

# XPression Telestrate

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**Telestrate User Guide**

**Version 02**

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# XPression Telestrate · User Guide

- Ross Part Number: **3500DR-526-02**
- Release Date: September 7, 2018.
- Software Issue: **02**

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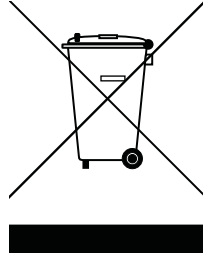
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# Contents

|                                                  |              |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Introduction</b>                              | <b>1</b>     |
| About This Guide.....                            | 1-1          |
| Documentation Conventions.....                   | 1-1          |
| Getting Help.....                                | 1-1          |
| Contacting Technical Support.....                | 1-2          |
| <br><b>Overview</b>                              | <br><b>2</b> |
| Hardware Components.....                         | 2-1          |
| Client Hardware .....                            | 2-1          |
| Server Hardware.....                             | 2-2          |
| Telestrate Shotbox.....                          | 2-3          |
| <br><b>Software Components</b>                   | <br><b>3</b> |
| XPression Software Version .....                 | 3-1          |
| Telestrate Server/Gateway Application .....      | 3-1          |
| Installing the Telestrate Gateway.....           | 3-2          |
| Telestrate Client Application .....              | 3-7          |
| Installing the Telestrate Client .....           | 3-7          |
| Telestrate Client Settings .....                 | 3-11         |
| Closing the Telestrate Client.....               | 3-13         |
| <br><b>Operation</b>                             | <br><b>4</b> |
| Keyboard Commands.....                           | 4-1          |
| Shotbox Drawing Options.....                     | 4-1          |
| Drawing Standard Shapes .....                    | 4-1          |
| Drawing Modifiers .....                          | 4-2          |
| General Layer Control Buttons .....              | 4-3          |
| Setting Up the Telestrate Scene in XPression.... | 4-4          |
| Importing the Telestrate Sketchboard Scene...    | 4-4          |
| Changing the Custom Shape .....                  | 4-6          |

# Introduction

XPression Telestrate is an easy-to-use electronic drawing tool for sports analysis and other types of on-screen storytelling. Telestration allows commentators to draw directly on a video output and optionally control a replay server. Unlike other systems, XPression Telestrate has no expensive dedicated hardware and can be output through a single layer on a channel of an existing XPression Real-Time Motion Graphics system for ultimate affordability.

## About This Guide

This user guide describes XPression Telestrate, its configuration, and operation.

If, at any time, you have a question pertaining to the installation or operation of XPression Telestrate, please contact us at the numbers listed in the section “**Contacting Technical Support**” on page 1–2. Our technical staff are always available for consultation, training, or service.

## Documentation Conventions

Special text formats are used in this guide to identify parts of the user interface, text that a user must enter, or a sequence of menus and submenus that must be followed to reach a particular command.

|                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Bold text</b>          | <p>Bold text is used to identify a user interface element such as a dialog box, menu item, or button.</p> <p>For example:</p> <p>In the <b>3D Model Files</b> section, use the <b>Mode</b> list to select the folder used to store 3D model files.</p> |
| <code>Courier text</code> | <p>Courier text is used to identify text that a user must enter.</p> <p>For example:</p> <p>Enter localhost when the DataLinq server is running of the same computer as XPression.</p>                                                                 |
| >                         | <p>Menu arrows are used in procedures to identify a sequence of menu items that you must follow.</p> <p>For example, if a step reads “<b>Display &gt; Widgets</b>,” you would click the <b>Display</b> menu and then click <b>Widgets</b>.</p>         |

## Getting Help

The *XPression Telestrate User Guide* is supplied as print-ready PDF files. Locate the guide in the C:\Archives to open the guide PDF in Adobe® Reader® for viewing or printing.

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- **Technical Support:** (+1) 613-652-4886
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  - › +800 1005 0100 (International)
- **After Hours Emergency:** (+1) 613-349-0006
- **E-mail:** [techsupport@rossvideo.com](mailto:techsupport@rossvideo.com)
- **Website:** <http://www.rossvideo.com>

# Overview

The XPression Telestrate solution provides tools for talent/analysts to explain a specific sports replay in real-time. Telestrate acts as a top overlay free drawing application, thus it can also be used in several other scenarios, such as drawing over computer video output, such as a website, a video file, or images, among others.

One of the key features of the Telestrate solution is that it is intended as a software add-on for existing XPression machines, so it does not require any additional, expensive dedicated machine to run. Designed for being as flexible as possible, it can work on standalone configurations, internal/outer keying, and over a single or dual channel XPression setup.

Another distinctive key feature of this application is the focus on being very easy to use; keeping it simple, intuitive, and user friendly. Its simple initial setup is handy when adding it to the existing work flow. Inside XPression software, you only need to add a specific “Sketchboard” scene to your existing Project Group. You can set the online state of this scene as a standard Take Item in your XPression project, so it can be controlled, enabled, or disabled directly from a Carbonite RossTalk enabled switcher.

Telestrate not only provides the possibility to draw graphics but also, as an optional feature, can enable the talent to easily control the video replay server remotely from the same application. By now, the Telestrate Video Replay Control Option is compatible with Newtek 3Play 425 and Newtek 3Play 4800 video replay server machines.

## Hardware Components

The following section explains the hardware components used for XPression Telestrate.

### Client Hardware

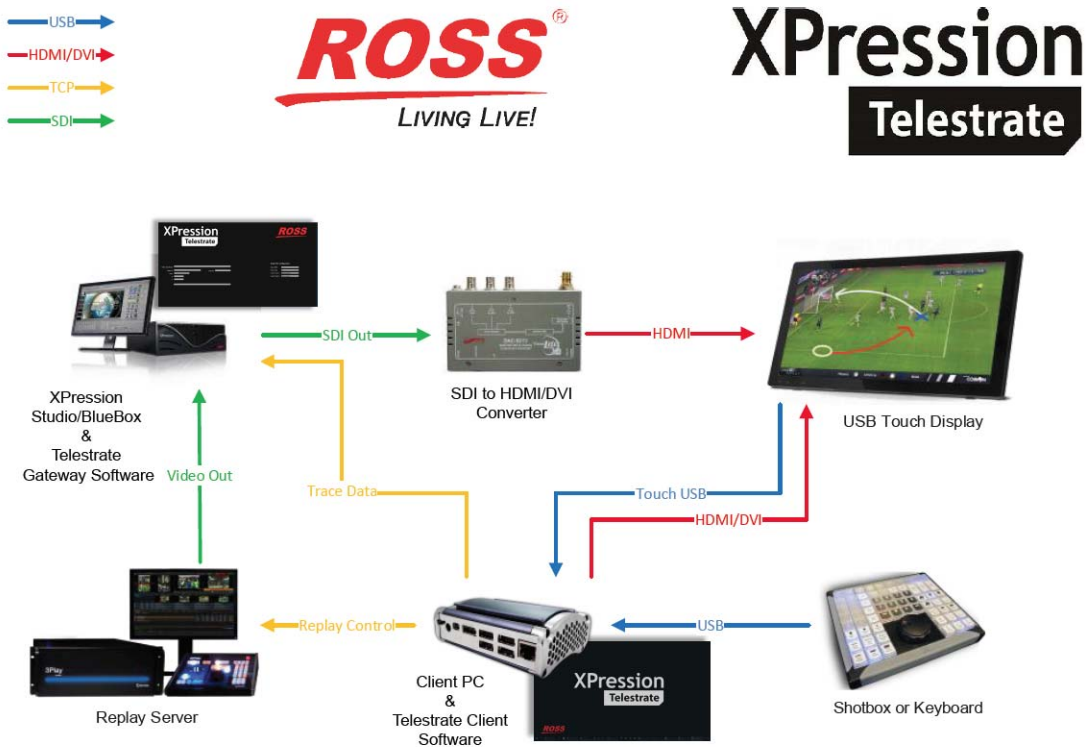
The Telestrate client side requires:

- Computer
  - › Windows 7 Pro Operating System
  - › Ethernet LAN communication; recommended speed is 1 Gigabyte
  - › Full HD 1920x1080 resolution graphics card
  - › Recommended: Xi3 Zero Pro device
- ★ The client PC must be connected to a display that supports the same resolution as the XPression is outputting so that the touch application can be the correct resolution.
- Touchscreen
  - › Full HD 1920x1080 touchscreen display resolution
  - › USB HUB recommended, because the traditional mini computers have only two USB ports available (usually used to connect a mouse and keyboard)
- Shotbox USB Controller (optional)
  - › Necessary for operating Telestrate without using any graphic overlay.

