

How to find (and change) facepanel pot priority settings

Finding

Facepanel Priorities are very important in Emphasis in determining which physical or virtual facepanel has control over the grandmaster and submasters. (also see *Consoles 222 Emphasis Pot Priority Scheme*).

Priority is set in the order that the facepanels connect the first time. The priority is stored in an INI file that is located at C:\Program Files\ETC\EmphasisConsole\temp. The file is called emphasisconsole.ini.

The only thing of importance in this screen is the device list which is at the bottom of this file and looks something like this:

[Device List]

00:C0:16:00:07:57, 1=10.101.50.101-1, Expression 2x, 18c2, 0, 1 00:C0:16:42:27:22, 1=10.101.50.102-1,
Expression 3, 35l5, 1, 2

- ² The first group of numbers is the mac address of the facepanel.
- ² The second group of numbers is the IP address of the facepanel.
- ² The third group is what kind of facepanel it is.
- ² The next numbers don't mean anything.
- ² The very last digit is the priority assigned to the facepanel.
 - ² The lower the number the higher the priority.
 - ² Each facepanel MUST have unique priority or 0.
 - ² 0 is disabled

Changing

Method One:

- ² Make sure Emphasis software is not running (this is easiest from System Manager log in)
- ² Disconnect all facepanels.
- ² Delete everything under [Device List]
- ² Save file (do not move it from its original folder).
- ² Start Emphasis software
- ² Reconnect facepanels in order of highest priority to lowest.

Method Two:

- ² Make sure Emphasis software is not running (this is easiest from System Manager log in)
- ² Any user can edit the pot priorities from this screen.
- ² Make the changes *only* to the last number in each line to give the console that should have the highest priority the lowest number (1). The next priority should be (2) and so on. Each priority expect 0 must be unique, 0 is disabled
- ² Save the file (do not move from its original location).
- ² Close it.
- ² Restart Emphasis.

*Note to Hackers: Most of this file contains settings that are shared by Emphasis Console and

Emphasis Visualization. You can hack these settings here but there are much easier ways to legitimately change these things through the programs themselves than for them to be changed through here. It would be best if nothing in this file was changed except pot priority settings as outlined above.

How to Save as 3.1

In order for this to work, before saving as 3.1, the Emphasis showfile must be modified to be able to fit into the destination console. This includes setting channel and dimmer counts in the system settings to the max (or below) that is accepted by the console it is going into. It is also helpful to delete all focus points above 99.

Dimmers

| | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|------|
| ² | Expression/Insight | 1536 |
| ² | Express..... | 1024 |

Channels--

| | | |
|---|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • | Express 24/48 | 96 |
| • | Express 48/96 | 192 |
| • | Express 72/1 44 | 240 |
| • | Express 125 | 125 |
| • | Express 250 | 250 |
| • | Express 1scene ECS | 125 |
| • | Expression 3 | 400, 800, 1200 (depending on console) |
| • | Expression ECS | 400 |
| • | Expression 2X | 800 |
| • | Insight 3 | 512 |
| • | Insight ECS | 512 |

Shows will also revert automatically to their standard maximum show capacities of:

| | | |
|---|--------------|-----|
| • | Cues | 600 |
| • | Focus points | 99 |
| • | Groups | 500 |

After you have set channels, dimmers, and focus points this is how you save as an Expression 3.1 show.

- ² With show open, go to File menu, click Export File.
- ² Choose a destination for the file (suggest A drive)
- ² The name MUST be exp2 (no capitals!)
- ² Select the.shw in the File Type box
- ² Click the save button

Gottchas that we know about:

- ² This is meant as an emergency back up only. It saves patch and channel levels for cues and subs so that the show can be played back on an Express/ion desk.
- ² ML personalities do not save back into 3.1. If user wants traditional control over the moving lights, they must repatch a valid ML personality to the appropriate channels.
- ² Subroutines do not port across. Cues with subroutines will not port across correctly. The subroutine will be basically blank.

- ² It is a possibility that the link to particular focus points will be broken. Again, cue levels will be there, the link will just be broken so if you change the focus point, the associated cue will not change.
- ² Don't forget if you intend to load the 3.1 show into the facepanel to take the server out of the loop, you must put 3.1 code back into the facepanel. This code lives on the server. Go to system manager and there is a facepanel software folder on the desktop. As always it is available on our website.
- ² Sometimes the full show does not load correctly into a console with a show in it already. Doing a deep clear first and loading this show in second seems to solve the problem.

- 2 Some larger shows will simply **not fit** as 3.1 shows.
- 2 It is always recommended to check the downgrade in either the console or off-line to make sure that it transferred correctly

Recover From a Lost Network Connection

If the server and facepanel have a direct network connection (cross-over cable) and the facepanel is turned off, the network connection will be broken and there cannot be another connection made unless the application(s) requiring that connection are re-established, i.e. reboot the server. This is why ETC recommends that the Emphasis server and facepanel to be connected by a hub or switch.

Windows XP monitors the local area network connections in the background. If you disconnect the network cable, or turn off the hub to which it is connected, or turn off the device to which it has direct crossover network connection(e.g. facepanel); Windows XP will unload the network software and disable the network connection. Any application using the network at this point will experience network problems. If you reconnect to the network, Windows will reload the network software and enable the network connection. Unfortunately, the applications using the network connections are not notified of this event and they will continue to experience the network problems. A good solution to this is to restart your machine when encounter such problems. Another possible solution is to use a hub or switch between the Emphasis system components instead of a crossover cable, and never turn the hub off.

How to Generate an Event Log

Emphasis has a diagnostic tool built in that can monitor what is going on between the Emphasis Console and Emphasis Visualization applications. It is not as sophisticated as an Obsession event log but it may help to determine what is going on in the event of unexpected behavior between the two applications.

How to turn event logging on:

- 2 Go to Emphasis mode
- 2 Click on Setup
- 2 Click on Diagnostics
- 2 Click Generate Event Log
- 2 Click OK

*The flush Event Log on power up box is checked by default. This means that when Emphasis powers up, the event log is purged. It is HIGHLY recommended that you keep this box checked since Emphasis logs a lot of events. The event log can get enormous quickly if it is not purged during shutdown.

What Can be Learned From an Event Log

The log file is created in C:\Program Files\ETC\EmphasisConsole\temp. It is called EventLog. Some of it's benefits include:

- 2 It will tell you what communication is happening between the programs.
- 2 Often from it you can figure out where commands are coming from if you have commands that seem to be generated from no where.
- 2 You can view it while the applications are running but it will not update dynamically.
- 2 If you close and reopen the log file, you get the latest information.
- 2 This log file is NOT as comprehensive as an Obsession log file, but sometimes may be a place to start tracking down unexpected behavior.