

VCS Control Software Advanced Settings

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Introduction

This document describes the advanced settings that can be used to manually adjust the configuration of both the VCS Control Server and the VCS Control Client.

Disclaimer: If your scenario requires it, you can change these settings from their default values. It should only be done under the guidance or recommendation of technical support. The changes will take effect only after the software restarts.

VCS Control Client

The screenshot shows a dialog box titled 'Information' with a warning message: 'If your scenario requires it, you can change these settings from their default values. This should only be done under the guidance or recommendation of technical support. The changes will only take effect after the software restarts.' Below this is a 'Client' tab with the following settings:

- Desktop Resolution
 - Width: 0 px
 - Height: 0 px
- Capture Resolution
 - Width: 1920 px
 - Height: 1080 px
- Display Name: MachineName
- Capture Refresh Period: 1000 ms
- Use Legacy Capture:
- Use DeskCapt API:
- Portable Logging:

An 'OK' button is located at the bottom right of the dialog.

Desktop Resolution

Specify the width and height of the desktops with this option. Please note that the visible portion will always start from the top left corner of the Windows desktop. It is helpful in conjunction with **Ignore Programs Out Of Bounds**, when you use a separate monitor as a control console monitor.

Capture Resolution

Can be used on the transmitter PC to specify the maximum resolution to achieve. Very useful to capture more than one HD monitor without loss of quality. Default is 1920x1080.

Display Name

Readable name to display in the list of clients for the registration of the local computer. By default, we use the machine name.

Capture Refresh Period

Client capture streaming usually sends the difference between frames, but periodically sends a full frame according to this setting. By default, a full frame is sent every second.

Use Legacy Capture

Used in conjunction with **Desktop Resolution** on the Server if this Client is installed on the video wall controller and used from a control monitor. Depending on the configuration, this method of capture may be more stable at the expense of refresh rate.

Use DeskCapt API

If the client workstation has Datapath ImageDP4 outputs, the legacy screen capture will use the accelerated DeskCapt desktop capture API by default. It may be unstable depending on the configuration, and it can be disabled in favor of the Windows API.

Portable Logging

A portable installation by default does not collect diagnostic information, as it can degrade performance when running from an external drive. Enabling logging will write this information onto the host computer.

VCS Control Server

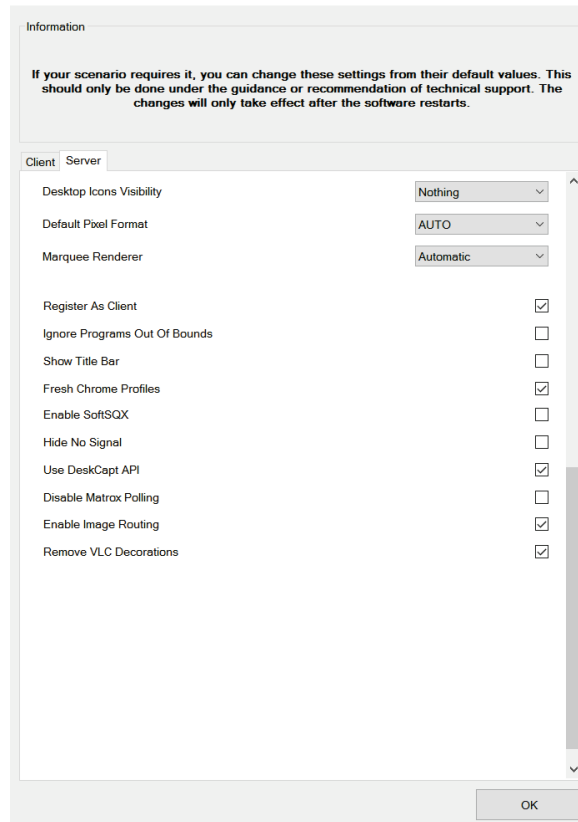
VCS Control Server stores two sets of advanced settings, which are available on the menus shown below and in a file residing on the server.