## Server Hardware

The Telestrate Gateway requires XPression Studio, XPression Studio GO, or XPression Studio SCE.

To connect both locations, you will require one Ethernet UDP cable and one SDI signal cable. You can see an example in the following basic diagram:



**Figure 2.1** Connections

## Replay Server

Telestrate allows the user to draw lines, shapes, and objects on the screen. The replay option allows control of various replay servers to help illustrate the point of the commentator to the viewer.

The currently supported replay servers are:

- Newtek 3Play 425
- Newtek 3Play 4800
- Abekas Mira
- AMP

## Telestrate Shotbox

Telestrate supports optional shotboxes to provide quick access to selecting drawing tools, line features, and even a replay control.

### Telestrate Draw Shotbox

The Telestrate Draw Shotbox provides enhanced control of the Telestrate interface drawing functionality.



### Telestrate Draw and Replay Shotbox

The Telestrate Draw and Replay Shotbox provides enhanced control of the Telestrate interface drawing functionality, and direct control of the customer supplied replay server using the optional Telestrate Replay Server control.



# Software Components

The XPression Telestrate solution has been developed as a client-server operation.

The XPression graphics engine and the replay server are located in the OB van or studio equipment room. The talent/analyst is in a studio or press box telling the story and using Telestrate as a way to illustrate the discussion.

Telestrate may also be run with the Client and Gateway installed on the same XPression engine using localhost (127.0.0.1) in the configuration settings.

## XPression Software Version

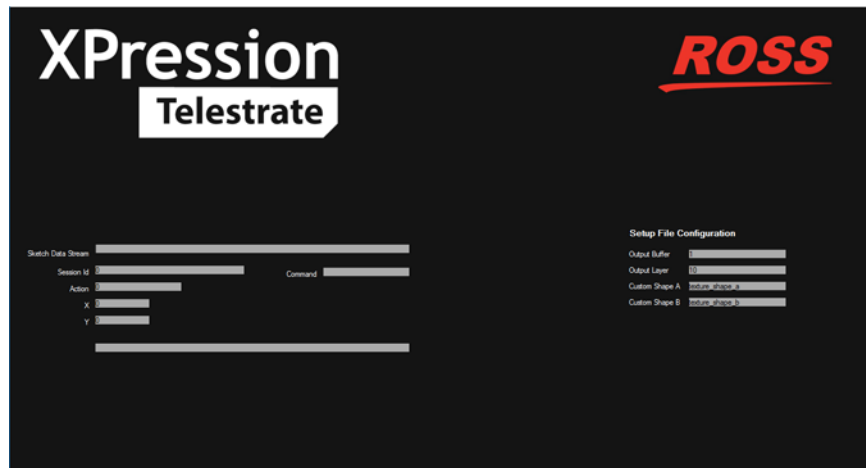
Telestrate requires XPression software version 5.5.2722 or higher.

★ The version of XPression Telestrate must match the version of the XPression software being used.

## Telestrate Server/Gateway Application

The Telestrate Gateway runs in the background on the XPression machine while the XPression graphics engine is running with the corresponding project already open.

This application receives data from the Telestrate Client and creates the drawing overlay. The Gateway looks for a scene called **Sketchboard**, which must be present in the project currently open in XPression.



**Figure 3.1** Telestrate Gateway - Main Window

## Installing the Telestrate Gateway

The Telestrate Gateway software will create the directory C:\XPressionApps\Telestrate Gateway during the installation process.

★ It is recommended that you save the install files to the XPression engine hard drive.

### To install the Telestrate Gateway:

1. Launch XPression.
- ★ XPression must be launched prior to launching the Gateway. If you attempt to launch the Gateway first, a warning is displayed that indicates that the required **Sketchboard** scene could not be found.
2. Launch the **Telestrate Gateway X.X.xx for XPN X.X.xxxx.exe** file.

After a few seconds, the **Telestrate Gateway - InstallShield Wizard** opens.

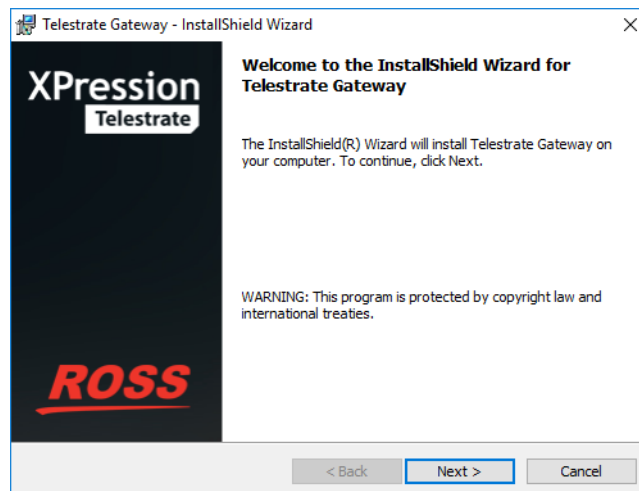


Figure 3.2 Telestrate Gateway Installation - Welcome

3. Click Next.

The **License Agreement** section opens.

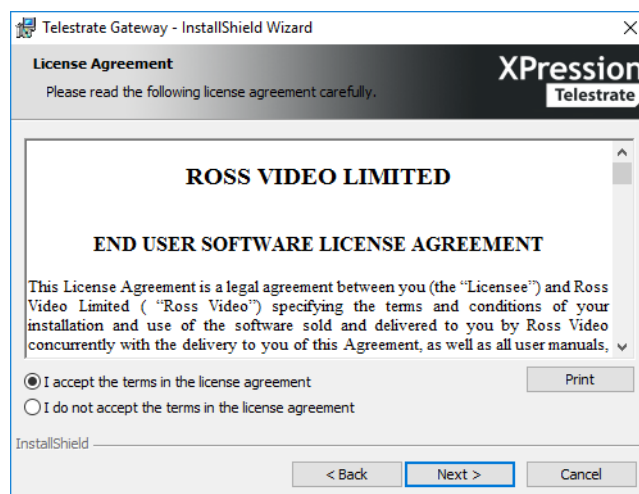
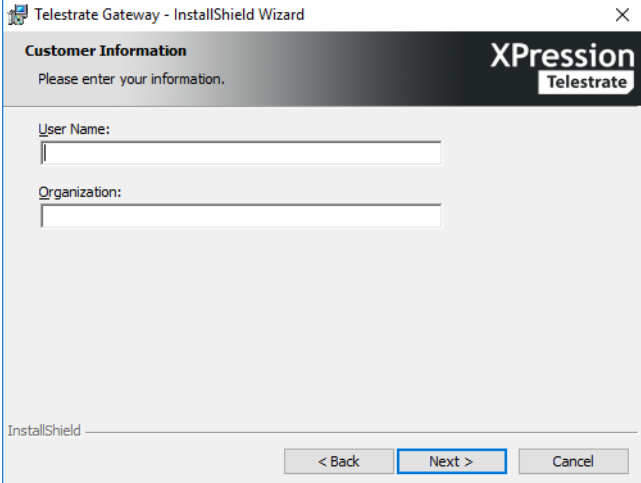


