XPression

XPression Asset Cache Server User Guide

Version 11.0

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David Ross
CEO, Ross Video
dross@rossvideo.com

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XPression Asset Cache Server · User Guide

- Ross Part Number: **3500DR-026-11.0**
- Release Date: August 23, 2022.
- Software Issue: **11.0**

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The crossed-out wheeled bin symbol invites you to use these systems.
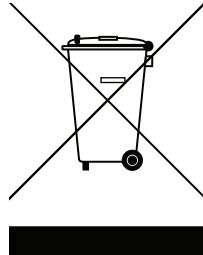
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You can also contact Ross Video for more information on the environmental performances of our products.

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Contents

Introduction

The XPression Asset Cache Server is an optional part of the XPression OpenMAM workflow that allows assets to be downloaded from a remote MAM system prior to the rundown being activated for playout.

About This Guide

This user guide describes the XPression Asset Cache Server, its installation, configuration, and functions.

If, at any time, you have a question pertaining to the installation, configuration, or operation of the XPression Asset Cache Server, 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.

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

Getting Help

The *XPression Asset Cache User Guide* is supplied as a print-ready PDF file. Locate the guide in the C:\Archive folder to open a guide PDF in Adobe® Reader® for viewing or printing.

Contacting Technical Support

At Ross Video, we take pride in the quality of our products, but if problems occur, help is as close as the nearest telephone.

Our 24-hour Hot Line service ensures you have access to technical expertise around the clock. After-sales service and technical support is provided directly by Ross Video personnel. During business hours (eastern time), technical support personnel are available by telephone any time. After hours and on weekends, a direct emergency technical support phone line is available. If the technical support person who is on call does not answer this line immediately, a voice message can be left and the call will be returned shortly. This team of highly trained staff is available to react to any problem and to do whatever is necessary to ensure customer satisfaction.

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XPression Asset Cache Server Installation

The following topics are discussed in this section:

- Prerequisites
- Installing the XPression Asset Cache Server

Prerequisites

To use the XPression Asset Cache Server, the following is required:

* XPression v6.5_3600 or higher
* XPression Gateway / MOS Plugin
* A licensing dongle that is programmed to support the Asset Cache Server
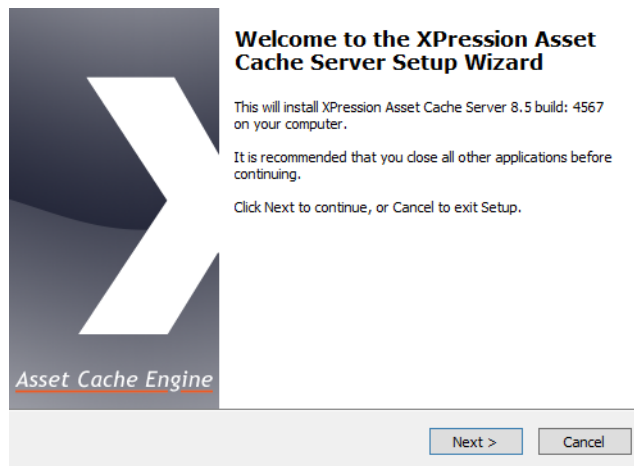
Installing the XPression Asset Cache Server

Use the following procedures to complete the install of the XPression Asset Cache Server:

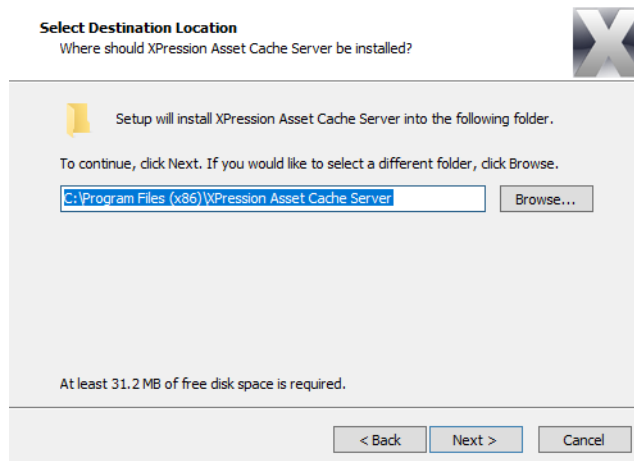**To install the XPression Asset Cache Server:**