Menu Settings

The screenshot shows a settings dialog box for the VCS Control Server. At the top, there is an 'Information' section with a warning: 'If your scenario requires it, you can change these settings from their default values. This should only be done under the guidance or recommendation of technical support. The changes will only take effect after the software restarts.' Below this, there are two tabs: 'Client' and 'Server', with 'Server' selected. The 'Server' tab contains several sections of settings:

- Desktop Resolution:** A checked checkbox. Below it are two spinners for 'Width' and 'Height', both set to '0 px'.
- Video Wall Grid:** An unchecked checkbox. Below it are two spinners for 'Width' and 'Height', both set to '0'.
- Capture Resolution:** An unchecked checkbox. Below it are two spinners for 'Width' (set to '1920 px') and 'Height' (set to '1080 px').
- Startup Delay:** A spinner set to '0 ms'.
- Capture Refresh Period:** A spinner set to '1000 ms'.
- Desktop Polling Period:** A spinner set to '5000 ms'.
- Process Idle Timeout:** A spinner set to '60000 ms'.
- Marquee Polling Period:** A spinner set to '10 s'.
- SQX Buffer Latency:** A spinner set to '1000 ms'.
- SQX Retry Delay:** A spinner set to '1000 ms'.

An 'OK' button is located at the bottom right of the dialog box.



Desktop Resolution

Set the width and height of the desktops with this option. Please note that the visible portion will always start from the top left corner of the Windows desktop. It is helpful with **Ignore Programs Out Of Bounds**, if you use a separate monitor as a control console monitor.

Video Wall Grid

Define the default grid layout of your monitors. Use it to override the Video Wall Resolution, or to set an arrangement, irrespective of actual video wall layout.

Capture Resolution

Can be used on the transmitter PC to specify the maximum resolution to achieve. This parameter is useful when more than one HD monitor are captured without loss of quality. Default is 1920x1080.

Startup Delay

Delay the starting of the server. Useful if your network takes a while to obtain an IP Address to prevent the server from starting without an IP assigned, or if other applications need to start before the server. By default, the server does not wait before starting.

Capture Refresh Period

Client capture streaming usually sends the difference between frames, but periodically sends a full frame according to this setting. By default, we send a full frame every second.

Desktop Polling Period

The server periodically queries the Windows desktop to find new application windows or detect changes to windows from the layout. By default, it checks the desktop every 5 seconds.

Process Idle Timeout

An option that represents the amount of time to wait for an application to display its main window before considering that the process has failed to open. The default is 60000 milliseconds (1 minute).

Marquee Polling Period

The amount of time that the server waits when periodically retrieving scrolling text from an RSS feed or a file. By default, scrolling text updates every 10 seconds.

SQX Buffer Latency

The amount of latency to add when decoding IP streams with SQX. Helps the performance and visual fidelity. The default is 1000 milliseconds.

SQX Retry Delay

The delay between attempts to reconnect to an SQX stream after a network or decoding error, or in case the stream is temporarily offline. The default is 1000 milliseconds.

Desktop Icons Visibility

Visibility of the video wall's desktop icons can be "Nothing" to keep the desktop as it is, "Toggle" to hide them while the server's mouse and keyboard are inactive, or "AlwaysShow" and "AlwaysHide" to show/hide them at all times.

Default Pixel Format

Inputs from Datapath capture cards appear with different pixel formats or color depths. This default can be overridden later on each source. By default, we select API's AUTO pixel format.

Client Registration

Select the type of identifier that clients will use to distinguish themselves from one another. By default, at the time of connection, we use the host computer's IP address.

Register As Client

Include an entry for the video wall itself in the list of connected clients available for screen capture. By default, the video wall will appear in the list.

Ignore Programs Out Of Bounds

Used in conjunction with **Desktop Resolution** to ignore applications launched outside of the defined video wall resolution. By default, applications are always moved back onto the video wall area.

Show Title Bar

Choose whether to show or hide title bars on Datapath and Client Capture sources as soon as they appear. By default, the title bar is hidden.

Fresh Chrome Profiles

Enable or disable the special handling of Google Chrome application windows. By default, the server will open each Chrome window with a new profile, to prevent multiple windows from interfering with each other and being placed in the wrong position.

Enable SoftSQX

Support automatic fallback to software based IP decoding if the SQX hardware reaches capacity. By default, software decoding is disabled.

