C821, and AD-C1200 ceiling mount loudspeakers.

AudioPlayer Component

The following changes have been made to the Audio File Player:

- A Directory drop-down list is now available. This list allows you to filter the files on the File drop-down list to a specific subdirectory.
- A Root directory control is now available. The Root is the directory within which the Directory control operates.
- A File Status field is now available. Displays information about the currently playing file, for example, OK: 44.1kHz, 16-bit, stereo.
- The Auto Play on Startup button is available to enable the selected file to start playing when the design is deployed. Previously, the file would begin playing if the Loop button was engaged. The Loop button only causes the file to play in a loop.
- If you select a new file during playback of another, playback stops. The new file does not begin to play until the Play button is clicked. Previously, the Audio Player would start playing the file. If a file is playing, and the name of the file is changed, the is file corrupted, or the file is deleted (for example using the Administrator), the Audio Player stops playback. The Audio Player continues to look for the file, and if it is found, the status is updated, but playback does not start until the Play button is clicked.
- New look for the buttons in the Control Panel. The buttons are now back-lit to indicate their state instead of using LEDs, and the name of the button is on the button instead of above it.
- New All Files Control Pin. Array output of all the files in the selected directory. You can use this array to create play lists and so on.

Automatic Gated Mixer

Added a Max NOM control. NOM is counted beginning at input 1 and once the maximum NOM has been reached gates will be closed for the remaining inputs.

Control Function Component

A new Trigger Combiner function is available that allows you to supply multiple trigger type inputs, and get a single trigger output when any one of the inputs receives a trigger.

DDI-11 (DataPort Line Out Adapter)

The DDI-11 provides the capability of converting the output of one DataPort card connector into two line outputs.

Delay Matrix Component

The Delay Matrix Component provides a matrix of up to 128 Inputs and Outputs with up to 256 Channels per Input/Output.

Doppler Shifter Component (BETA)

The Doppler Shifter Component is used to make an audio source appear as if it is moving towards, then past, a listener.

FIR Custom Filter Component (BETA)

Q-Sys provides the capability of loading your filter design into the Custom FIR (Finite Impulse Response) Filter, giving you explicit control over the phase and magnitude response of the Custom FIR filter. The Custom FIR filter can be found in the Schematic Library under Audio Components > Equalizers and Filters.

Flip-Flop Component

The Flip-Flop Component converts a trigger type input to a Boolean type output.

Graphic Equalizer Component

The Reset button in the Graphic Equalizer Component has been removed. You can select multiple Gain controls then type a 0 (zero) to reset the desired bands to a flat response.

High-pass FIR Filter Component

The Q-Sys High-pass FIR (Finite Impulse-Response) filter provides the capability of a standard high-pass filter with linear or minimum phase. The High-pass FIR filter can be found in the Schematic Library under Audio Components > Equalizers and Filters.

Loudspeaker Components

Two new fields have been added to all loudspeaker components.

Threshold, Open – Sets impedance threshold for reporting open circuit faults. Open circuit detection can be disabled by setting a value greater than 150 Ohms.

Threshold, Short – Sets impedance threshold for reporting short circuit faults. Short circuit detection can be disabled by setting a value of 0 Ohms.

Custom Voicing – Loudspeaker labels now include the name of the Custom Voicing Component assigned to them.

Low Frequency Pilot Tone – impedance measurement quality has been improved.

Low-pass FIR Filter Component

The Q-Sys Low-pass FIR (Finite Impulse Response) filter provides the capability of a standard low-pass filter with linear or minimum phase. The Low-pass FIR filter can be found in the Schematic Library under Audio Components > Equalizers and Filters.

Parametric Equalizer Component

A Reset button is available in the Master section to reset all of the Band controls to their default positions.

Public Address (PA) System

IMPORTANT: The Paging components available in previous versions of Q-Sys Designer are obsolete. If you have these components in a design, the design will load, and the components will work. However, the components are no longer available to add to a design.

- **New Hardware**

  Supports four different models of Page Stations. All models can have handheld or gooseneck microphones.