1. Locate and double-click the **xpAssetCacheServer-*X.X_XXXX*.exe** file.

   The **Setup - XPression Asset Cache Server** window opens.
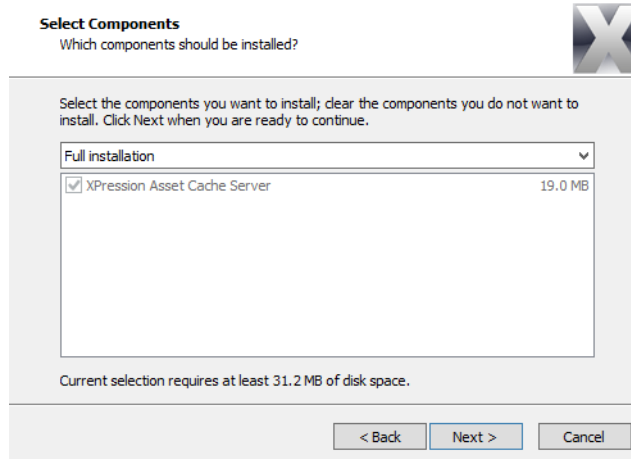

2. Click **Next**.

   The **Select Destination Location** section opens.

3. Use the default destination folder location or click **Browse** to locate and select a different destination location.
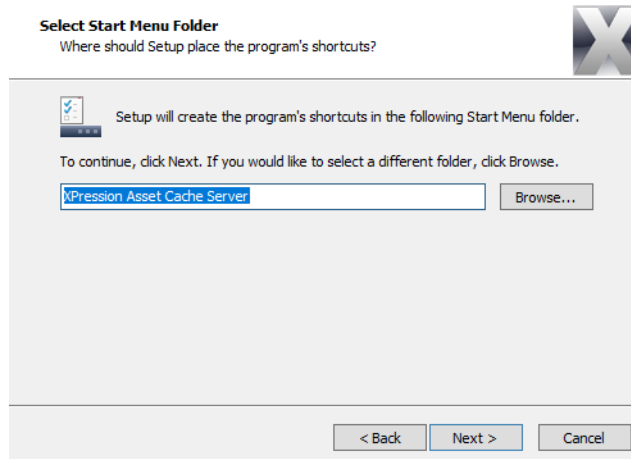
4. Click **Next**.

    The **Select Components** section opens.
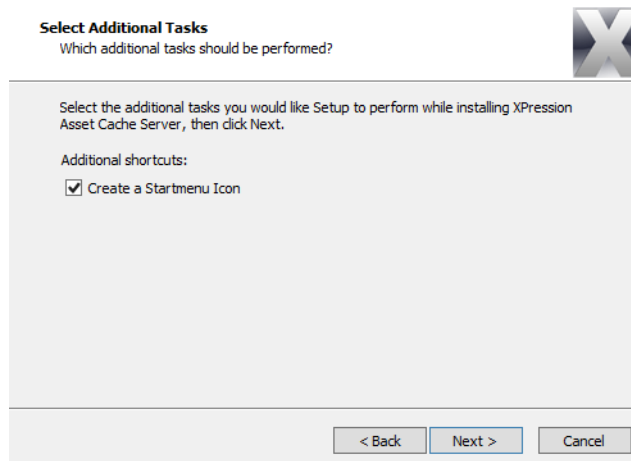

5. Click **Next**.

   The **Select Start Menu Folder** section opens.

6. Use the default Start menu folder location or click **Browse** to locate and select a different Start menu location.

7. Click **Next**.

    The **Select Additional Tasks** section opens.

8. Select the **Create a Startmenu Icon** check box to add the **XPression Asset Cache Server** icon to the Windows Start Menu. This is selected by default.