Hide No Signal

When a Datapath input is inactive, prevents the message "No Signal" from being displayed on its video wall windows. By default, the message does appear for inactive sources.

Use DeskCapt API

On Datapath systems with ImageDP4 outputs, the accelerated DeskCapt desktop capture API is used by default for source preview. This option may be unstable depending on your configuration, so you may want to disable it and use the Windows API.

Enable Image Routing

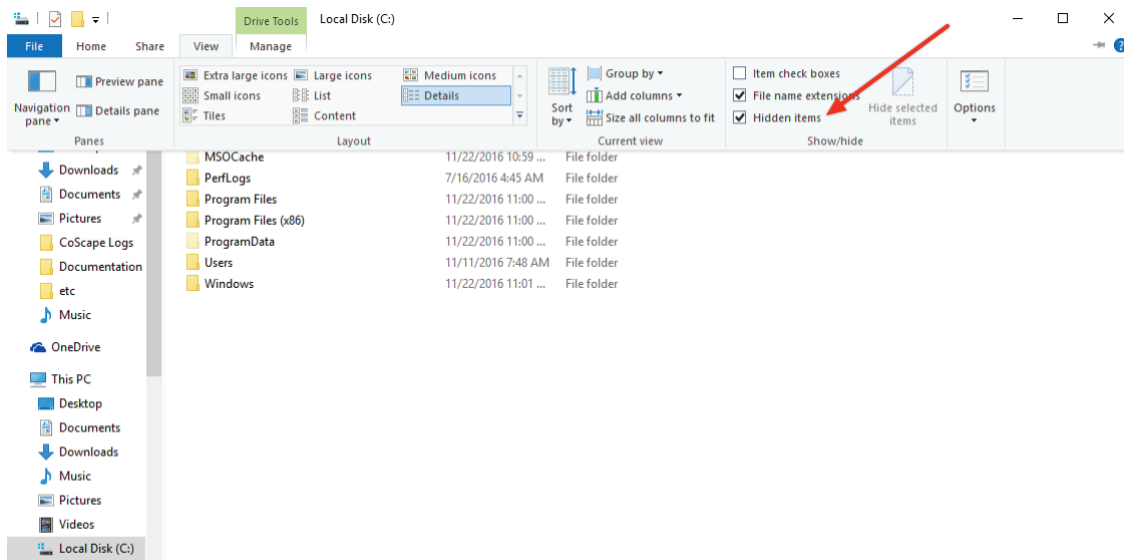
Allow the program to decide which application opens images.

Remove VLC Decorations

Display VLC application windows without borders or on-screen interface.

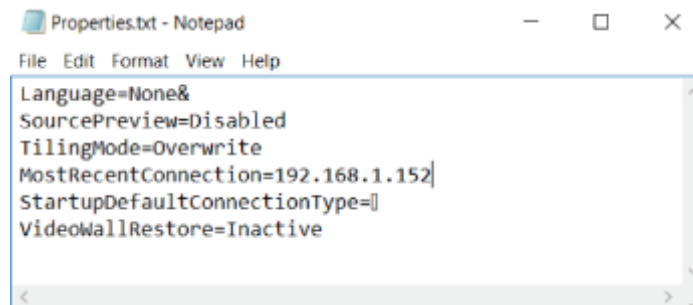
Configuration File Settings

To see the *ProgramData* folder in Windows, in Windows Explorer click **View** and then ensure that the **Hidden items** option is checked.



The settings of VCS™ Control Software reside in the folder *C:\ProgramData\Planar Systems\VCS Control V5\Configuration*.

Inside that directory there is a file called *Properties.txt*. Editing this file with different optional parameters is possible.



Note that settings set to their default values do not appear in *Properties.txt*.

Parameters

The following items can be set in the properties file.

DecoderPath

Path to the default program to use to decode IP streams, if IPX/SQX is not available. By default, this is VLC 64bit and then 32bit.

DecoderArgument

Command line arguments for that program. For example:

```
DecoderArgument=--qt-minimal-view --no-qt-video-autoresize --no-qt-error-dialogs --no-qt-privacy-ask --no-qt-updates-notif --no-qt-bgcone --no-video-title-show --repeat
```