  - PS-400 — 4 Command buttons
  - PS-800 — 8 Command buttons

  - PS-1600 — 4 Command buttons, 10 numeric buttons
  - PS-1650 — 16 Command buttons
- Command Types
  - Page — Live, Delayed (Store and Forward), or Automatic queuing, selectable zones, priority level and overrides
  - Message — Pre-recorded, selectable zones and priorities
- The PA System is designed in Q-Sys Designer and consists of one PA Router, one or more Page Station and/or Virtual Page Station components
- The Paging components from earlier releases are no longer available
- Security — based on user logon
  - Restrict access to Page Stations, optional per station
  - Restrict access to Commands
  - User logon recognizes user priority and overrides in Station/User Priority mode
- Unlimited priority levels
- Command Priority or Station/User Priority with overrides.
- Store and Forward
- Command Scheduling
- **New Components** for the PA System
  - Page Stations (Inventory) PS-400, PS-800, PS-1600, PS-1650 — Represents physical hardware in the PA System which includes audio input (Microphone or Aux Input). This Inventory item is comprised of five sub-components:Status, Mic/Control, Aux Mic, Aux Line Out, and GPIO.
  - Virtual Page Stations (Schematic Library) PS-400, PS-800, PS-1600, PS-1650 — Not associated with hardware, requires separate audio input.
  - PA Router — The hub of the PA System.

Snapshots

The Auto Save and Auto Load features of Snapshot Banks have been removed. To simplify operation, all control settings (in a running system) are, automatically, periodically saved and are restored on power-up. In addition, the Ramp Time control has been removed from the Global Snapshot Bank. This is due to confusion that could occur as a result of saving the Global Snapshot Ramp Time in a Global Snapshot.

Status Combiner Component

Combines the status information from multiple components into one control panel view. This component enables you to combine, for example, the status of all the hardware components in a single rack. You can then combine multiple racks into one equipment room status, and so on.

Q-Sys Touch Screen (TSC-8) Component and Hardware (BETA)

The TCS-8 Touch Screen component provides the connection between the physical TCS-8 Touch Screen and the Q-Sys Design.

NOTE: The Q-Sys TCS-8 is not available as of this release.

General

Configure Audio Monitor

Q-Sys Designer now provides the capability of choosing the audio driver used with HoverMon. Access this feature from the Main Menu > Tools.

Controls with Units in Seconds

Controls that have seconds as the units, now accept keyed-in values beyond their range as milliseconds. For example, if the control has a range of 100 seconds, and you enter 999, the value is considered as 999 milliseconds.

Frequency Controls

Controls that have frequency as the units, now accept keyed-in values below the audio range as kHz. For example, if you type 7, the result is 7 kHz.

Inventory Catalog

There is a new look and feel to the Inventory Catalog list. It is divided, by selectable tabs, into types of equipment. In addition, short descriptions of the equipment are provided.

Orphaned Controls are Easily Identified in the Schematic

When you drag a control from the Control Panel of a Component, then delete the Component, the control is orphaned. In release 2.0, any orphaned controls are highlighted in orange, and have a superimposed question mark.

Q-Sys Designer Title Bar

The filename displayed in the title bar includes an asterisk appended to it, indicating unsaved changes in the design.

Q-Sys Designer Schematic

- You can now position controls and components by numeric coordinates entered via the Properties of the component or control.
- You can now size controls placed in the Schematic by numeric values entered via the Properties of the control.
- Margin and corner radius Properties added to Button control (you can make a round button!)
- New right-click commands
    - locking and unlocking components
    - cut, copy, paste

Support for HSV Color Values

Q-Sys now supports HSV Color values for metadata in Control Scripting , using the format "!HHSSVV"

External Control

External Controls Accordion Bar Renamed to Named Controls

Controls from components can now be used in Control Change Commands, Control Scripts, and External Control, as a result, the name of the accordion bar in the left-side pane of Q-Sys Designer is changed to reflect the expanded capability of controls placed in the Named Controls list.

In addition, when a control is placed in the Named Controls list, Q-Sys gives the control a name consisting of the component from which it came, and the name of the control within the component. For example, the Master Gain control in the Crossover component would be named "CrossoverMasterGain".