Figure 3.3 Telestrate Gateway Installation - License Agreement

4. Select the **I accept the terms in the license agreement** radio button.

5. Click **Next**.

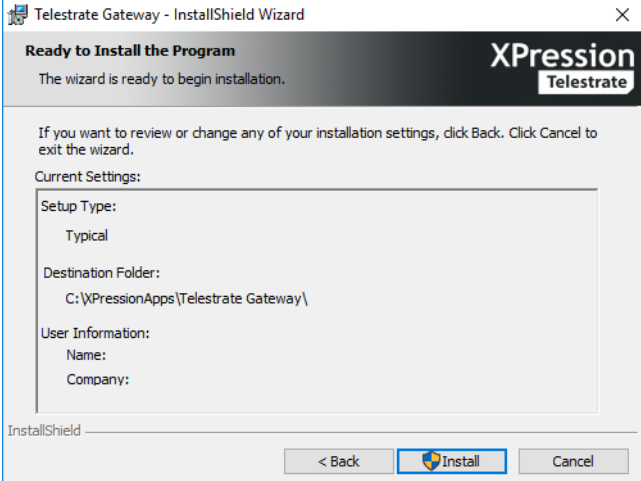
The **Customer Information** section opens.

The screenshot shows a window titled "Telestrate Gateway - InstallShield Wizard". The main heading is "Customer Information" with a subtext "Please enter your information." and the XPression Telestrate logo. There are two text input fields: "User Name:" and "Organization:". At the bottom, there are three buttons: "< Back", "Next >" (which is highlighted with a blue border), and "Cancel". The InstallShield logo is visible in the bottom left corner.

**Figure 3.4** Telestrate Gateway Installation - Customer Information

6. Enter a user name in the **User Name** box.
7. Enter the name of your organization in the **Organization** box.
8. Click **Next**.

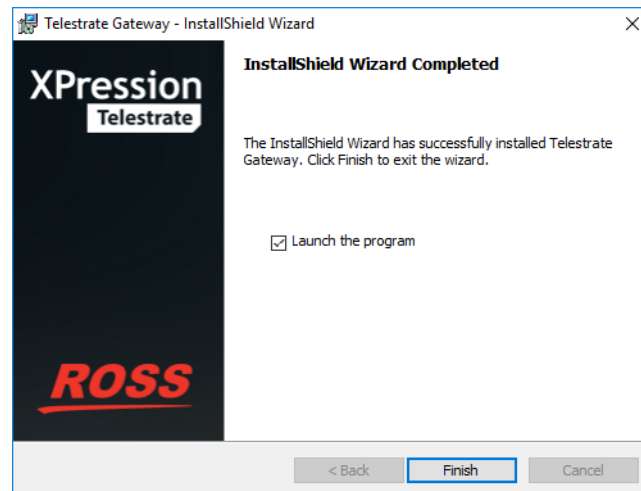
The **Ready to Install the Program** section opens.

The screenshot shows a window titled "Telestrate Gateway - InstallShield Wizard". The main heading is "Ready to Install the Program" with a subtext "The wizard is ready to begin installation." and the XPression Telestrate logo. Below the heading, it says "If you want to review or change any of your installation settings, click Back. Click Cancel to exit the wizard." There is a section titled "Current Settings:" containing a list of settings: "Setup Type: Typical", "Destination Folder: C:\XPressionApps\Telestrate Gateway\", and "User Information: Name: Company:". At the bottom, there are three buttons: "< Back", "Install" (which is highlighted with a blue border and a small icon), and "Cancel". The InstallShield logo is visible in the bottom left corner.

**Figure 3.5** Telestrate Gateway Installation - Ready to Install

9. Click **Install**.

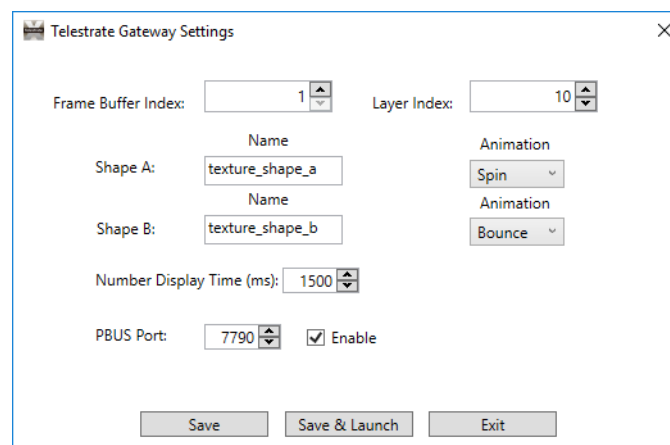
The Gateway installs and the **InstallShield Wizard Completed** section opens.



**Figure 3.6** Telestrate Gateway Installation - Completed

**10. Click Finish.**

The **Telestrate Gateway - InstallShield Wizard** closes and the **Telestrate Gateway Settings** dialog box opens.



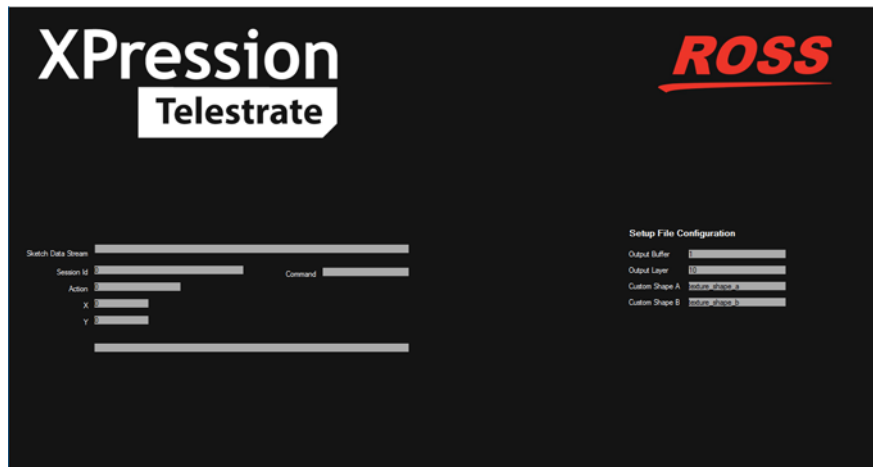
**Figure 3.7** Telestrate Gateway Settings

**11. Configure the Telestrate Gateway settings as needed.**

For details about configuration, refer to [Telestrate Gateway Settings](#).

**12. Click Save & Launch.**

The XPression Telestrate Gateway opens.



**Figure 3.8** Telestrate Gateway - Main Window

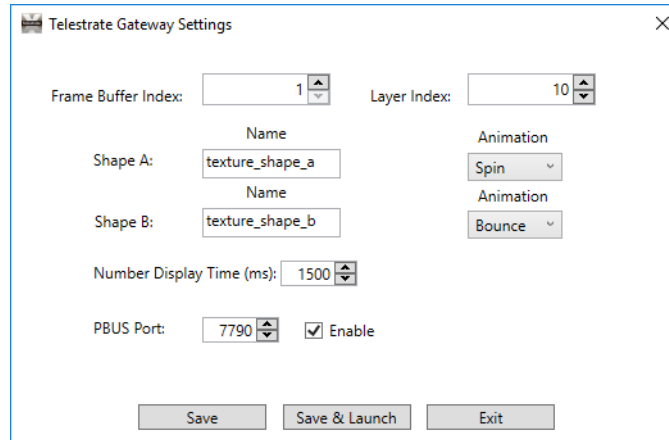
**13. Once the Gateway is installed and configured:**

- a.** In XPression, open the Telestrate project file **TelestrateFinal.xpf**.
- b.** Import the **Sketchboard** scene from the Telestrate project file and put it on-air in its proper layer.

