Aircast 5.3

This page describes the new features and other notable changes in Aircast 5.3.

Note that not all features are available in all licenses/editions.

The complete changelog can be found http://download.aircastradioautomation.com/v5.3/Changelog.txt here.

New Features

MusicMaster Nexus database

Aircast can now use a MusicMaster Nexus server as a database backend. That means you can use Aircast as a playout system using MusicMaster as the sole scheduling backend, without any synchronization (library import, schedule export). Aircast-specific metadata (e.g. cue markers) can be stored in a Memo text field inside MusicMaster. You can also map any Aircast attribute to any field in MusicMaster. The interface supports MusicMaster Enterprise (master/client) databases, as well as versioning through XML attributes in the schedule output.

The Nexus interface will be available in a special MusicMaster-enabled version of Aircast only. Please contact sales for more information.

MambaNet remote control

This version introduces support for the MambaNet protocol, mainly used to remote control Aircast from a D&R Axum mixing console.

XML file logging

A new logging interface allows you to create arbitrary XML files from the song data.

iTunes Search API

Aircast has a built-in interface to the iTunes Search API now: Just set up a Standard Attribute of the new type “iTunes Track ID”, and you will see a new *Search* button in the attributes editor of each track – clicking that button will search for the track in the iTunes Store, and save the track ID as the attribute value. Once the track ID is stored as an attribute, you can e.g. transfer it to your web server during HTTP logging, and then display a link to the iTunes Store in your online playlist.

FLAC file encoding

All file encoding functions (mixdown, aircheck, file import, …) support FLAC lossless audio files as an additional output format now.

DHD state logics and easier setup

The DHD 52/4200/3200 remote control interface can now report certain internal states of Aircast (automation on, PFL active, …) as logic states to the console, for example for display on a TFT view, or as a base for logic and output functions (e.g. switch PFL input to monitor when PFL is active).

For users of all current Series 52 models (firmware 7.x.x.x or 8.x.x.x), it's now possible to export the Toolbox project as an XML file and import that file into Aircast – this will make the configuration much easier, because you can simply select the desired fader channel for a player from a list, and Aircast will set up all logics automatically.

Cartwall Hook Mode

The cartwall supports Hook Mode (again), so you can easily play hooks through a cart player.

Improvements

AircastDB Advertising Scheduler

In the Advertising Settings for a spot, you can now import/export the block schedule (right-click the table), and also export the list of scheduled plays as a text file. For that purpose, a new setting “projected time” has been added to the ad block settings.

Axia Livewire

The Livewire remote control interface supports scripting; this can be used to set Livewire GPIOs from a script.

AircastDB Server

In the user configuration, there is a new *Permissions* tab; currently used to control whether a user is allowed to download files from the DB server to the local disk (new feature!); more options will follow. Please note that all users will be reset to Administrator level when you import an older configuration.

Other

Smaller improvements include:

- Playout and database: When adding playlist items through the menu, the item properties dialog remains non-modal so you can continue working (or add items to container) in the background.
- Player: Waveform options: Allow seek on mouse click
- M3U Import: Support for SPL5 EXTINF tags

Other Changes

- Encoder: Multi-region support must be enabled explicitly in config
- More convenient handling of errors during startup
- Updated bass_dx.dll to 2.4.11.1 (should avoid possible Access Violation errors that we had with the old version)

Aircast 5.2

This page describes the new features and other notable changes in Aircast 5.2.

To check which features are available in your edition, please see the Feature Matrix on the website.

The complete changelog can be found http://download.aircastradioautomation.com/v5.2/Changelog.txt here.

New Features

Revamped DHD remote control interface

The remote control interface for DHD (Series 52, RM4200D, RM3200D) mixing consoles has received a major update with various new options and settings.

A description of the new configuration options can be found here: DHD Series 52, RM4200D, RM3200D

Matrix Mixer

The Matrix Mixer allows you to route any soundcard input to any soundcard output with a single click. You can load and save presets as `*.txt`files.