9. Click **Next**.

   The **Ready to Install** section opens.
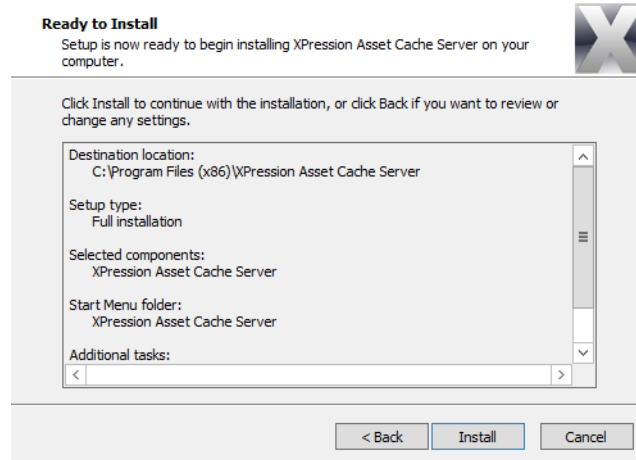
10. Click **Install**.

    The installation begins. Once the installation is complete, the **Completing the XPression Asset Cache Server Setup Wizard** section opens.
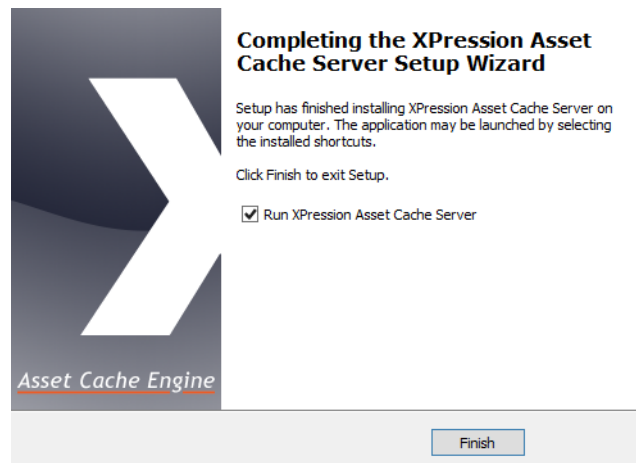
11. Click **Finish**.

    If the **Run XPression Asset Cache Server** check box is left as selected by default and the installation was successful, the program launches.

XPression Asset Cache Server Setup

The following topics are discussed in this section:

• Workflow
• Setting Up the XPression Asset Cache Server

Workflow

The Asset Cache Server maintains a tightly coupled connection with the XPression Gateway to keep an up to date list of monitored rundowns and the stories/items contained within them. When a rundown is monitored in the NRCS, it will be made available to the Asset Cache Server software which will parse the rundown for any MOS objects containing OpenMAM graphics objects. These OpenMAM assets will be added to a queue to be downloaded locally to a folder on the Asset Cache Server. These assets will be polled periodically to check for updated versions on the MAM system.

When a rundown is activated in the XPression Remote Sequencer for playout, the XPression engines will be made aware of the rundown. Instead of fetching the asset from the MAM, the XPression engine will check the folder on the Asset Cache Server machine for the asset (through use of a shared network drive). The XPression engine must be able to make a successful connection to the MAM system to retrieve metadata related to the asset.

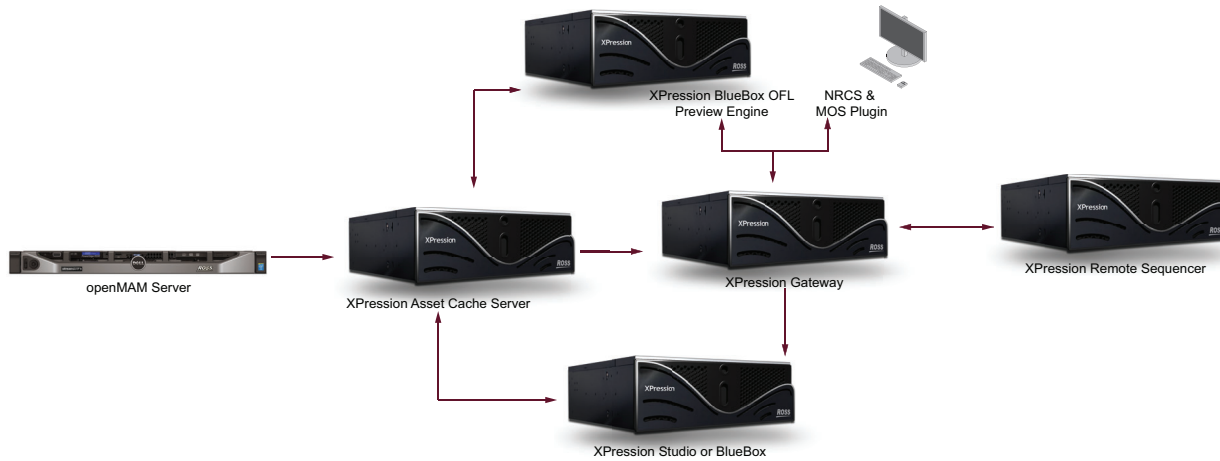Several playout engines may connect to the same Asset Cache Server.