## Telestrate Gateway Settings

Use the **Telestrate Gateway Settings** dialog box to configure the Gateway settings.

- ★ Set the Telestrate scene to be on the output and layer set in the Telestrate Gateway to ensure that custom and 3D elements will work.
- ★ In XPression, in the **Object Inspector > Take Item > Default Take Item Options**, set the **Sketchboard** scene object to **Layer 3**.



**Figure 3.9** Telestrate Gateway Settings

- **Frame Buffer Index** – the output framebuffer that the gateway will use for the Telestration scene:
  - › 0 = framebuffer 1
  - › 1 = framebuffer 2
- **Layer Index** – the output framebuffer layer that the gateway will use for the Telestration scene:
  - › 0 = layer 0
  - › 1 = layer 1
- **Shape A Name** – name of the material used for **Custom Shape A**.
- **Shape A Animation** – type of continuous animation used for **Custom Shape A**:
  - › None
  - › Spin
  - › Bounce
- **Shape B Material** – name of the material used for **Custom Shape B**.
- **Shape B Animation** – type of continuous animation used for **Custom Shape B**:
  - › None
  - › Spin
  - › Bounce
- **Number Display Time (ms)** – when using the **Numbers** drawing option, this is the amount of time in milliseconds that the numbers will remain on screen after the last touch.
- **PBUS Port** – the number of the PBUS port to use, if one is being used.
- **Enable** – when checked, enables the specified PBUS port.
- **Save** – click to save the settings to the Gateway. Close and relaunch the Gateway to apply the settings.
- **Save & Launch** – click to save the settings and launch the Gateway if it is not open.
- **Exit** – click to exit the Telestrate Gateway Settings.

## Telestrate Client Application

This application runs on the talent user side. The application receives the touch interactions and button presses from the talent, prepares the data, and streams it over the network to the server. This application runs on any Windows 7 or Windows 10 Professional PC. It does not have a GUI beyond the full screen background image.



**Figure 3.10** Telestrate Background Image

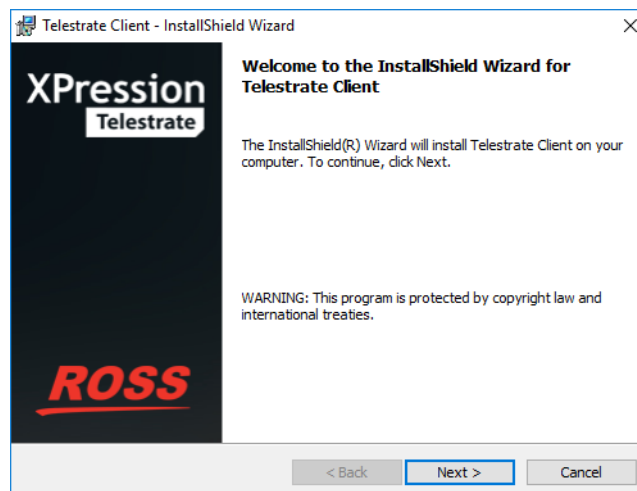
### Installing the Telestrate Client

The Telestrate Client software will create the directory C:\XPressionApps\Telestrate Client during the installation process.

#### To install the Telestrate Client:

1. Launch the **Telestrate Client Installer X.X.xx.exe** file.

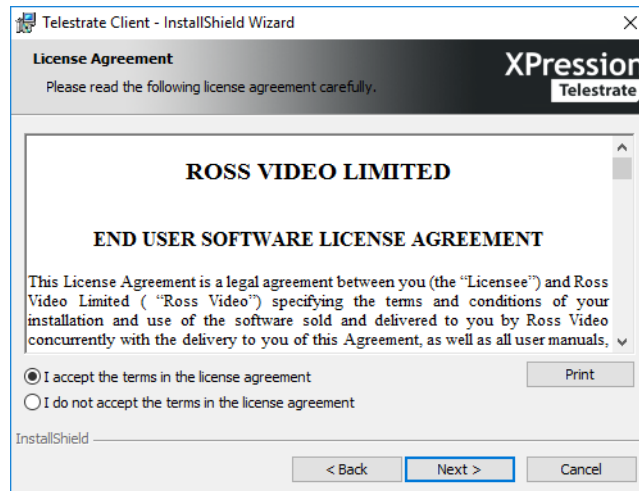
After a few seconds, the **Telestrate Client - InstallShield Wizard** opens.



**Figure 3.11** Telestrate Client Installation - Welcome

2. Click **Next**.

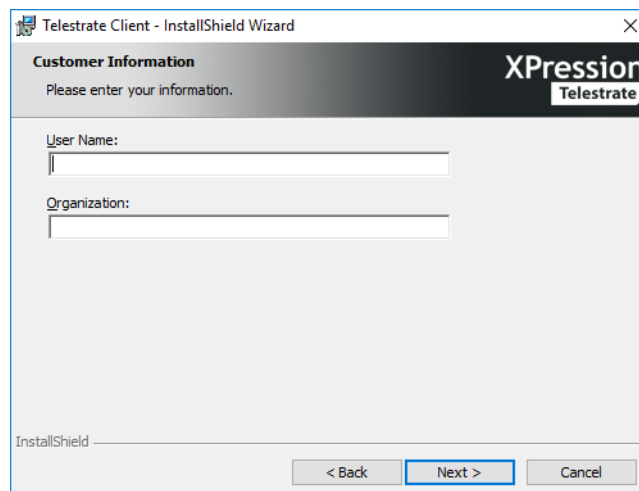
The **License Agreement** section opens.



**Figure 3.12** Telestrate Client Installation - License Agreement

3. Select the **I accept the terms in the license agreement** radio button.
4. Click **Next**.

The **Customer Information** section opens.

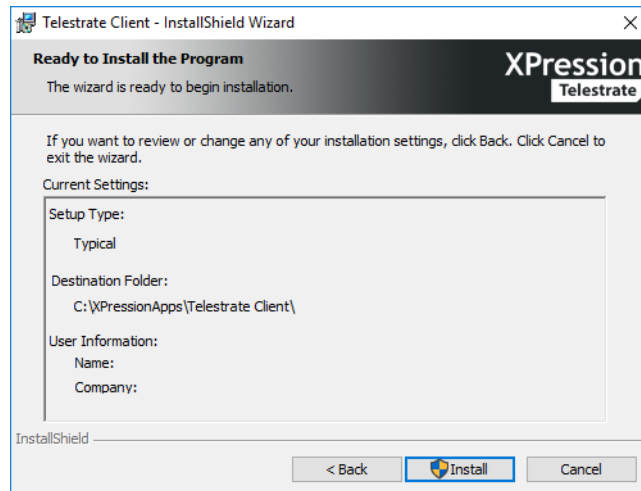


**Figure 3.13** Telestrate Client Installation - Customer Information

5. Enter a user name in the **User Name** box.
6. Enter the name of your organization in the **Organization** box.

7. Click **Next**.

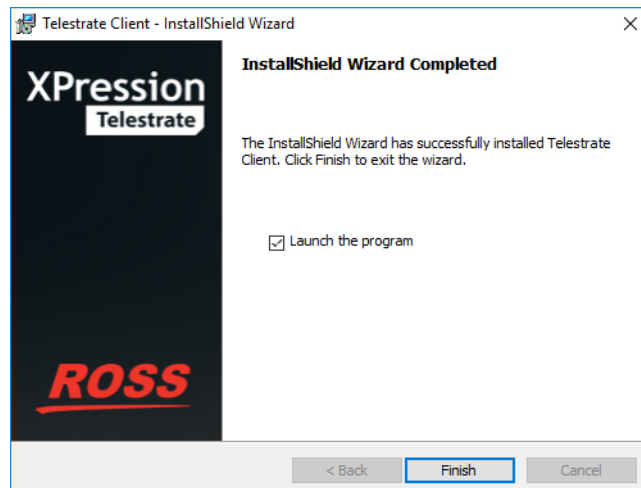
The **Ready to Install the Program** section opens.