This feature is available in Aircast Professional Studio only. It can be found in the menu next to the Aircast button in the playout window toolbar.

Playlist: "Skipped" and "Played" items

The playlist now distiguishes between “played” and “skipped” items, and uses two new icons to indicate the respective state. All menus have been adjusted accordingly.

Attention, script programmers: The old `pisHistory` constant
(for `CurrentPlaylist.GetMetadata(xx).GetState`) does not longer exist; please use the new constants `pisPlayed` and `pisSkipped` instead now.

Redesigned Mini Scheduler dialog and playlist preview

The old Mini Scheduler dialog has been split into two dialogs: In the first. you specify the relevant settings for the scheduling task (start and end date, options, etc.). Then, when the playlists are generated, there is a second dialog where you can preview the generated playlists, before you eventually choose to save them.

New cartwall color options

Due to popular demand, we're bringing back the “classic” cartwall color scheme, with fixed colors indicating the state of the players.

On the new *Cartwall → Colors* page in AircastConfig, you can choose which color scheme to use (“classic” is th default now), and also adjust the colors, and the brightness settings for the “dynamic” scheme.

Maximum Age setting

For file playlist items, you can now specify a maximum file age - if the file is older than that, the player will refuse to load and play it. This feature will help you to prevent broacasting old news files that have not been updated for some time due to download errors etc.

Tools window for screen objects

For all screen objects, there are now three options regarding their location inside the main window: Above browser, below browser, or inside the *Tools* window. When you set at least one screen object to the latter option, a new button named *Tools* will appear in the main toolbar, opening a window that hosts all those screen objects. You can use this window to keep screen objects you don't use very often away from the main screen, saving space in your layout.

Other Changes

- The BASSmix library is now used to process all streaming content (stream playback, Live Feed processing etc.), which should result in better performance and reliability.
- Audio devices are now sorted alphabetically in the Audio Devices configuration lists.
- New action lists: “When a non-player PFL function is started” and “When a non-player PFL function is started”. These refer to all prelisten functions outside a player, e.g. the Cue Editor, Mix Editor, PFL screen object etc.

Aircast 5.1

This page describes the new features and other notable changes in Aircast 5.1.

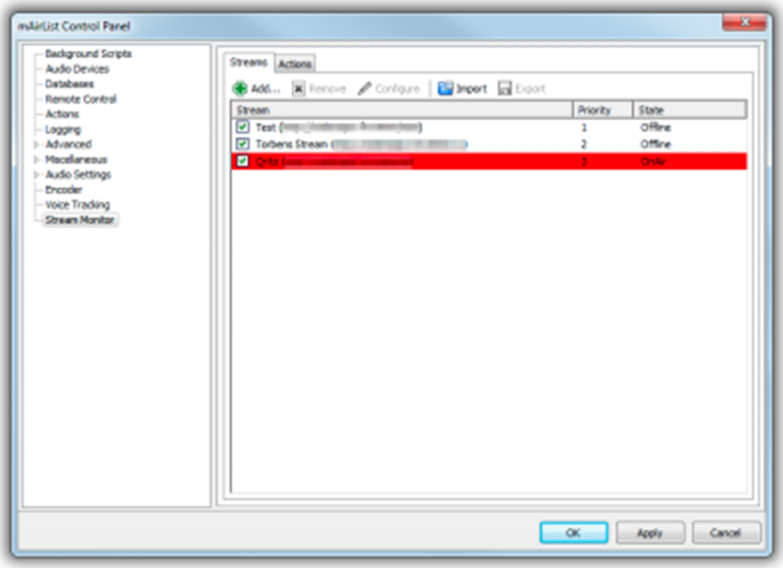
To check which features are available in your edition, please see the Feature Matrix on the website.

The complete changelog can be found http://download.aircastradioautomation.com/v5.1/Changelog.txt here.

New Features

Stream Monitor

The Stream Monitor is a brand new rebroadcasting function that monitors Shoutcast or Icecast streams, and as soon as they become online, instantly broadcasts them on air.



You can set up as many streams as you like, and also assign priorities, so only the stream(s) with the highest priority (lowest value) will go on air.

