Vizrt iNEWS Command Plugin
Administrator's Guide

Product Version 1.0

November 27, 2013

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Contents

1 Introduction 1
1.1 Known Limitations 1
1.2 Requirements 2
1.3 Document Structure 2
1.4 Related Documents 2
1.5 Contact Vizrt 2

2 Installation and Configuration 3
2.1 Integration with Avid iNEWS Command 3
2.2 Integration with Avid iNEWS 7
2.3 Output Configuration 9

3 Playout of Vizrt Graphics 13
3.1 Controls 13

4 Troubleshooting 15

1 Introduction

Avid has provided a Graphic Device Service plugin SDK for their iNEWS Command system which Vizrt has used to create a plugin for basic playout of Viz Content Pilot graphics.

This guide will help you integrate the Vizrt iNEWS Command Plugin with Avid's iNEWS Command workstation. In addition it will describe how to use iNEWS Command to achieve a basic Vizrt graphics workflow.

This section contains information on the following topics:

- Known Limitations
- Requirements
- Document Structure
- Related Documents
- Contact Vizrt

See Also

- Installation and Configuration
- Playout of Vizrt Graphics
- Troubleshooting

1.1 Known Limitations

The following are the known limitations of the Vizrt iNEWS Command Plugin. The limitations are based on functionality most users expect from a Vizrt graphics workflow; hence, the basic playout and control of Vizrt graphics, when compared to Vizrt's control applications, is a bit different.

- No status feedback to Avid iNEWS Command.
- No playlist initialization.
- No native support for continue count functionality based on que/play/stop events. Continue is handled by pressing Play multiple times for each continue point.
- No support for video elements.
- No support for thumbnails of Vizrt graphic (and video) elements.
- No support for *cg elements (e.g. the Viz Trio workflow).
- If a playlist is deleted in Viz Content Pilot, the Avid Graphic Device Service must be restarted.

1.2 Requirements

The following requirements must be met in order to successfully install, configure and use the plugin.

Software	Avid iNEWS Command 2.5.0.529 or later Media Sequencer 1.20 Viz Content Pilot 5.4
Operating system	Windows XP Professional 32-bit.

See Also

- Viz Content Pilot User's Guide
- Viz Engine Administrator's Guide

1.3 Document Structure

This section, section 1, introduces the plugin, the known limitations and system requirements.

Section 2 contains all the information needed in order to successfully install and configure the plugin.

Section 3 contains information on how to operate a basic playlist containing Vizrt graphic elements.

Section 4 contains basic troubleshooting information.

1.4 Related Documents

1. Viz Content Pilot User's Guide: How to install, configure and use the Newsroom Component, and configure the output channels.
2. Viz Engine Administrator's Guide: How to setup a Viz Engine as an output channel.
3. Viz Template Wizard User's Guide: How to create templates, assign template variants to categories, and categories to channels for multiple output channel playout.
4. Avid iNEWS Command Installation and Configuration Guide: How to install and configure the iNEWS Command workstation.

1.5 Contact Vizrt

We encourage your suggestions and feedback regarding the product and this documentation. Our support E-mail address is support@vizrt.com. You are also welcome to use the web-based support at www.vizrt.com, or to contact your local Vizrt support person by telephone.

2 Installation and Configuration

This section describes the basic steps you need to perform in order to successfully integrate your Vizrt graphics workflow with Avid's iNEWS newsroom system.

The following sections describe how to install and configure Vizrt's iNEWS Command Plugin and the Viz Content Pilot Newsroom Component with Avid iNEWS Command and Avid iNEWS, respectively. In addition this section describes how to configure Viz Content Pilot in order to operate multiple output channels.

This section contains information on the following topics:

- Integration with Avid iNEWS Command
- Integration with Avid iNEWS
- Output Configuration

2.1 Integration with Avid iNEWS Command

Install the plugin on the machine/server you installed the **Media Sequencer**. This should deploy all files needed for the plugin.

This section contains information on the following topics:

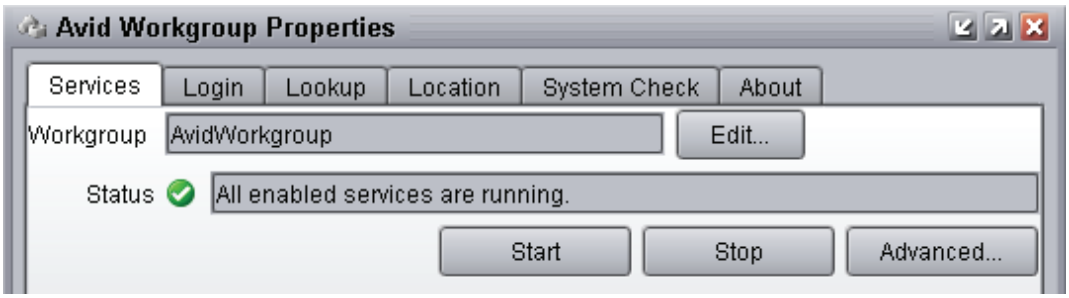
- To install the plugin
- To configure the plugin and confirm connection
- To configure a channel group and confirm functionality

To install the plugin

1. Log on to the Media Sequencer workstation/server.
2. Install the Avid Service Framework (client install).
3. Install the Avid iNEWS Graphic Device service. You only need to install the one service (Avid Graphic Device service 01).

Note: For further information on installing Avid components, see the latest Avid iNEWS Command readme.