**Figure 3.14** Telestrate Client Installation - Ready to Install

8. Click **Install**.

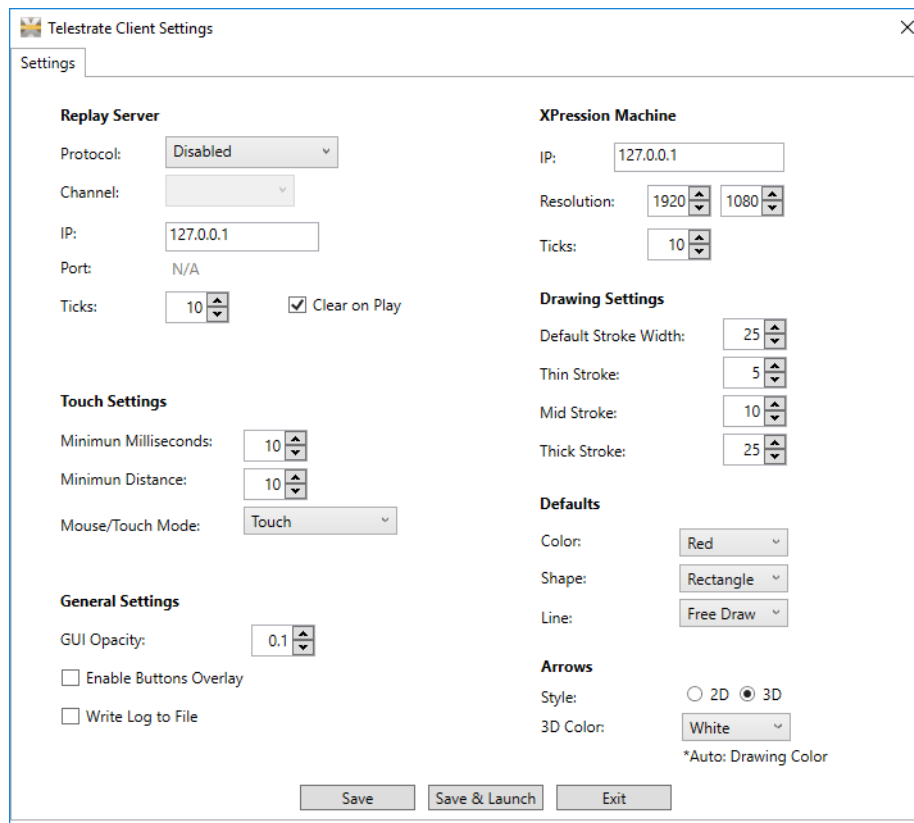
The Client installs and the **InstallShield Wizard Completed** section opens.



**Figure 3.15** Telestrate Client Installation - Completed

9. Click **Finish**.

The **Telestrate Gateway - InstallShield Wizard** closes and the **Telestrate Client Settings** dialog box opens.



**Figure 3.16** Telestrate Client Settings

**10.** Configure your Telestrate Client settings as needed.

For details about the configuration file, refer to [Telestrate Client Settings](#).

**11.** Click **Save & Launch**.

The XPression Telestrate Client opens.



**Figure 3.17** Telestrate Client - Background Image

## Telestrate Client Settings

Use the Telestrate Client Settings dialog box to configure the Telestrate Client settings.

The screenshot shows the 'Telestrate Client Settings' dialog box. It has a title bar with a close button. The 'Settings' tab is active. The 'Replay Server' section has a 'Protocol' dropdown set to 'Disabled', an empty 'Channel' dropdown, an 'IP' field with '127.0.0.1', a 'Port' field with 'N/A', and a 'Ticks' spinner set to '10'. There is a 'Clear on Play' checkbox. The 'XPression Machine' section has an 'IP' field with '127.0.0.1', a 'Resolution' section with '1920' and '1080' spinners, and a 'Ticks' spinner set to '10'. The 'Touch Settings' section has 'Minimum Milliseconds' and 'Minimum Distance' spinners both set to '10', and a 'Mouse/Touch Mode' dropdown set to 'Touch'. The 'Drawing Settings' section has 'Default Stroke Width' (25), 'Thin Stroke' (5), 'Mid Stroke' (10), and 'Thick Stroke' (25) spinners. The 'Defaults' section has 'Color' (Red), 'Shape' (Rectangle), and 'Line' (Free Draw) dropdowns. The 'Arrows' section has 'Style' radio buttons for '2D' and '3D' (3D is selected), and a '3D Color' dropdown set to 'White'. A note '\*Auto: Drawing Color' is at the bottom right. At the bottom are 'Save', 'Save & Launch', and 'Exit' buttons.

**Figure 3.18** Telestrate Client Settings

### Replay Server

- **Protocol** – type of video server protocol.
  - › Disabled
  - › 3Play 4800/440
  - › 3Play 425
  - › Abekas Mira
  - › AMP
- **Channel** – if one of the video server protocols is selected from the **Protocol** drop-down, this setting becomes available to allow a channel selection.
- **IP** – network IP address of the Video Server. IPV4 format only.
- **Port** – this field is automatically populated when a **Replay Server Protocol** is selected.
- **Ticks** – number of milliseconds between sampling points of replay playback controls. Lowering the value increases sensitivity. Increasing the value will improve response times on slower networks.
- **Clear on Play** – when checked, any graphics that have been drawn on the screen will be removed when the **PLAY** button is activated to continue the video.

### XPression Machine

- **IP** – network IP address of the XPression running the Telestrate Gateway application. IPV4 format only.
- **Resolution** – the resolution of the screen on the XPression machine.

- **Ticks** – number of milliseconds between sampling points of client input. Lowering the value increases sensitivity. Increasing the value will improve response times on slower networks.

### Touch Settings

- **Minimum Milliseconds** – minimum number of milliseconds between plotted input points when drawing. Increasing the value will improve response in application on slower networks.
- **Minimum Distance** – minimum number of pixels between plotted points in a drawing. Increasing the value will draw lines faster but reduce smoothness.
- **Click/Touch Mode** – sets the Telestrate Client to use the Windows Mouse Driver or Windows Touch Driver. The Windows Touch driver is more sensitive but is only supported by some touch devices. The options are:
  - › **Mouse**
  - › **Touch**

### Drawing Settings

- **Default Stroke Width** – sets the default pixel width of lines.
- **Thin Stroke** – sets the default pixel width of a **Thin** stroke
- **Mid Stroke** – sets the default pixel width of a **Mid** stroke
- **Thick Stroke** – sets the default pixel width of a **Thick** stroke

### General Settings

- **GUI Opacity** – opacity of the Telestrate Client interface when running. A setting of 1 is opaque, 0.5 is 50% opacity, and 0 is transparent. Useful for using the system with the Client on Gateway setup.
- **Enable Buttons Overlay** – sets the buttons overlay on the screen on or off (by default).
- **Write Log to File** – when checked the log is saved in the C:\XPressionApps\Telestrate Client\logs folder.