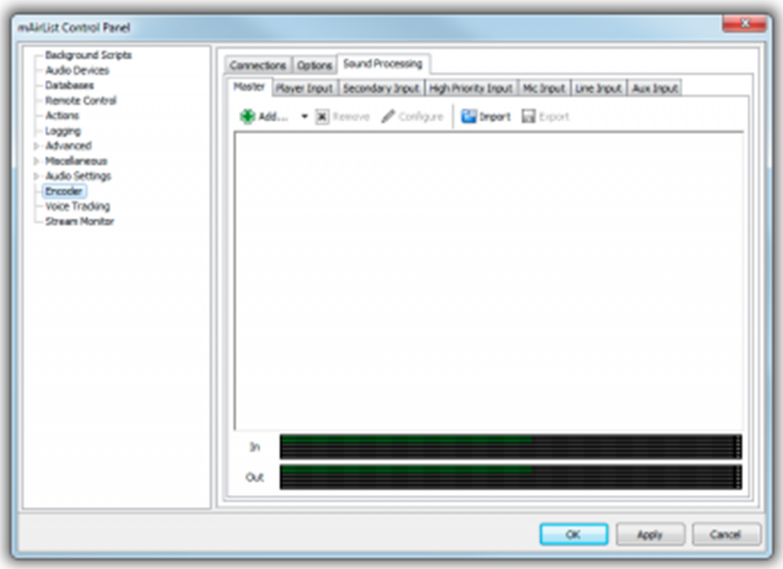
Using the new High Priority input of the encoder (see below), the sound of the Aircast players is faded out automatically while a monitored stream is being played. You can also use Actions to stop the automation etc.

Song title updates received by the incoming stream are automatically rebroadcasted to all outgoing stream connections.

New Encoder Inputs

In addition to the existing inputs (Player, Line, Mic), the encoder comes with a couple of new input options now:

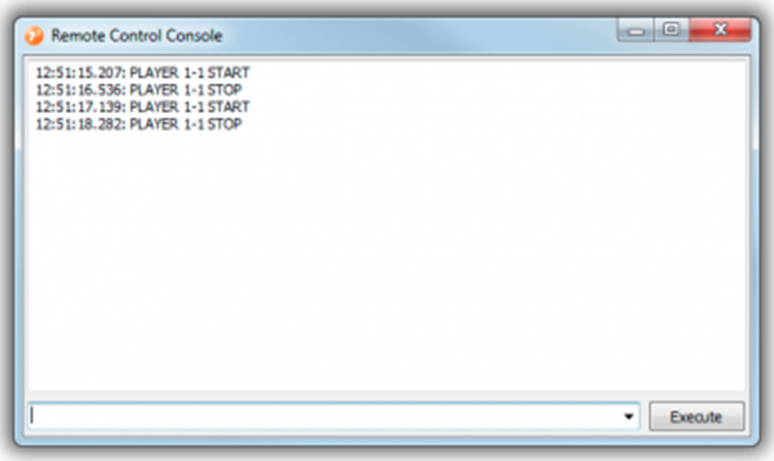
- Secondary player input: Works exactly like the existing Player input; can be used when you need different sound processing for particular players (e.g. for a distinct advertising player).
- High Priority player input: Another input that can be used for players. As soon as something is playing on this input, all other inputs are faded out and muted (fade duration can be adjusted in config). Works hand in hand with the new Stream Monitor feature to build an unattended auto-DJ box with automatic rebroadcasting of incoming DJ streams.
- Aux input: An additional sound card input; works like Mic and Line, but has no button in the screen object; must be turned on or off using actions.



All inputs have their own DSP chain, of course, and all player inputs support multi-region content (if your Aircast licenses permits).

Remote Control Console

The Remote Control Console, found in the menu next to the About button in the toolbar, logs all incoming remote control commands, and also has an input field where you can select or type any remote command and execute it instantly. Great for testing your custom remote gear.