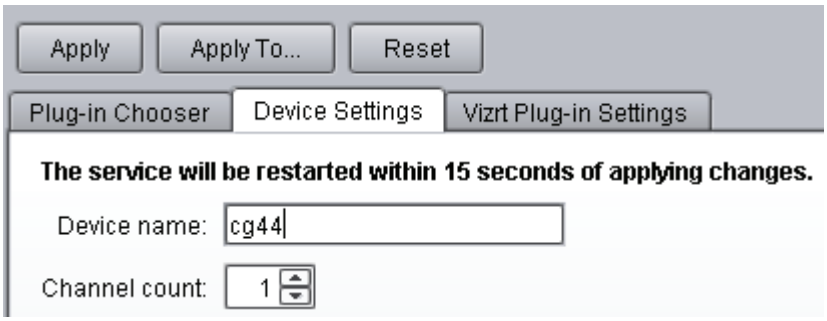
4. If you are running a firewall you should open it and allow the Avid Graphic Device Service 01 to be allowed for all networks.
5. Run the Vizrt iNEWS Command Plugin installer.



6. Open the Avid Workgroup Properties application and click Stop, and then Start.

To configure the plugin and confirm connection

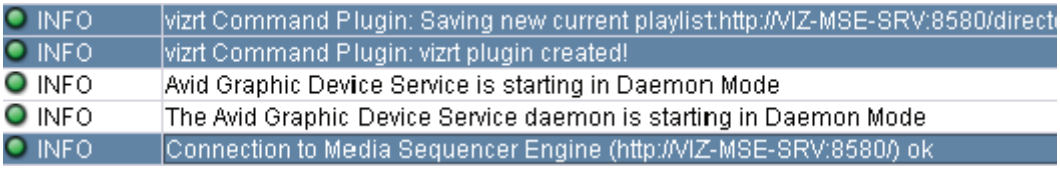
1. Start the Avid Service Configuration tool, and select the Avid Graphic Device Service 01.
2. Under the **Plug-in Chooser** tab select Vizrt as plugin and click Apply.
   - The service should restart automatically within 15 seconds. If not, open the Avid Workgroup Properties application and restart all services by clicking Stop, and then Start.



3. Under the **Device Settings** tab set a name for the device (e.g. cg44).
   - You will use this device name when configuring device channels later.
4. Under the **Vizrt plugin Settings** tab change the URL for the Media Sequencer REST interface to the correct Media Sequencer (e.g. http://<hostname>:8580/).

IMPORTANT! Add the slash at the end.

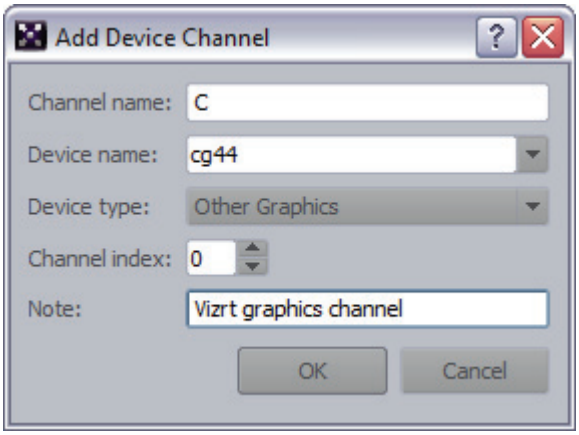
5. Click the **Look up** button to generate the list of available profiles on the Media Sequencer.
6. Select the profile you have configured, and click **Apply**.
7. Start the Avid Diagnostics logging tool and select the Avid Graphic Device Service in the tree on the left.
8. Open the Avid Workgroup Properties application and click Stop, and then Start.