### Defaults

- **Color** – sets the default color of the line that is drawn. The **Shotbox** buttons and keyboard shortcuts can be used to change the color in real time. Options are:
  - › Red
  - › Yellow
  - › Blue
  - › White
  - › Green
- **Shape** – sets the default shape to draw. The **Shotbox** buttons and keyboard shortcuts can be used to change the shape in real time. Options are:
  - › Arrow
  - › Line
  - › Curve
  - › Circle
  - › Filled Circle
  - › Square
  - › Ellipse
  - › Filled Ellipse
  - › Rectangle
  - › Filled Rectangle

- › Custom Shape A
- › Custom Shape B
- **Line** – sets the default line to draw. The **Shotbox** buttons and keyboard shortcuts can be used to change the line in real time. Options are:
  - › Line
  - › Free Draw
  - › Arrow 2D
  - › Arrow 3D

### Arrows

- **Style** – sets whether arrows will be **2D** or **3D**.
- **3D Color** – sets the color of 3D arrows. Options are:
  - › Auto (default or selected drawing color)
  - › White
  - › Red
  - › Yellow
  - › Blue
  - › Green

## Closing the Telestrate Client

### To close the Telestrate Client:

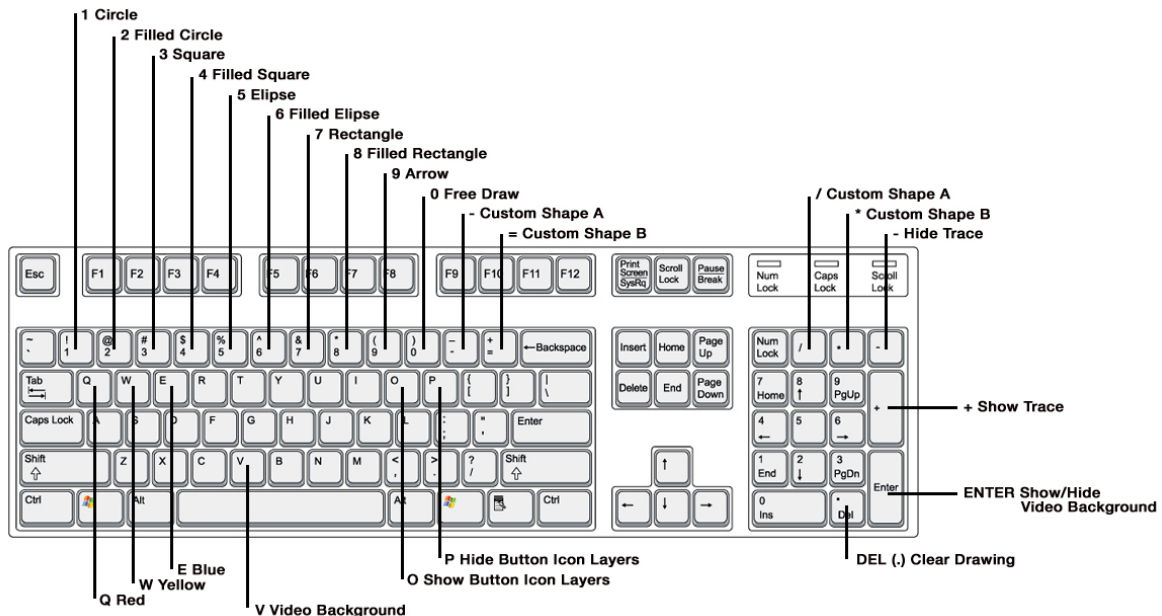
- Press **Shift + Esc**.

# Operation

The following section explains how to operate XPression Telestrate.

## Keyboard Commands

Use the following keyboard commands to draw lines, shapes, and modifier properties:

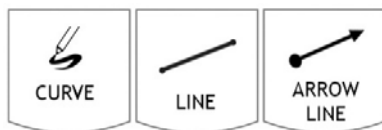


## Shotbox Drawing Options

When using the Telestrate Draw Shotbox or Telestrate Draw and Replay Shotbox, you have several options for drawing lines, shapes, and modifier properties.

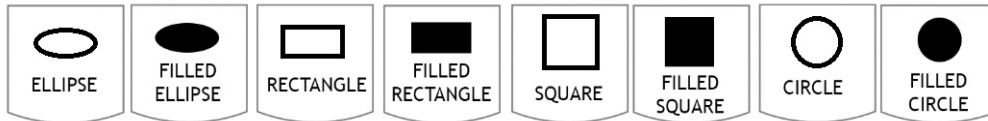
### Drawing Standard Shapes

#### Drawing Lines



You can draw freehand curved lines, straight lines, or straight arrow lines. In **Curve** mode, Telestrate will create a smooth curved line based on the free drawing of the user. In **Arrow Line** mode, Telestrate will create a straight line from the first point to the last point, but adds an arrow at the end point.

## Drawing Geometrical Shapes



You can choose which default geometrical shapes you want to draw. The options are: circle, ellipse, square, and rectangle. Also, you can choose if it will be an outline or with solid color on the inside. The user freely draws the corresponding shape with their finger using the touchscreen interface and the application will automatically calculate the corresponding center, bounding box, width, and height. When the user releases their finger from the touch device, the application will automatically draw the corresponding shape.

## Drawing Modifiers

### Pen Selection



When drawing standard shapes and freehand curved lines, you can easily select the pen shape for drawing the lines. You can use a squared flat pen, rounded corners pen, or triangle corners pen.

### Stroke Line Style



You can select the style of the corresponding line being drawn: solid standard line, dashed line, or dotted line.

### Stroke Line Width



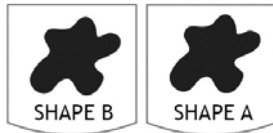
You can select the thickness of the stroked line: thin, medium, or thick.

### Stroke Color



You can select which color to use on your geometrical shape, line, arrow, or free hand drawing. Currently Telestrate includes Red, Yellow, Blue, White and Green as color options.

## Custom Shapes



XPression Telestrate has the capability of drawing custom shapes very easily using the touch interface. The user simply draws a circle with their finger, defining the boundary of the custom shape to draw. The application will automatically detect the center point and the corresponding width and height of that trace, and with that information will set the screen position and size of the custom shape overlay. You can draw several instances of each custom shape in your Telestrate workspace.

Currently, you can have a maximum of two different custom shape designs. These custom shapes are based on square 400x400 pixel image materials that need to be in your XPression project named **texture\_shape\_a** and **texture\_shape\_b**. You can easily replace these textures with any other transparent PNG background image that you want to use as a custom shape for Telestrate, just keep the original name of the material.

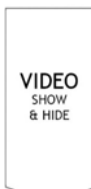
### For More Information on...

- importing the Telestrate scene into XPression, refer to “**Setting Up the Telestrate Scene in XPression**” on page 4–4.
- changing the custom shapes in XPression, refer to “**Setting Up the Telestrate Scene in XPression**” on page 4–4.

## General Layer Control Buttons



**Clear Draw** — this button will clear the whole Telestrate workspace layer in an XPression scene, eliminating all the graphics, shapes, lines, and draws.



**Video Show and Hide** — this button will show or hide the video input overlay in XPression. This functionality is most useful in standalone and/or internal key setup, creating all the graphics output on the XPression machine.



**Trace Show and Hide** — this button will enable the talent to decide whether to show or hide the trace of their movements in real time on the Telestrate layer while they are actually drawing with their finger. When the talent releases their finger, the trace is replaced with the resulting smooth shape, line, or a selected corresponding drawing option.