WheatNet-IP Remote Control

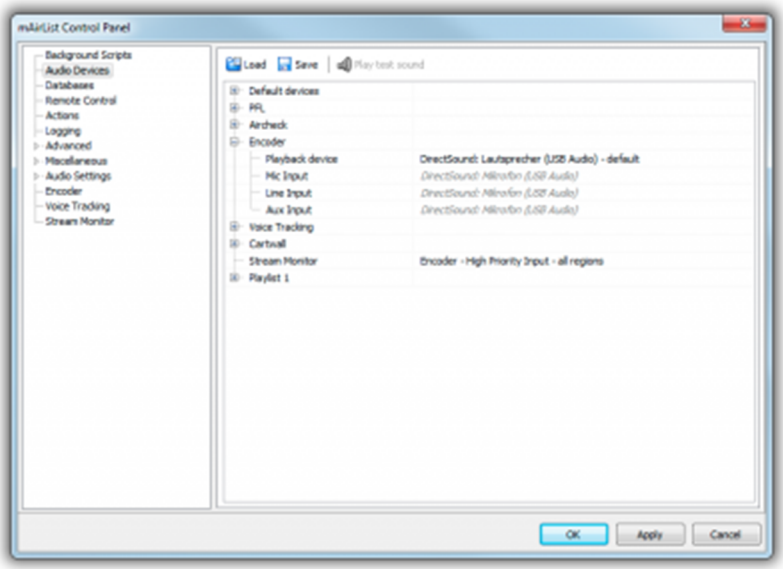
Aircast now supports remote control via TCP/IP from WheatNet-IP BLADE and Console products.

TCP/IP Client and Server Remote Control

Two new remote control options, *TCP/IP Client* and *TCP/IP Server*, implement a network protocol where Aircast is accepting plain text remote commands over an unencrypted, telnet-like TCP/IP session. Aircast can either connect to an existing TCP server (acting as a client), or accept connections from other clients (acting as a server). You can protect the connection with a password so that commands are only accepted when an AUTH command is transmitted at the beginning of the session.

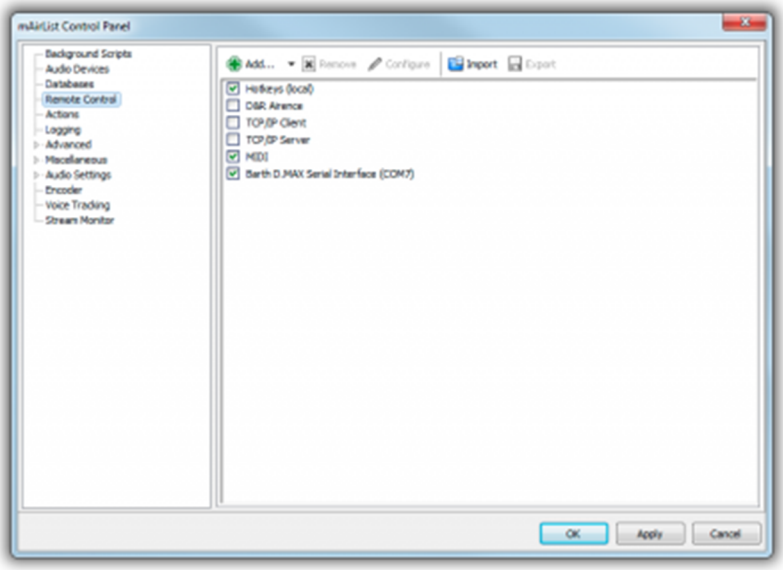
Improved Audio Devices Configuration

The audio devices configuration dialog has a new toolbar where you can load/save the current configuration, and also play a test sound on the currently selected sound card.