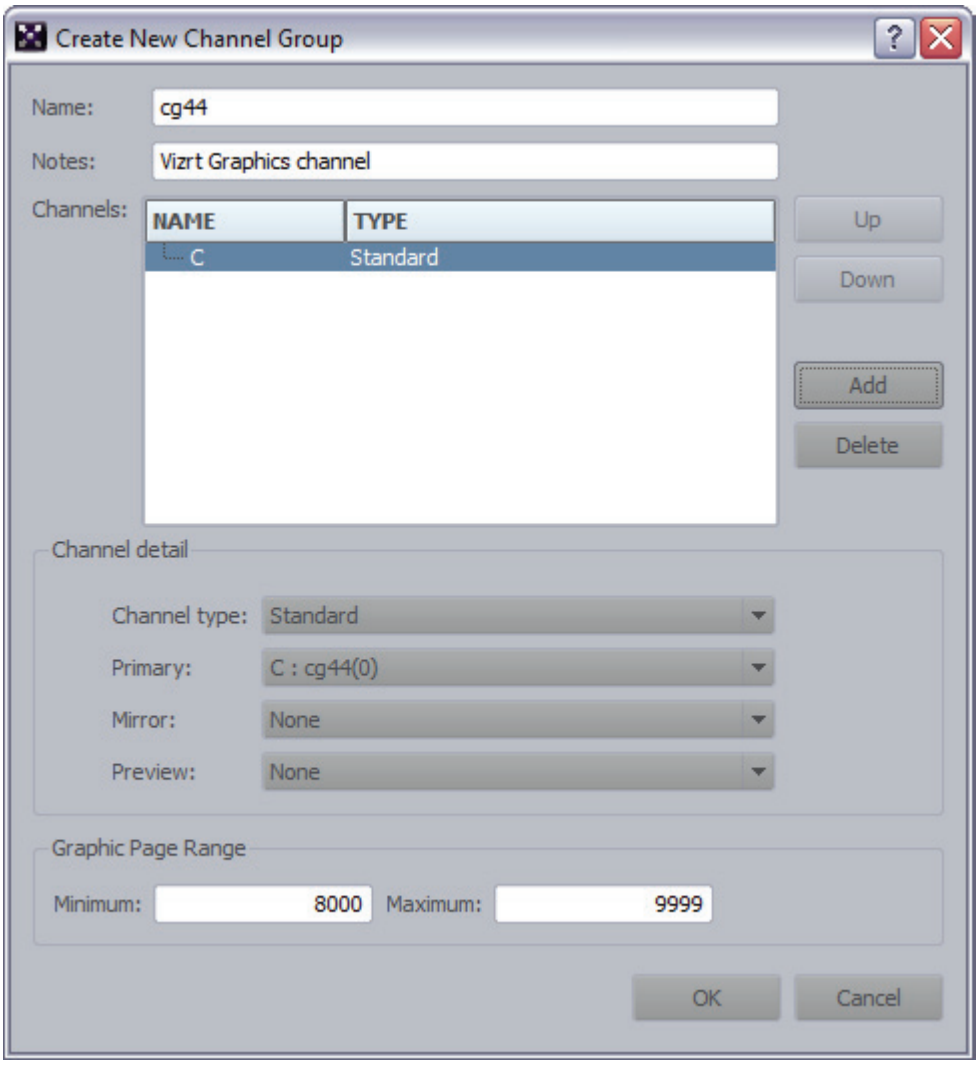
9. Switch back to the Diagnostics tool and confirm that the connection to the Media Sequencer has been established.

To configure a channel group and confirm functionality

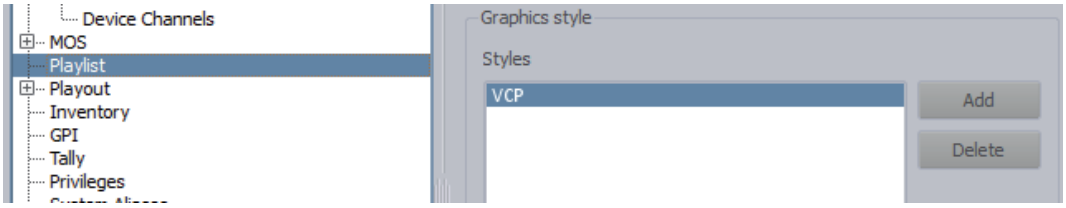
1. Log on to the Avid iNEWS Command workstation.
2. Start the Avid iNEWS Command client.
3. From the main menu click Tools and select System Settings.
4. Click Channel and Device Channels in the System Settings tree, and click Add.



5. In the Add Device Channel dialog box, do the following:
   - Enter the Channel Name
   - Enter the Device Name (which should be the same used in Step 3 in the previous procedure (e.g. cg44).
   - Select the Other Graphic device type.
   - Leave the channel index at 0.
6. Click OK to confirm, and repeat for additonal channels as necessary.
7. Once finished adding device channels, click Apply.
8. Select Groups in the System Settings tree on the left, and click Add.



9. In the Create New Channel Group dialog box, do the following:
   - Enter a name for the channel group.
   - Click Add and select a Viz device channel to be the Primary (e.g. cg44).
10. Click OK when finished.



11. Select Playlist in the System Settings tree and click Add in the Graphics Style section.
12. Double-click Style and change the name to `VCP`.
13. Click OK to close the System Settings dialog box.
14. To confirm functonality, select the newly created channel group in the inventory panel to see one item.

See Also

- Integration with Avid iNEWS

- For further information on installing Avid components, see the latest Avid iNEWS Command readme.