Figure 3.1 XPression Asset Cache Server Workflow

The overall advantage of using the Asset Cache Server is to have the local playout engines access localized assets and not from the remote MAM system. When large assets (such as video clips) are used, it is advantageous that they begin downloading as soon as the rundown is monitored rather than waiting until the rundown is activated for playout.
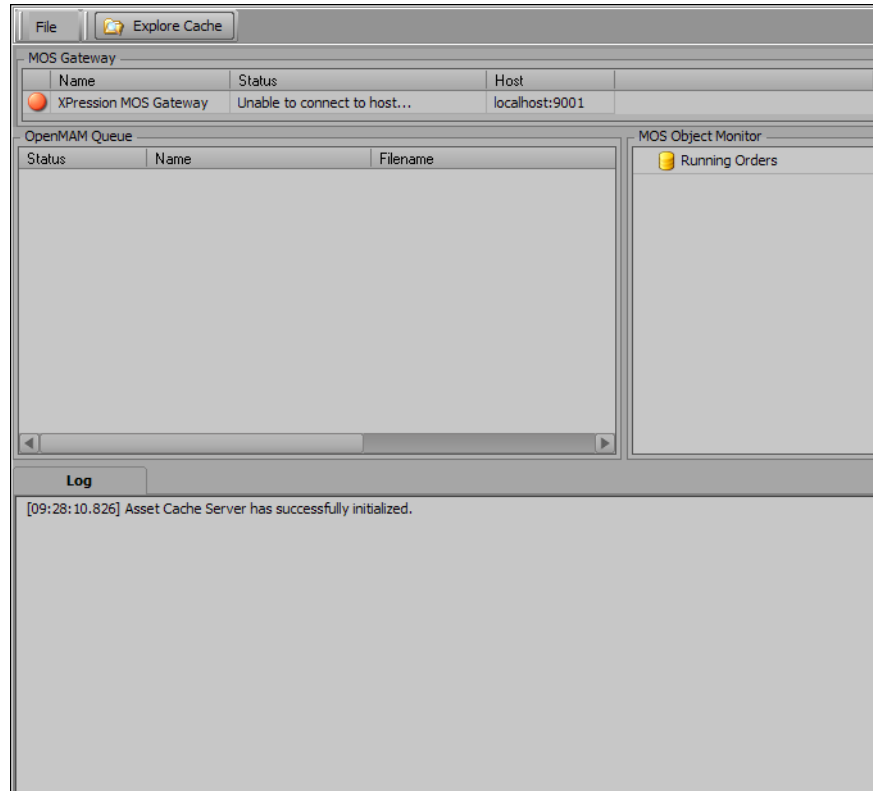
Setting Up the XPression Asset Cache Server

The Asset Cache Server is often run on a separate machine from other components in the XPression workflow. A folder should be shared and accessible from all XPression playout engines.