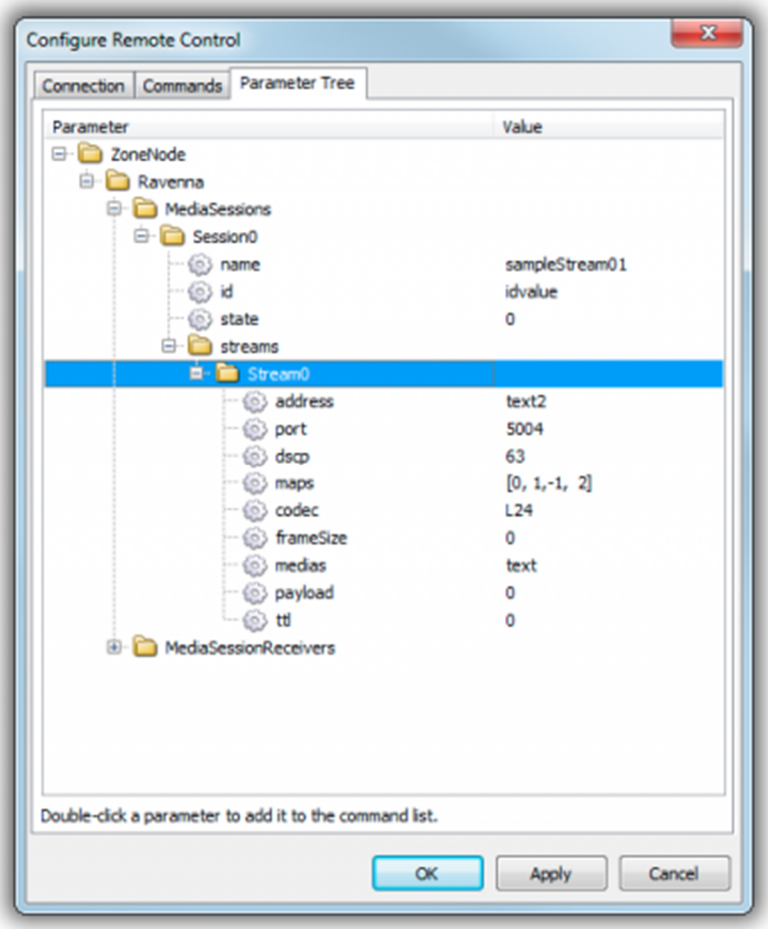
Configuration Item Import/Export

In the Configuration app and Control Panel, most list-style configuration pages have Import/Export buttons now that can be used to save the settings of the selected items into .ini files. This is great for configuration backups, and also for sharing the config between users.



Ember+ Remote Control

Aircast 5.1 can act as an Ember+ consumer to receive remote control commands from Ember+ enabled devices, e.g. Lawo JADE Studio.



Ember+ is an open source protocol supported by various manufacturers. See here for more information: https://code.google.com/p/ember-plus/

TuneIn Song Updates via AIR API

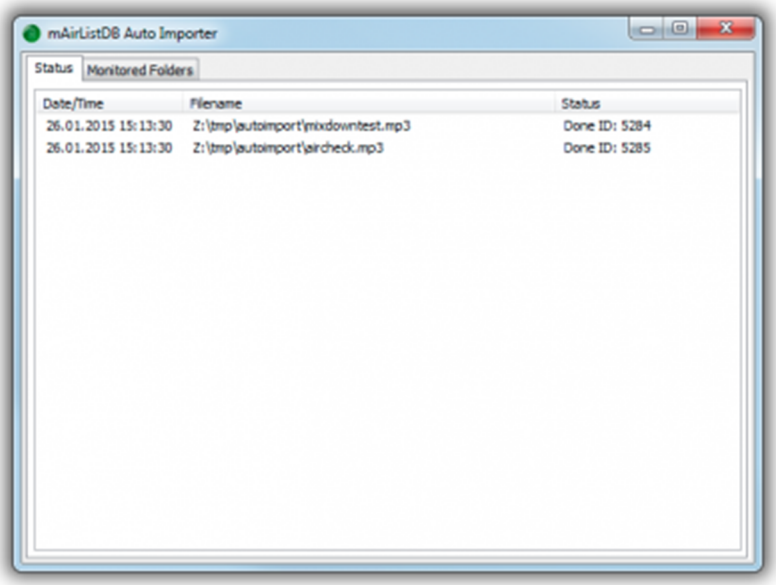
The logging subsystem now supports the AIR API protocol for title updates to TuneIn: http://tunein.com/broadcasters/api/

(Note that in earlier Aircast versions, you can use the “HTTP GET” logging feature and construct the URL manually to achieve the same.)