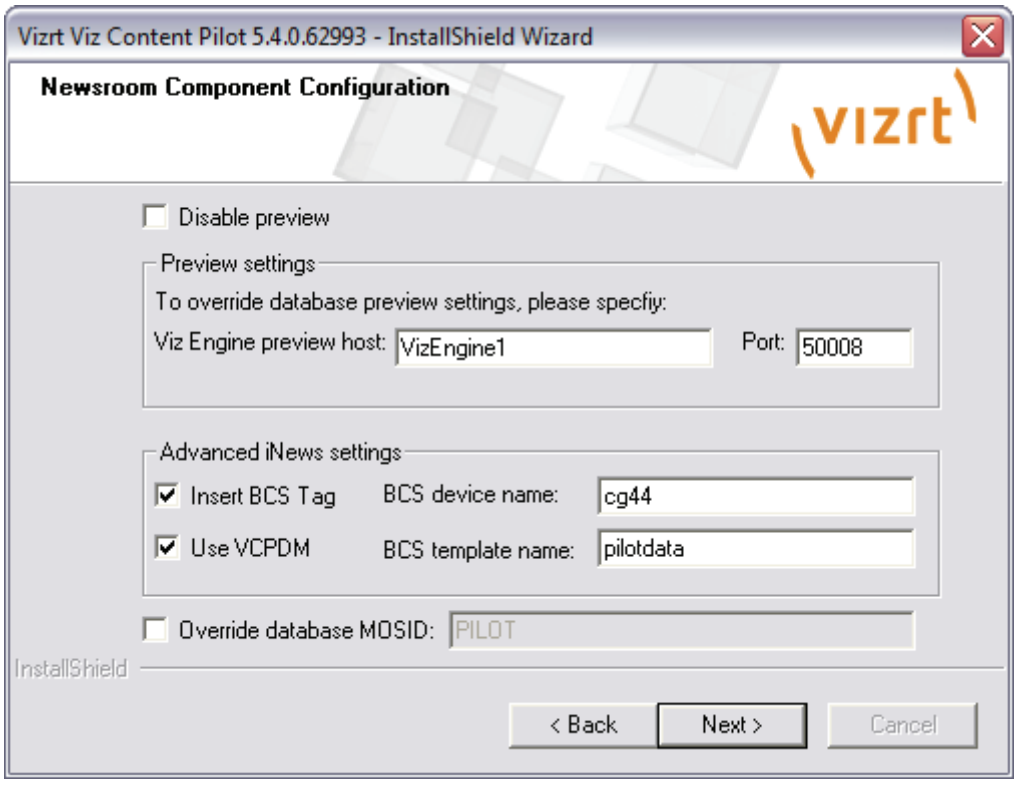
2.2 Integration with Avid iNEWS

The Newsroom Component is installed on the Avid iNEWS workstation, and is used to add graphic elements to the newsroom stories. The iNEWS stories and the Vizrt graphic elements are then monitored and played out using the Avid iNEWS Command client.

This section contains information on the following topics:

- To install the Viz Content Pilot Newsroom Component
- To configure the Avid iNEWS Workstation

To install the Viz Content Pilot Newsroom Component



1. Log on to the Avid iNEWS workstation.
2. Run the Viz Content Pilot installer.
3. Select Newsroom Integration Client
4. Set the Viz Engine preview host and port (default is `50008`).
   - The Viz Engine preview host is typically a Viz Engine that is configured to be a frame server.
5. Check **Insert BCS Tag**, and define the broadcast control system (BCS) device name (e.g. `cg44`, default is `cg`)
   - This tag will be used when configuring the Avid iNEWS client's `SYSTEM.MAP` (see Device information).

6. Check **Use VCPDM**, and use the default template name `pilotdata`
7. Finish the installation.
8. Start the Newsroom Component Test Page in Internet Explorer to check that you have a connection to the VCP database.

To configure the Avid iNEWS Workstation

1. Start the Avid iNEWS client.

```
;show.news.rundown uses monitor 280
show.news.rundown  show.news    -       monitor       2359
wnasvr          cmdsvr1         -       command-master
        cg      cg44            -       C       VCP     ; Viz Content Pilot
```

2. Open the **SYSTEM.MAP** and configure the following for each rundown:

   a. Rundown information

   ```
   Example: show.news.rundown show.news - monitor 2359
   ```

   - Name of the rundown (e.g. show.news.rundown).
   - Directory that contains the rundown queue (e.g. show.news)
   - Name for a composite list queue (if used).
   - Name of the user group that should have access to monitor the rundown (e.g. monitor).
   - Monitor duration or quit time (e.g. D200 or 2100).

   b. Server information

   ```
   Example: wnasvr cmdsvr1 - command-master
   ```

   - Server type: `wnasvr` specifies the Command Server.
   - Primary server's name (e.g. `cmdsvr1`) which is the computer running the Avid iNEWS Communication service.
   - Form name for the monitor server (e.g. `command-master`) if one is defined. A hyphen can be used as a placeholder.

   c. Device information

   ```
   Example: cg cg44 - C VCP
   ```

   - Type of device (i.e. `cg`).
   - Name of the device (e.g. `cg44`).
   - Default channel. Note that this information is required, but has no effect when controlling Vizrt graphics.
   - Default style. Note that for Viz Content Pilot, the default style is `VCP`.

See Also

- Integration with Avid iNEWS Command
- Avid iNEWS Command Installation and Configuration Guide

2.3 Output Configuration

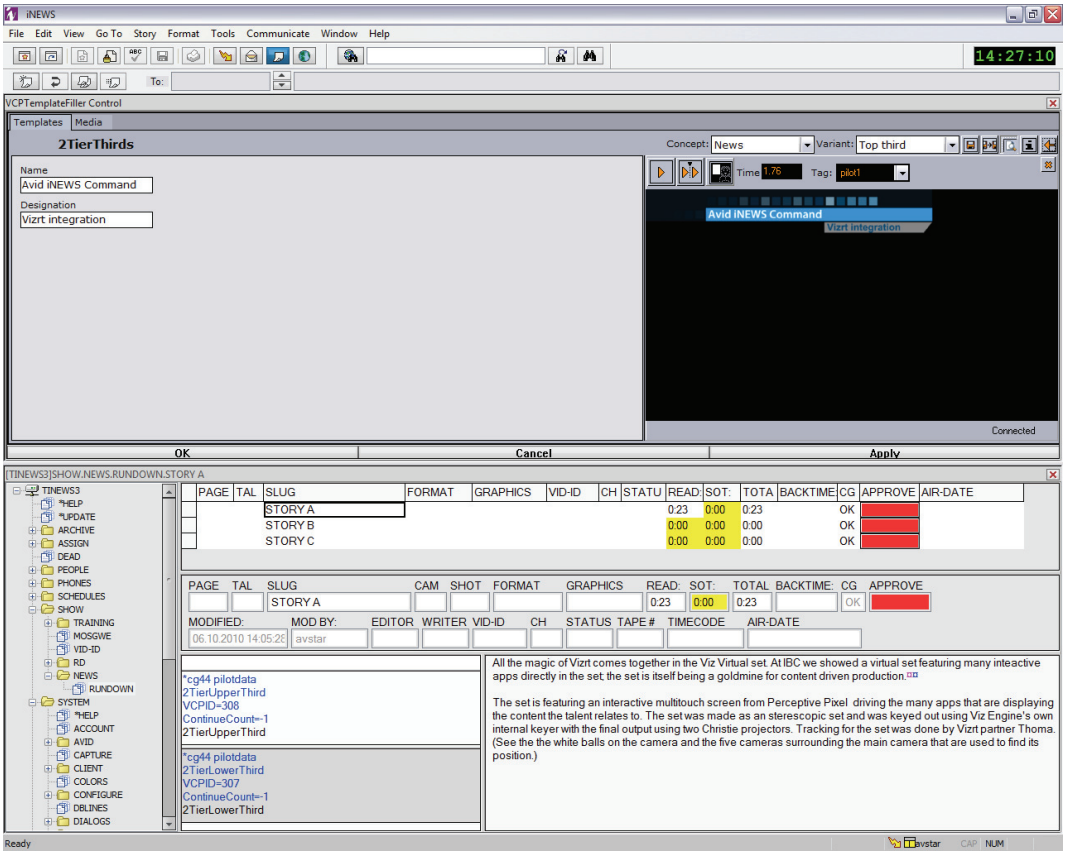
In order to play out Vizrt graphics you need one or several Viz Engines depending on your use case.

