Partial Show Reads Using Expression Off-Line

With the addition of USITT ASCII file capabilities Expression Off-Line can be used to combine portions of several shows together. Normally when a show is read from disk the current show in memory is erased. This prevents merging two shows together. This is not always true with ASCII show files.

ASCII show files consist of a series of commands and arguments stored as ordinary text. These files can be edited using a standard text editor such as Windows Notepad. A typical ASCII file is listed below.

```
Ident 3:0
Manufacturer ETC
Console EXP3
Clear All
Set Channels 1200
Set Dimmers 1536
Patch 1 1<1@Hff 2<2@Hff 3<3@Hff 4<4@Hff 5<5@Hff 6<6@Hff 7<7@Hff 8<8@Hff
!This is a comment.
!Most of the patch has been removed for clarity.
Patch 1 333<1534@Hff 1535<1535@Hff 1536<1536@Hff
Cue1.0
    Up 5
    Down 5
    Chan 1 @ Hff 2 @ Hff 3 @ Hff 4 @ Hff 5 @ Hff
    Followon 5
    Link 3.0
Cue 3.0
    Up 5
    Down 5
    Chan 6 @ H80 7 @ H80 8 @ H80 9 @ H80 10 @ H80
Group 1
    Chan 12 @ Hff 13@ Hbf  14 @ Hff 15 @ Hbf 16 @ Hbf 17 @ Hff 18 @ Hbf 19 @ Hff
Sub 1 1
    Up 0
    Down 0
    Chan 26 @ Hff 27 @ Hff 28 @ Hff 29 @ Hff 30 @ Hff
Enddata
```

A detailed description of the USITT ASCII show format can be found in a document titled "*ASCII Text Representation for Lighting Console Data Version 3.0*" published by USITT.

If the **Clear All** command is removed, the current show will not be erased before reading the new one in. The items in the new show will then be merged with the existing show. Any duplicate items will be overwritten by the new show.

An example of an ASCII file that overwrites the patch of an existing show is listed below.

```
Ident 3:0
Manufacturer ETC
Console EXP3
Clear Patch
Set Channels 1200
Set Dimmers 1536
Patch 1 1<1@Hff 2<2@Hff 3<3@Hff 4<4@Hff 5<5@Hff 6<6@Hff 7<7@Hff 8<8@Hff
!This is a comment.
!Most of the patch has been removed for clarity.
Patch 1 333<1534@Hff 1535<1535@Hff 1536<1536@Hff
Enddata
```

The **Ident**, **Manufacturer** and **Console** commands must appear at the beginning of the file. The **Enddata** command must appear at the end of the file. The **Clear Patch** command has been added to remove the current patch from memory before reading in the new one.

The following Clear commands may be used individually or in a list such that specific data would not be erased, and the new show would be merged with that existing data.

```
Clear All
Clear Patch
Clear Cues
Clear Submasters
Clear Groups
```