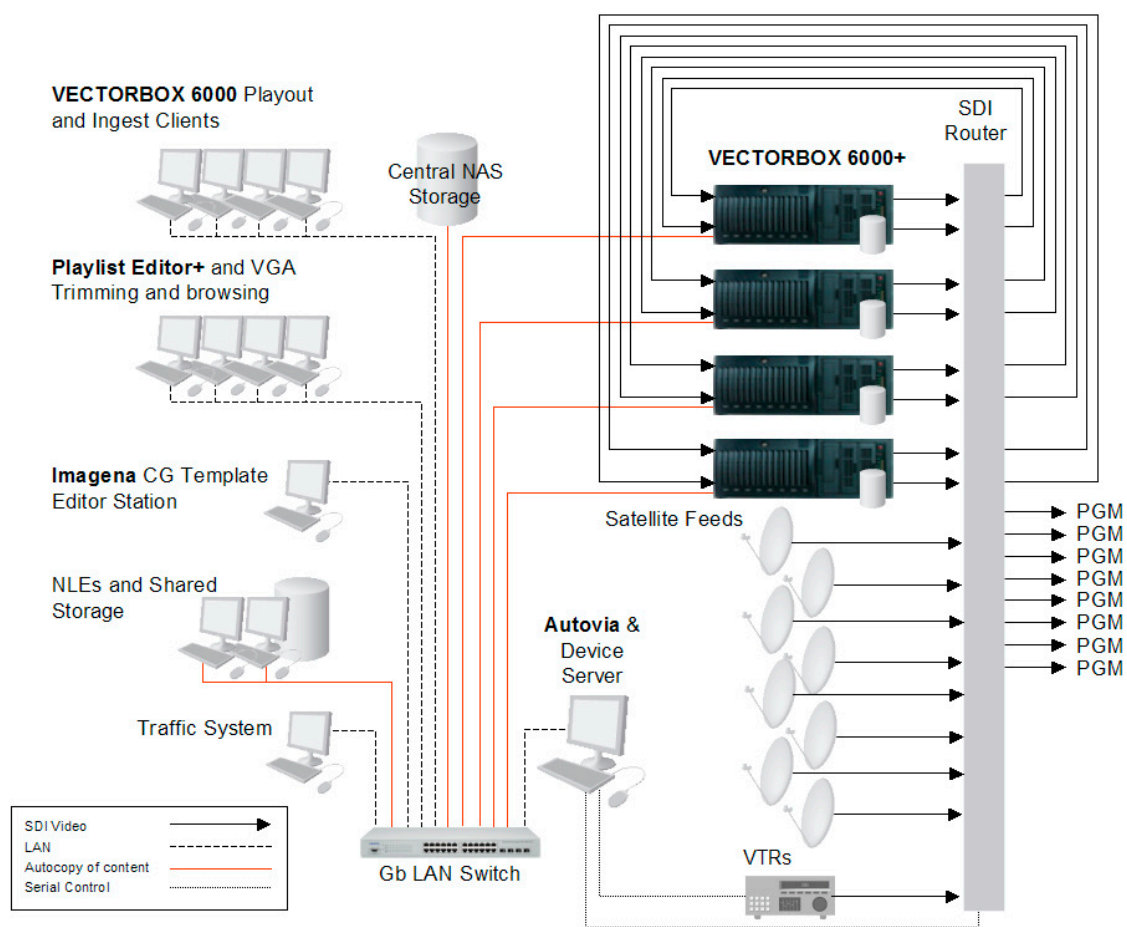


Remote Satellite Connection and Disconnection

VECTORBOX manages automatic connection and disconnection to and from a remote satellite feed via serial control. This feature allows the user to insert local content such as publicity and news into remote programming either with or without time delay. VECTORBOX also allows graphic branding and ingest of the remote feed as long as it is routed through the system as shown.



Eight-channel installation with remote satellite connection and disconnection

Connection and disconnection without time delay

Where no time delay is required, the local station creates the day’s schedule by dragging and dropping a mixture of local clips, VTR and live content, combined with VECTORBOX MSS (Main Station Signal) events into the playlist. The MSS events mark the slots where the remote satellite feed is to be aired as opposed to local breaks. Connection and disconnection can be carried out in two very different ways.

The first way is where the remote station provides reliable data on remote programming start times and durations. These TC values are combined in the locally produced schedule along with local breaks. In the

event of a gap occurring, VECTORBOX automatically inserts a channel bumper or other pre-configured clip as a filler. In the case of an overlap, VECTORBOX respects the fixed start time for the satellite import and cuts the last clip in the commercial break short.

The second way is via remote triggering of the local playout. In this case, the central station places cue-tone triggers into the auxiliary data channel of the satellite feed when the signal is up-linked. These triggers are placed a few seconds before the remote content begins and ends. When the signal is de-muxed, these triggers are converted to RS232 pulses and control the VECTORBOX in the following way:

When VECTORBOX receives the first RS232 trigger from the de-muxer, it controls the router to put the central station feed (MSS line) on air. With the second pulse, the system moves to the next event in the playlist – in this case, to the local content. When the local break has finished, the next pulse returns the next MSS event to air and so on throughout the day.

Connection and disconnection with time delay

Where there is a time delay between the remote and local station (e.g. London and New York) VECTORBOX buffers the remote station (MSS) feed for the duration of the time difference (in the case of London and New York, this would be 5 hours).

In this case, the local station creates a batch record schedule by dragging and dropping VECTORBOX MSS Rec (Main Station Signal Record) events into the recording list respecting the emission times provided by the central station.

In continuation, the operator creates the day's schedule based on the remote station schedule but compensating for the 5-hour delay by dragging and dropping VECTORBOX MSS events as well local content into the schedule. It is vital that MSS Rec events in the recording list use the same file name as the corresponding MSS events scheduled in the playlist.

The remote station places pulses in the auxiliary data channel of the satellite feed and these triggers will be converted to RS232 pulses and used to control the VECTORBOX recording list.

When VECTORBOX receives the first RS232 trigger from the de-muxer, it starts recording the remote feed (MSS Rec event). The playlist is now in wait mode but the MSS event (with the same clip name) is already buffering the incoming media*. The ingest of the next MSS rec event in the recording list commences in the same way etc. When the scheduled moment arrives, the first MSS event plays to air followed by the rest of the playlist, i.e. a mixture of newly ingested MSS (remote satellite) content and local content. The playlist updates continuously with new content from the recorder as it goes to air.

*An ingesting clip can also be trimmed if required using the trim function in the catalogue in either standard or low resolution.