This section will describe how to best configure your Viz Engine(s) in order to play out graphics from the Avid iNEWS Command workstation.

This section contains information on the following topics:

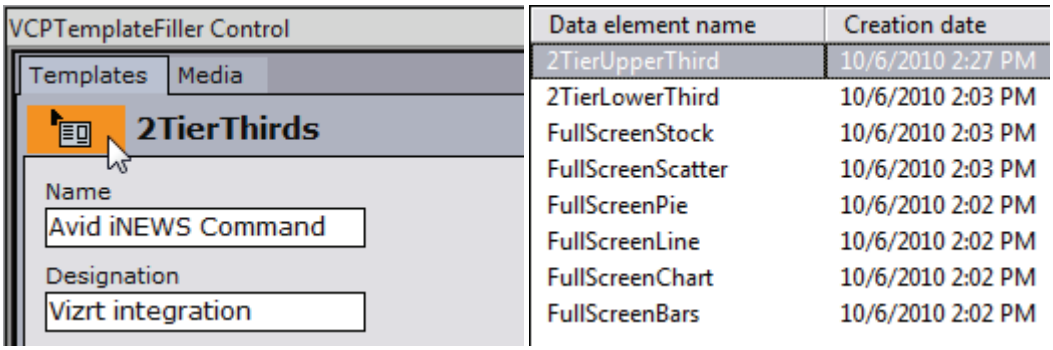
- To create an iNEWS playlist containing Vizrt graphics
- To configure an output channel
- To configure multiple output channels

To create an iNEWS playlist containing Vizrt graphics

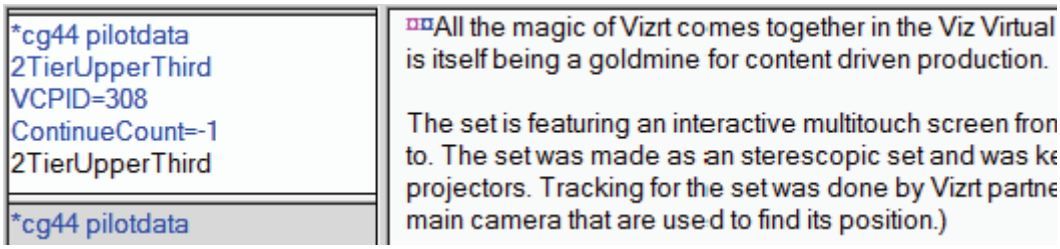


1. Create and configure a new playlist in iNEWS.
2. Add your stories to the new playlist.
3. Open a story for editing.
4. Start the Newsroom Component (Tools -> Plugins -> VCPTemplateFiller Control).
   - This will start the Newsroom Component.

Figure 1: Template editor and data element list



5. Open a template, make the necessary changes and save it as a new data element.

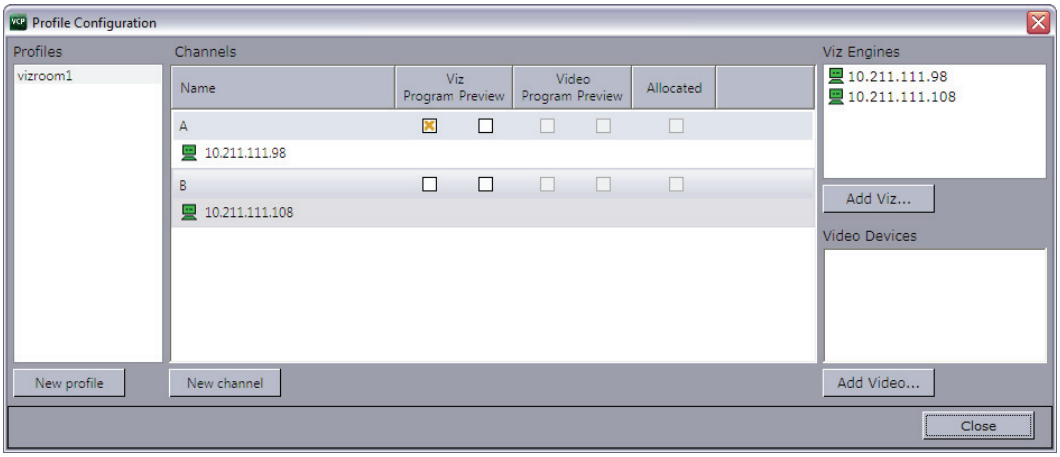


6. Drag and drop the element into your story.
   - Data elements can be added from the Template editor and data element list.

