SOFTWARE RELEASE NOTES

INTRODUCTION

Mbox Software Version 5.2

We are happy to announce that software version 5.2 is now available for the Mbox Media Server applications including Mbox, Mbox Director, Mbox Daemon, and Mbox Remote! Mbox software version 5.2 introduces many new features and addresses several key issues in the Mbox v5.x applications. This release includes a revised version of the Art-Net Tester application.

Compatibility with Apple Silicon Processors - M1/M2/M3 - and macOS versions

All Mbox 5.x applications are universal applications and run natively on both Apple Silicon and Intel computers. All Mbox v5.x applications require at least macOS 10.14.6 and are compatible with all versions of macOS up to and including macOS 15 Sonoma. The use of macOS 16 Sequoia is strongly discouraged at this time. If you must use Sequoia and experience issues, please contact MboxSupport@prg.com for assistance.

Mbox, PRG, and your Personal Data

Please refer to the release notes for Mbox software version 5.0.2 (MBX-065) for information regarding PRG's use of your personal data. Please contact MboxSupport@prg.com if you have any questions.

New and Updated Features

Mbox:

+ New alert shown on Outputs tab when the application has no outputs. This is to make it clearer than some aspects of the application do not work when there are no outputs.

+ New menu setting that allows a safety lock to be applied to the ⌘Q keyboard quit command, to help avoid accidentally quitting the application. When enabled, the Mbox > Hold ⌘Q to Quit menu item causes the application to require the ⌘Q keyboard combination to be held down for at least one second before the application quits. Alternately, the ⌘Q keyboard combination can be rapidly pressed twice to quit.

+ New OSC Heartbeat preference allows a simple OSC message to be output at one-second intervals. This feature can be used to provide a "heartbeat" to other online devices as an indication that the Mbox application is running.

+ New functionality to allow the layer timecode parameters - the Hours, Minutes, Seconds, and Frame parameters - to be used to directly set the layer's in and out frame parameter values using actual values for minutes, seconds, and frames.

+ Modification of the Layer Sync Receiver playmode. Whereas previously there was only one Layer Sync Receiver playmode, there are now two modes, to correspond to the two modes for Layer Sync Sender: one mode for forward loop and a second mode for forward once. Using the receiving mode that corresponds to the sending mode allows the receiver to display the correct frame when playback stops on the last frame or loops.

+ New effect Strobe2 (#225) with multiple modes and adjustable ramp and/or dwell time.

+ New effect Matte From Layer XY (#094), similar to the existing Matte From Layer (#091) effect. The Matte From Layer XY effect removes the mixer parameter and adds scale, x position, and y position parameters to allow the matte's size and position to be adjusted.

+ New transitions Circle Center Reverse (#062) and Circle Center Blend Reverse (#063), similar to the existing Circle Center transitions, but starting at the outer-edge of the image rather than the center.

+ Image Remapping enhancements. Please refer to the Mbox 5.2 User Manual for in-depth descriptions of this new functionality. Except where noted below, these enhancements also apply to Mbox Remote.

  - New functionality to allow the import and export of screen object and control data as .csv data.

  - New functionality to allow the import and export of screen object data as .svg data.

  - New functionality to allow the live import of screen object data as .svg data. This feature allows the .svg data to be edited and saved in an external editor and for Mbox to immediate receive those edits and apply them to a live image remapping configuration - i.e. one being used onscreen.

  - New Re-Address Screen Controls menu item to provide a dialog which allows all controls of a selected screen object to be re-addressed sequentially. Allows sort by current address or index, can also change universe.

  - New Quick Screens Builder menu item to provide a dialog which allows the rapid creation of a new image remapping configuration with either a regular array of screen objects or screen objects to match the existing mixes. All created screen objects can have controls assigned to them as part of the creation process.

  - New preference (Mbox only) to cause image remapping file data to be automatically backed up at one-minute intervals whenever the file data has been edited. Up to 60 backup copies are saved, and once that limit is reached, the oldest backup copy is automatically deleted whenever a new backup is created.

  - New menu item to copy active coordinate values to texture coordinate values (and vice-versa) for both standard rectangle screen objects and vertices of triangle-based screen objects.

  - New "link" button in screen object editor UI. When enabled, this button links active and texture values such that editing an active value causes the corresponding texture value to be automatically set to the same value (and vice-versa).

  - New mouse/trackpad scrolling (with keyboard modifiers) for many text fields used for screen object configuration. This allows values to be adjusted incrementally rather than typing static values. This functionality is available for both standard rectangle screen objects and vertices of triangle-based screen objects, and works in concert with the link button.

  - When a universe being used for screen object controls is deleted from the universes table, all controls using that universe will now display "no universe" and have an invalid universe assignment, rather than being assigned the universe that is listed first in the universe table.

  - The preview area displays a white circle drawn around the selected vertex of triangle-based screen objects.

  - Background image now has its own menu item to set the image, rather than using the standard "open" menu item. Some user were not aware of this functionality because it did not have a unique menu item.

+ Without a license, the software now allows up to 3840 x 2160 pixels for outputs (this was previously 1920 x 1080).

+ Without a license, the software now allows 2 Output Masters (this was previously 1).

+ Logging improvements for still images (image width and height) and audio files.

Director:

+ New menu setting to allow scene autofollows to work when timecode reception is enabled, but timecode input has stopped or dropped.

+ New OSC Heartbeat preference allows a simple OSC message to be output at one-second intervals. This feature can be used to provide a "heartbeat" to other online devices as an indication that the Director application is running.

Daemon:

+ The Network Interface popup now displays both the interface name and its IP address.

+ Database entries for stills now provide image width and height data, which is passed to Mbox Director.

Remote:

+ Improved refresh rate for layer feedback stream imagery in Status tab breakout views.

IMPORTANT: Refer to the enhancements for Image Remapping in the Mbox section, as those enhancements also apply to Mbox Remote.

Corrected Issues

Mbox:

+ Fix for potential crash when using video inputs (Blackmagic, AVFoundation, NDI, or Syphon) when fading up a layer that uses a video input but that video input source is either not present, drops signal, or has an invalid format.

+ Fix for potential crash when using image remapping with a complex configuration that takes longer than normal to load.

+ The following fixes apply to both Mbox and Mbox Remote:

  - Fix width of popup used for image remapping "add" button to eliminate text overlap.
  - Adjust tab order for image remapping screen object properties and control properties to make the order more logical.
  - Fix label for image remap preview area test control slider when the control has no universe selected.
  - Disallow multiple instances of the same universe number in the image remapping controls universe table.
  - Editing an existing universe or adding a new universe to the image remapping controls universe table no longer causes the popup for the current control to incorrectly display the first universe in the table as the selected universe.

Daemon:

+ Fix issue with content sync using automatic rate adjustment that caused syncs to stall and eventually fail.

Director:

+ Show correct available universe range for Art-Net and sACN triggering and patch.

+ Eliminate comma-separator issues with universe value in patch dialog.

Remote:

+ Fixes for crashes on newer versions of macOS 14 Sonoma. **We strongly recommend anyone using macOS Sonoma to upgrade their computer's version to at least 14.6.**

+ Fixes for update rate of timecode text in server selection pane and on Status tab breakout views.

Art-Net Tester:

+ Eliminate text clipping with long universe number values.