External Control Connection Closed if Inactive for More than 60 Seconds

If an External Control connection is inactive for more than 60 seconds, the connection is automatically closed.

IMPORTANT: External control programs might need to be upgraded to ensure that they regularly communicate with the Core.

New External Control Commands

The new "login <name> <pin>" command is available. It allows external control systems to login to a Q-Sys Core when the Guest User's "Can connect via external control" option is set to No. An attempt to gain access without a username and PIN returns a "login_required" response. A successful login returns "login_success", a failed attempt returns "login_failed", and the socket is closed.

On a design requiring login, an external control system can only use the "status_get" command without a successful login.

LUA Scripting

New Script Commands for Logging

The Log.Message and Log.Error commands are now available.

New Script Commands for Named Controls

There is a new object (table) in the Q-Sys Lua scripting environment that allows access to named controls from a Control Script.

New Script Boolean Property

There is a new property available on Script control inputs, Boolean, that returns true if the Position of the control is > 0.5.

In addition, the .Value Controls.Input has been modified to convert a Boolean to either a 0 (false) or 1 (true).

Custom Controls

All Custom Controls now have choices metadata (previously only text), and legend metadata (previously only buttons), accessible with Lua scripting.

Required Software

The following software is no longer required for Q-Sys Designer as of release 2.0:

- Adobe AIR – No longer supported. (For existing UCIs that use AIR, use the Q-Sys UCI Viewer.)
- Adobe Flash

The following software is not required for Q-Sys Designer 2.0, but is required for upgrading from a Q-Sys 1.0 or 1.1 system to Q-Sys 2.0

- Apple Bonjour for Windows

Web Management Interface

The Web Management Interface is removed.

The Q-Sys Design Administrator interface and the Q-Sys Device Configurator replace the Web Management Interface.

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
- Doppler Shifter [1]
- FIR Custom Filter [1]
- Q-Sys Touch Screen TCS-8
- Standard Mic/Line In card

1. New in Release 2.0

Removed from BETA

- Continuous Ambient Compensator
- E-mailer

- HoverMon
- User Control Interface

Resolved Known Issues

NOTE: When an issue is resolved, and there is no change to functionality other than "it works now", no resolution information is supplied. If there is information regarding a change in functionality, the information is supplied.

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.

Orphaned Component 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.

Resolution: When a control is orphaned, it changes to an orange color with a question mark over it. In addition it is listed in the Design Inspector as being orphaned. When any control is orphaned, the Design Inspector accordion bar displays a yellow triangle with an exclamation point.

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 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.

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.

Resolved: The Web Management Interface has been removed. This issue will not be fixed.

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.

Resolved: The Web Management Interface has been removed. This issue will not be fixed.

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.

Resolved: This portion of the WMI has been replaced by the Q-Sys Design Configurator, the issue no longer exists.

Eight-Channel Amplifier not Identified Correctly by Q-Sys Designer

Issue: An eight-channel amplifier connected to two DataPort cards occasionally caused Q-Sys Designer to detect only the first two channels of the amplifier. This issue is now resolved.

Core 1000 with Less Than 2 GB of RAM

Issue: A Core 1000 requires a minimum of 2 GB of RAM to run a Q-Sys Design with a Page Router in the design.

Resolution: Now, a Save to Core & Run fails, with an error message indicating the problem, if there is a Page Router in the design and the Core 1000 has less than 2 GB of RAM.

Inaccurate Impedance Readings Using the Pilot Tone on Loudspeakers

Issue: The Pilot Tone level (Loudspeaker Component) was too low to get an accurate reading of impedance for some combinations of amplifiers and loudspeakers.

Resolution: The Pilot Tone level was increased to improve performance.

Page Station Incorrectly Displays a "Login Required" Message

Issue: A Page Station, without a numeric keypad, displayed the message “Logon Required” prior to configuration in the Q-Sys Administrator.

Multi-Channel Mode does not Work on the Custom, Low-Pass, or High-Pass FIR Filters

Issue: The Multi-Channel mode was not functional on any of the new FIR filters.