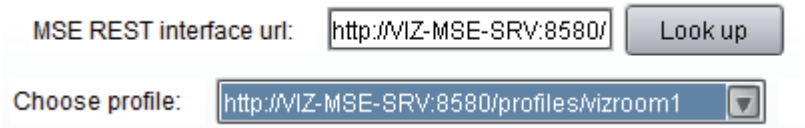
7. Monitor and load the playlist to see it in iNEWS Command.

To configure an output channel

1. Start the Media Sequencer you have configured for Avid iNEWS Command.
2. Start the Viz Engine(s) you will use as your output channel(s).
3. Start Viz Content Pilot (VCP).
4. From VCP's Tools menu, select Profile Configuration... (CTRL+M).



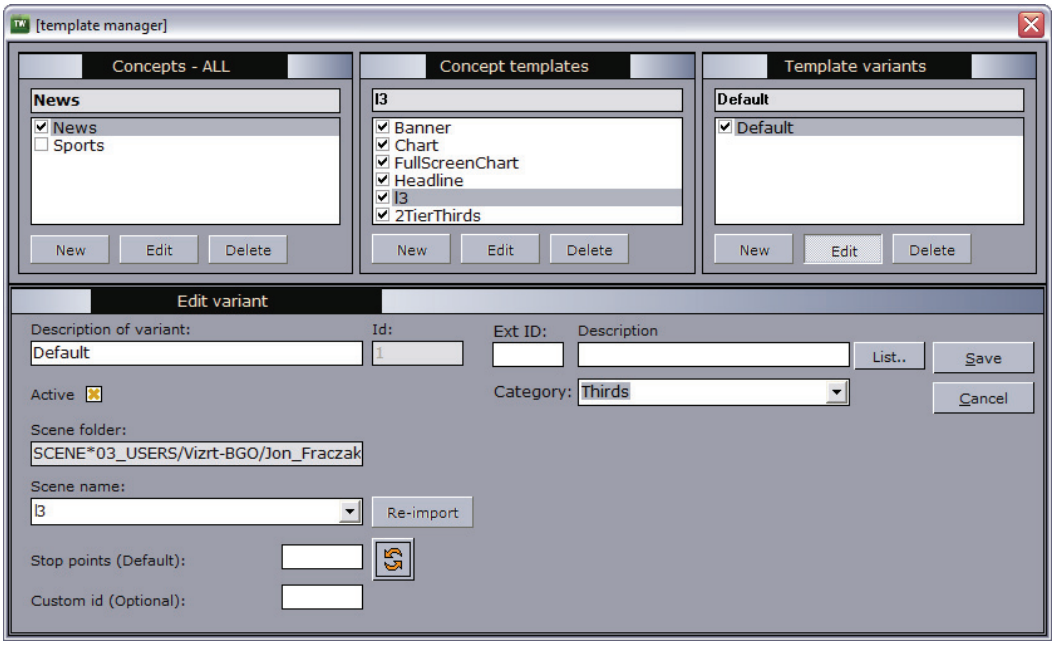
5. Add a new profile.
6. Add a new channel (e.g. A).
7. Add the Viz Engine you will use as your output channel.
8. Drag and drop the newly added Viz Engine onto the newly created channel.



9. Start the Avid Service Configuration tool installed on the Media Sequencer machine.
10. Select the graphic device and under the **Vizrt Plug-in Settings**, click the Look up button.
11. Select the profile you just created, and click Apply.

To configure multiple output channels

1. Start Viz Template Wizard.
2. From the Tools menu, select **Categories and Channels**.
3. In the Categories and Channels dialog box do the following:
   - Define the categories (e.g. FullScreen and Thirds).
   - Define the channels (e.g. A and B).
   - Define the custom channels by assigning a channel to the newly created categories.



4. From the Tools menu, select **Template Manager** (requires a running Viz Engine).
5. Select and edit a template variant and set a category for it.
6. Click Save.
7. Start Viz Content Pilot.
8. Repeat the procedure above (To configure an output channel); however, this time add two channels with the channel names defined in Viz Template Wizard (e.g. A and B).

See Also

- To install the Viz Content Pilot Newsroom Component

- To configure the Avid iNEWS Workstation
- Viz Content Pilot User's Guide
- Viz Template Wizard User's Guide

3 Playout of Vizrt Graphics

This section describes how to successfully play out Vizrt graphics from Avid iNEWS Command.