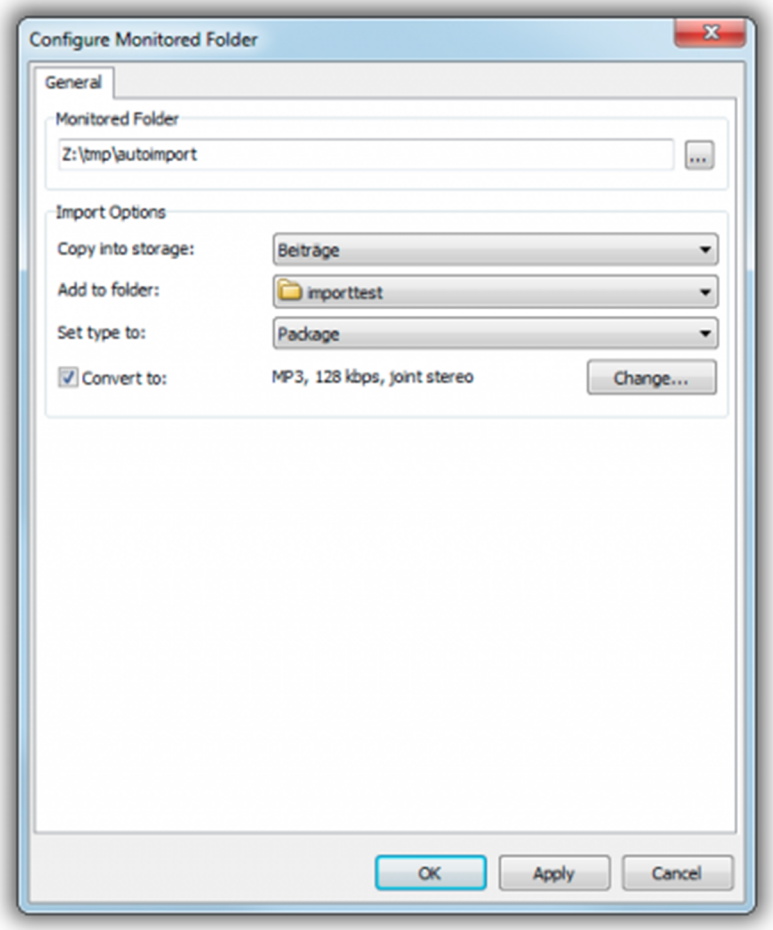
AircastDB Auto Importer

(From Build 2713, Professional Editions only - please redownload license file.)

aircastDB Auto Importer will watch one or more folders on your harddrive for new audio files, and import/upload them into aircastDB, deleting the original file from disk.



You can configure as many directories as required, and specify the database storage, database folder, item type and optionally the audio format for import.



More New Features

- The Encoder as a new option *Mute local output during PFL*.
- Background scripts support three new procedures related to Voice Tracking: OnVTOn, OnVTOff, OnVTVolume

Other Changes

- The MIDI configuration dialog was redesigned from scratch; the Monitor function now also works when Aircast is running (i.e. the MIDI configuration was opened from Aircast Control Panel).
- Less GDI handles: An idle instance of Aircast will now consume only about 700 GDI handles (earlier versions: 1600). This allows you to run more instances in a single Windows logon session (which has a total limit of 65536 handles for all applications).
- In the Database application, when working with more than one station, tabs are displayed at the bottom of the window so you can easily switch between stations with a single click.
- The *Go to…* dialog in the Aircast DB dialog loads much faster now.
- Additional columns for all cue markers can be enabled in the database library and playlist editor.
- The existing actions related to encoder inputs (*Enable Line input* etc.) have been merged into a single action type where you select the input and new state.
- The D.MAX remote control configuration was redesigned, and the OPT keys are now supported for remote control.