## Setting Up the Telestrate Scene in XPression

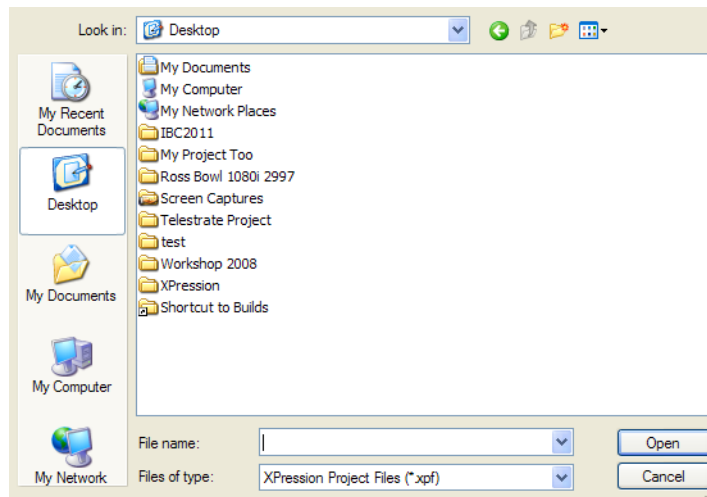
In XPression, the Telestrate scene needs to be imported into the XPression project and the custom shapes can be changed.

### Importing the Telestrate Sketchboard Scene

To import the Telestrate Sketchboard scene into the XPression project:

1. Open a project in XPression.
2. Select **File > Import > From Project**.

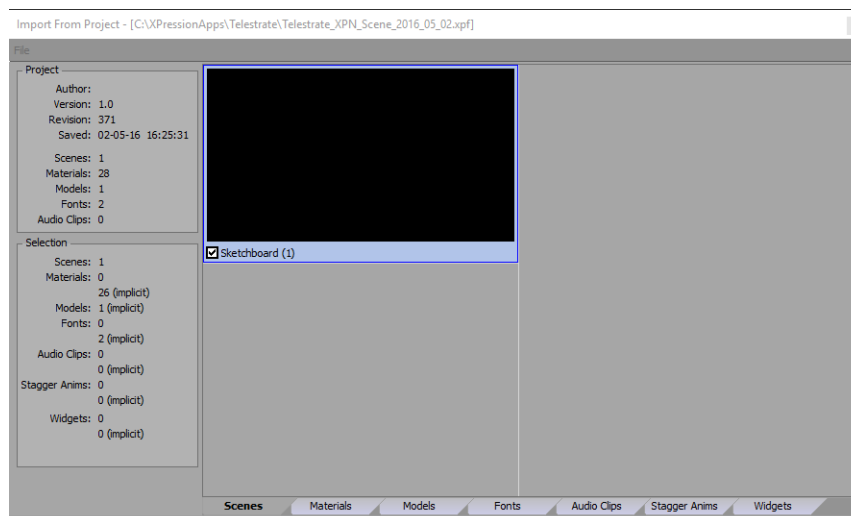
The **Open** browser opens.



**Figure 4.1** Browser

3. Navigate to the **Telestrate Package** folder, typically located in **C:\XPressionApps\Telestrate**, and select the **Telestrate\_XPN\_Scene\_2016\_05\_02.xpp** file.
4. Click **Open**.

The project opens in the **Import From Project** dialog.

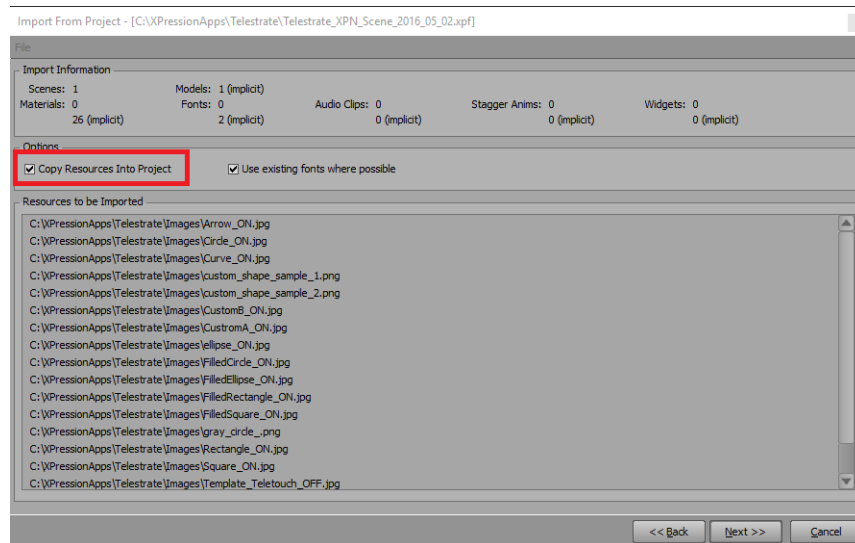


**Figure 4.2** Import From Project

5. Select the **Sketchboard** checkbox.

6. Click **Next**.

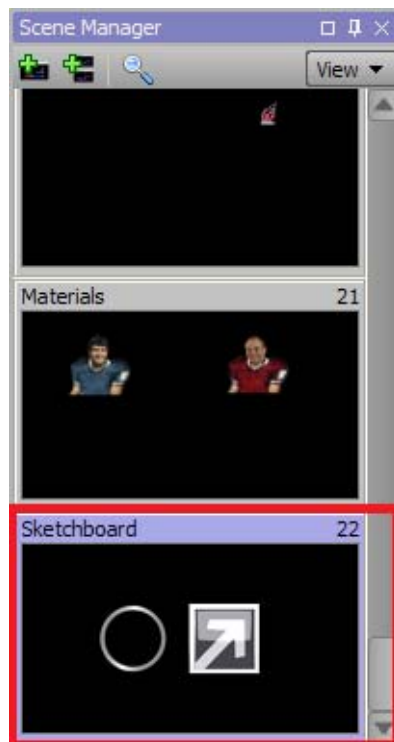
The **Import Information and Options** dialog opens:



**Figure 4.3** Import From Project - Import Information and Options Dialog

7. In the **Options** section, ensure that the **Copy Resources Into Project** checkbox is selected.
8. Click **Next** and then click **Finish**.  
The project begins loading. Wait until the **Progress** is listed as **Done**.
9. Click **Close**.

The Telestrate **Sketchboard** scene is added to the **Scene Manager**.



**Figure 4.4** XPression Scene Manager

## Changing the Custom Shape

To change a custom shape:

1. Import the Telestrate **Sketchboard** scene into an XPression project.
2. Select the **Sketchboard** scene in the **Scene Manager**.
3. In the **Object Manager**, make **CustomShapeA** and **CustomShapeB** visible by clicking the eye icon column for the respective custom shapes.

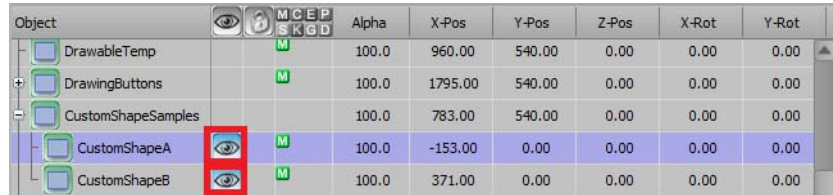


Figure 4.5 XPression Object Manager

4. Double-click a custom shape in the **Main Viewport**.

The **Material Editor** opens.