This section contains information on the following topics:

- Controls

3.1 Controls

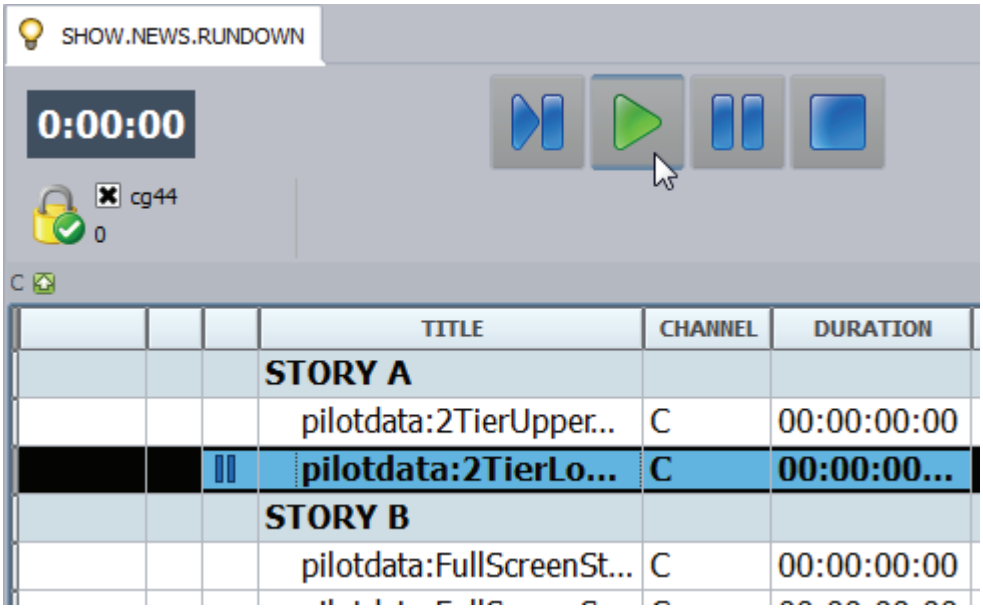
The only state kept by the plugin, is what element is currently "running" (paused, in Avid-terms.). If you click Play on the current element it will result in a CONTINUE, while a play on all other elements will result in a TAKE on the corresponding element (see To play out from Avid iNEWS Command).

The Avid iNEWS Command controls map to the following behavior when triggering Vizrt graphics:

Table 1: Control buttons on playout toolbar

Icon	Action
	Cue has no function; however, the next graphics element will be cued automatically on TAKE.
	Play will do a TAKE if the element you click Play on is not already taken. Clicking Play will immediately result in a "pause"-icon for the current element to allow a CONTINUE on consecutive actions for the same graphics element.
	Pause has no function.
	Stop will result in a TAKE OUT.

To play out from Avid iNEWS Command



1. Start Avid iNEWS Command workstation.
2. Open the playlist you loaded in iNEWS.
3. Click the lock to operate the playlist.
   - Clicking the lock will send the playlist information to the Media Sequencer.
4. Click the Play button to load and play out the graphics.
   - If the scene use Continue points, click the Play button to continue the animation.
   - If the scene should be played again, click the Stop button and then the Play button.
   - If the scene should be taken off air (hard cut), click the Stop button.

See Also

- Installation and Configuration
- Troubleshooting

4 Troubleshooting

The following section is a troubleshooting section for the Vizrt integration with Avid iNEWS Command. The information is based on experience gained by Vizrt during development and testing.

Before you start troubleshooting you should familiarize yourself with the following Avid tools:

- **Avid Diagnostics**: Avid Diagnostics is a logging framework that enables you to view logs of different Avid products across the network. Your Vizrt device should show up there as an "Avid Graphics Device Service".
- **Avid Health Monitor**: Use the Avid Health Monitor to view different "health" statuses related to the services.
- **Avid Service Configuration**: With this tool you can configure the different services, like our graphics plugin, across the network.
- **Avid Workgroup Properties**: With this tool you can, amongst other things, start and stop services.

This section contains information on the following topics:

- Configuration is OK
- Configuration is not OK

Configuration is OK

The following tells you that the configuration is OK:

- You create a rundown in Avid iNEWS, with elements corresponding with your Vizrt device (i.e. `cg44`).
- You monitor the device, and it shows up in the Avid iNEWS Command workstation.
- You open the rundown, click the lock, and the rundown is visible.
- You select and click Play for one of the elements, and the graphic is played out on air.

Configuration is not OK

The following tells you that the configuration is not OK:

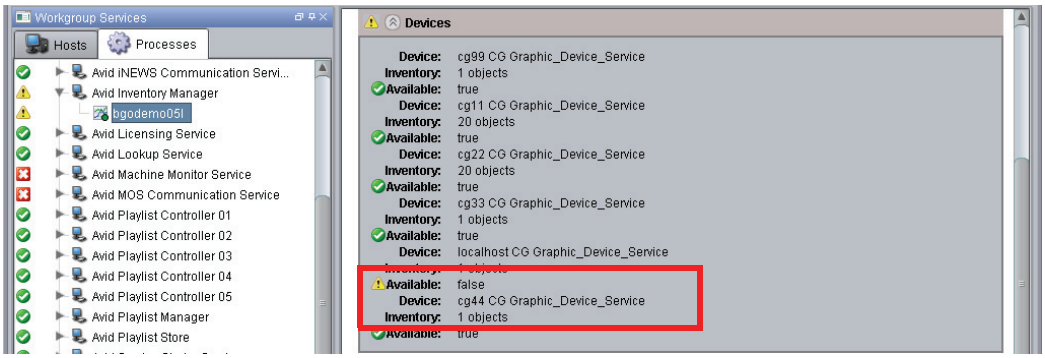
1. You have installed the device, but it does not show up in any of the Avid tools.