Custom FIR Filter could not be Saved in a Snapshot

Issue: Neither the Custom FIR Filter component or controls could be saved in a Snapshot.

Audio Packets Dropped

Issue: Under some circumstances, with a large amount of network traffic, about 300 audio packets would be periodically dropped.

Audio File Player Loses its Settings

Issue: The Audio File Player has three linked fields to specify the file to play: Root, Directory, and File. Previously, if the directory or file specified by any of these fields did not exist,Q-Sys clears that field, and those below it. Under some circumstances, the Root, Directory and/or File fields in the Audio File Player lose their settings.

Resolution: Now the field, and those below it, are not cleared, but turn red to indicate the situation.

UCI Panel does not Display in non-US Locales

Issue: In locales that used commas for decimal points (German, for example) the UCI panel would not display when it was clicked on in the discovery list.

Network Audio Streams Drop Out when the Current Clock Master was Off

Issue: In a Q-Sys system with multiple Cores, running different designs, on the same PTP clock domain, an audio engine restart on the Core with clock mastership could invoke a state where audio streams would drop for an extended period while the Q-Sys components within the clock domain attempted to re-synchronize to the clock master.

Known Issues

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

Audio Streams are Interrupted when a Core Comes On Line that is the Clock Master

Issue: When using a shared clock domain, the clock master is selected based on MAC address. When a Core comes on line and is determined that it should be the new clock master, it takes over abruptly and usually cause a momentary disruption in all of the audio streams on the network.

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

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

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.

Q-Sys Designer

WAN Stream Transmitter

Issue: The WAN stream transmitter status doesn't indicate whether streams are actually received at the destination.

Workaround: None known

cgi-bin/status_xml Error when Deploying

Issue: Rarely, when deploying a design to the Core, Q-Sys Designer may idle for a few minutes with a "Discovering Core..." message. Eventually, an error appears stating, "Error downloading file cgi-bin/status_xml…"

Workaround: Save the design on your hard drive, close the instance of Q-Sys Designer that experienced the problem and then open the saved design in a new instance of Q-Sys Designer, and re-deploy the design.

Controls are Removed from a Snapshot when the Control's Component is placed in a Container

Issue: If a Component, that has one or more Controls in a Snapshot Bank, is dragged (or cut/pasted) into or out of a Container Component, its Controls are removed from the Snapshot Bank. This makes it difficult to "clean up" a schematic by using Container hierarchy when Snapshots are in use.

Workaround: Place the Component in the Container Component, then drag the entire Component, or any of its Controls into the Snapshot. Then don't remove the Component from the Container.

NOTE: You can move individual Controls into and out of a Container Component without any effect on the same Controls in a Snapshot.

Q-Sys Administrator

Uploading Large Audio Files Occasionally Fails

Issue: Occasionally when you try to upload a large audio file to the Core, the process will stop without uploading the file or giving an indication that the process stopped, other than the progress bar isn't moving.

Workaround: Contact QSC Support

Cannot Access Audio Files in Sub-directories of the Messages and Preambles Directories

Issue: If you create a sub-directory under either the Messages or Preambles directories under the Audio Files tab, and upload either .wav or .mp3 files into those sub-directories, then attempt to use those files in any commands, the files do not display in the list of available files.

Workaround: Put the files in the Messages or Preambles directories; do not use sub-directories.

Cannot Preview Audio Files in Sub-directories of the Messages and Preambles Directories

Issue: If you create a sub-directory under either the Messages or Preambles directories under the Audio Files tab, and upload either .wav or .mp3 files into those sub-directories, then attempt to preview one of those files by clicking the play button next to the file, no audio is produced.

Workaround: Put the files in the Messages or Preambles directories; do not use sub-directories.

PA System

Page Station ID Functionality Does Not Work

Issue: The identification functionality for Page Stations does not work. When you click the ID button for a Page Station in Q-Sys Configurator or in the Page Station Status in Q-Sys Designer, it blinks but does not produce any results. This does not affect the Core or I/O Frame ID functionality.