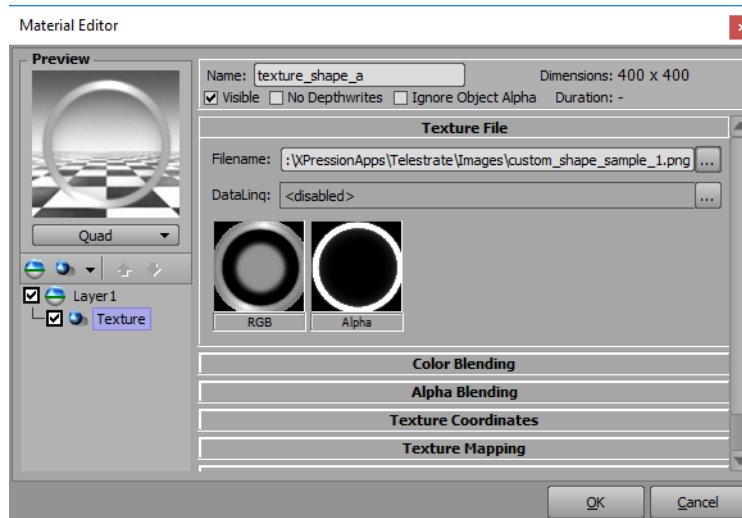
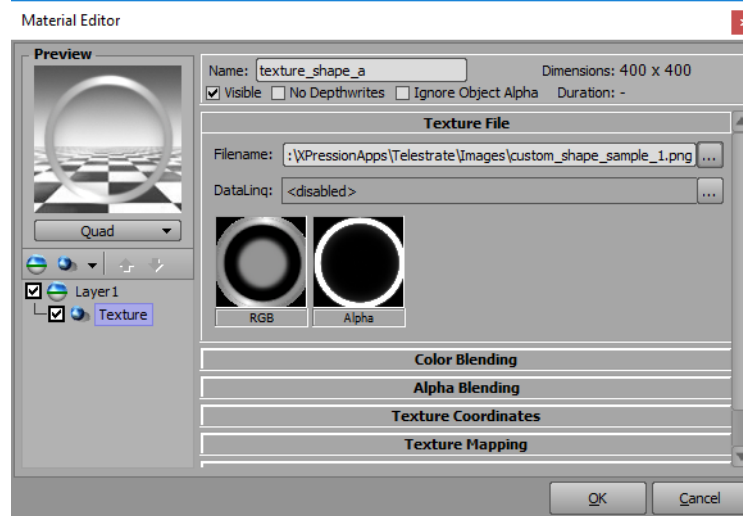


Figure 4.6 XPression Material Editor

5. Select the **Texture** shader for **Layer 1**.

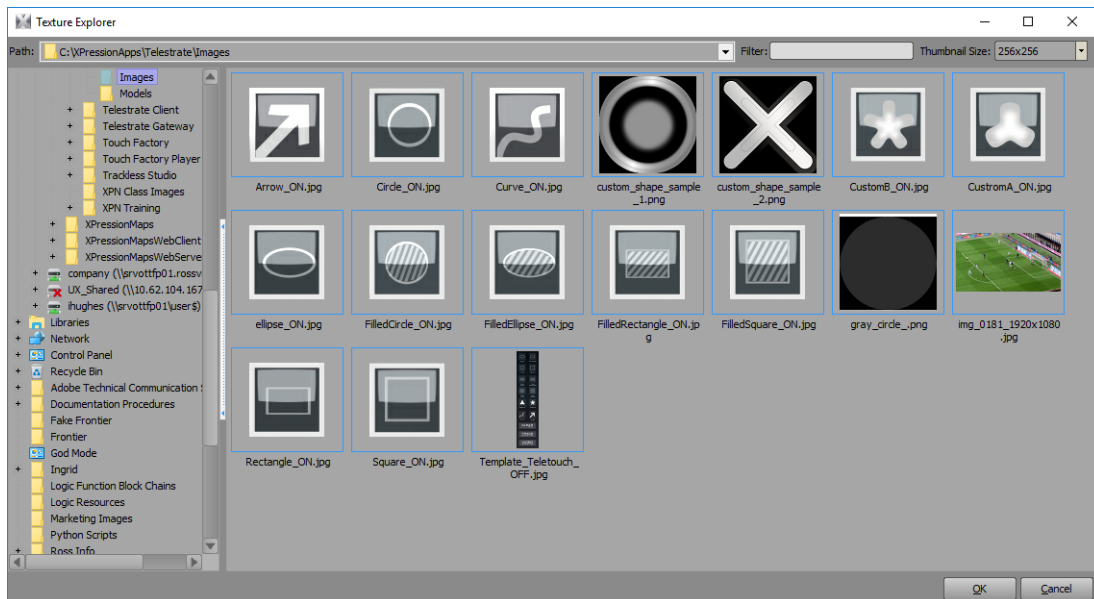
The **Texture File** editor opens.



**Figure 4.7** XPression Texture File Editor

6. In the **Filename** box, click the **Browse (...)** button.

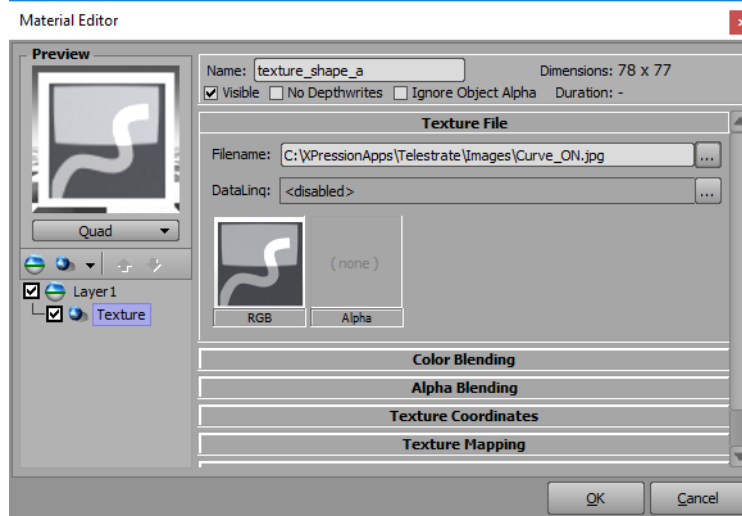
The **Texture Explorer** browser opens.



**Figure 4.8** XPression Texture Browser

7. Select a new custom shape.
8. Click **OK**.

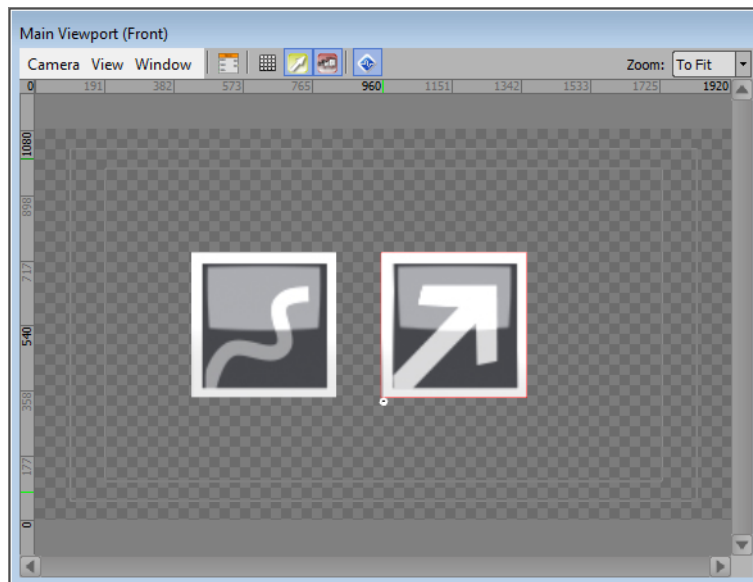
The **Texture Explorer** browser closes and the new custom shape appears in the **Material Editor**.



**Figure 4.9** XPression Material Editor With New Custom Shape Added

9. Click **OK**.

The **Material Editor** closes and the new custom shape is added to the scene.



**Figure 4.10** XPression Main Viewport With New Custom Shape Added



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