   - Check the firewall on the computer you installed it on.
   - Does it show up using any of the Avid tools on the local computer (the same as you installed it on).
   - If you are running Windows Vista or 7 (or anything newer than XP you should probably set service to run in Compatibility mode (see Installation and Configuration).

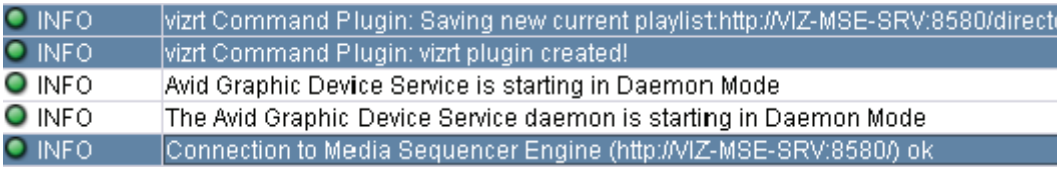
2. Your device is not usable in Avid iNEWS Command workstation and displays "No inventory found" in the Alerts listing.

   - Check to see that the device is running.

- Does is show up in any of the Avid tools? If not, see point 1.
- Have you configured the device in the Avid Service Configuration tool to use the `Vizrt` plugin, and not the default `None` plugin (see Plug-in Chooser tab)?



- Check the Avid Health Monitor tool for additional information:
  - The Available status should be true and not false (see image above). If this is not the case you should check whether the Avid iNEWS Command server can access your Avid iNEWS Command workstation where you installed the plugin. Also disable firewalls to check for potential port connection issues.



- Check the Avid Diagnostics tool and look at the log-messages from the device.
  - Select the device and enable logging for it.
  - Restart the service using Avid Workgroup Properties.
  - It should log a lot of messages, look out for anyone containing Vizrt.
  - Check for `SEVERE` errors.

3. I have inventory, but my playlist is empty in the Avid iNEWS Command workstation.

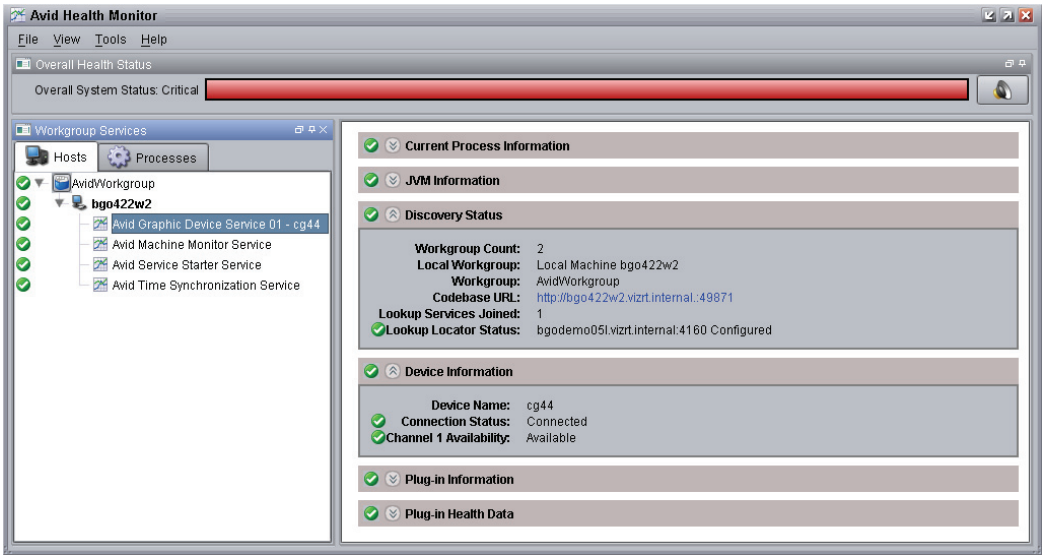
- Check that the device name (e.g. `cg44`) configured in Avid Service Configuration matches the device name configured in iNEWS. If the latter is correctly configured the device name in iNEWS should match the inventory name seen in iNEWS Command.
- Check the SYSTEM.MAP configuration and element data in your stories for the same device name.

4. For some reason I have seen changes in iNEWS not affecting the playlist in iNEWS Command.

- Try Monitor -> OFF and Monitor -> Load again, and turn on and off the lock in Avid iNEWS Command a few times.

5. I cannot configure the device using the Avid Service Configuration tool.

- If the device shows up, but you get an error message when trying to click it and open the GUI, see the next point on DNS related issues.



6. You have installed the service, configured it to run in compatibility mode, started it, but it does not show up correctly with Inventory in Avid iNEWS Command workstation, and you get errors when trying to open the configuration panel.

- This may be caused by wrong reverse lookup in DNS. For example:
  - You installed on a computer called (e.g. `host1`).
  - The plugin seems to ask the DNS for its hostname, based on IP (like nslookup).
  - The DNS/whomever replies with a different/wrong hostname (e.g. `host2`)
  - The plugin broadcasts to the Avid Services that it can be contacted at `host2`.
  - The services tries this, and fails.

- Use the Avid Health Monitor and check the following:
  - Try to access the Codebase URL, and check that it is the right hostname for your service.
  - Try to access the Codebase URL from the Avid iNEWS Command server (ref. Lookup Locator).

7. Your playlist in iNEWS Command displays all elements that were added in iNEWS, but you cannot see the playlist in the VCP client.

- If you have deleted the playlist in VCP you must restart the Avid Graphic Device Service XX.