The Asset Cache Server should be configured with the hostname of the Gateway and the OpenMAM connection details need to be entered.
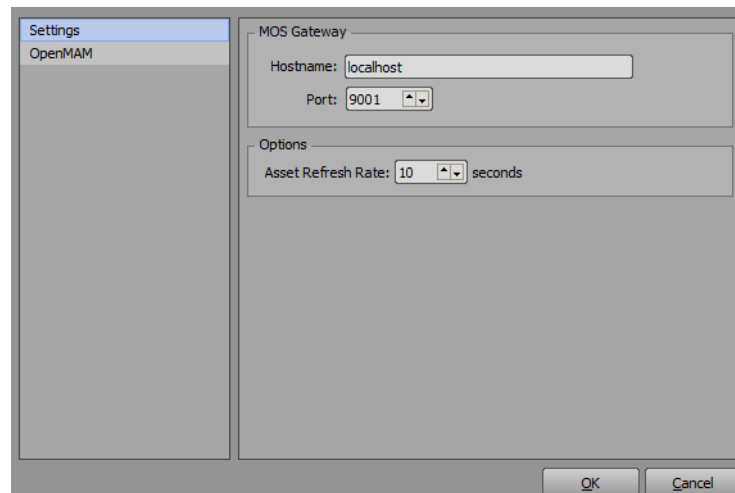
To configure the Asset Cache Server:

1. Open the XPression Asset Cache Server.

2. Click **File** > **Settings**.

    The **XPression Asset Cache Server - Settings** dialog box opens and displays the **MOS Gateway** panel.


3. In the **MOS Gateway** section, use the **Hostname** box to enter the IP address or hostname of the Gateway. If using the Gateway locally, use localhost (default).

4. Use the **Port** box to enter or select the port number for the Gateway connection. The default is 9001.

5. In the **Options** section, use the **Asset Refresh Rate** box to enter or select the amount of time in seconds for the Gateway to refresh the assets on the server. The default time is ten seconds.

6. Click the **OpenMAM** panel to configure the OpenMAM connection settings.
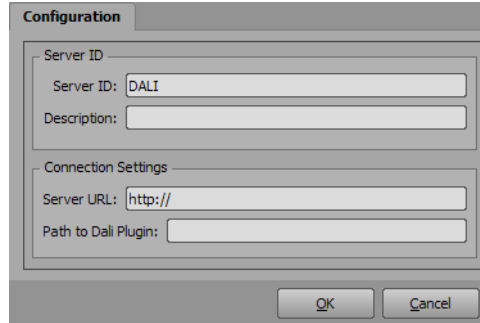
    The **OpenMAM** panel opens.
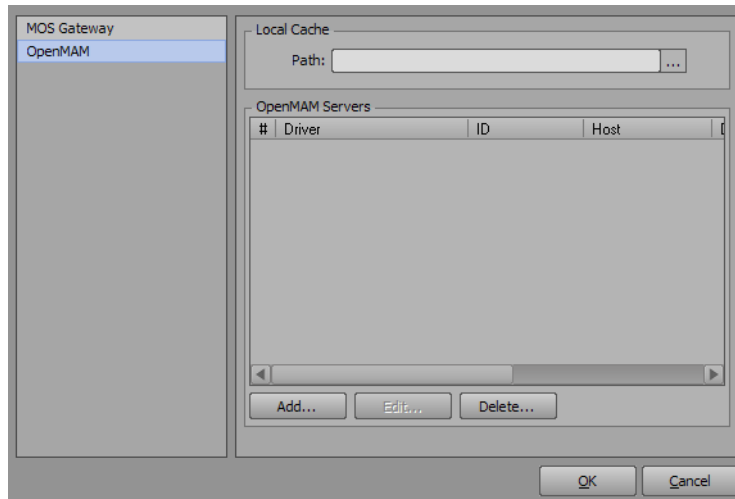
7. In the **Local Cache** section, enter the file path to the asset cache folder or click **Browse (...)** to locate a folder.

★ The folder needs to be visible to the render engines.

8. In the **OpenMAM Servers** location, click **Add** to configure an OpenMAM server.

    The **Add OpenMAM Server** dialog box opens.
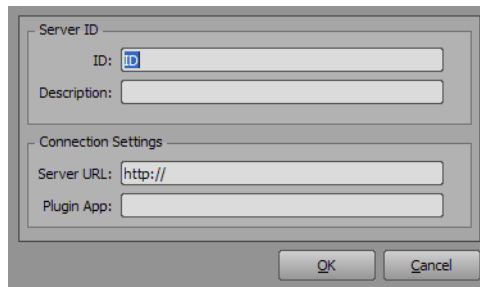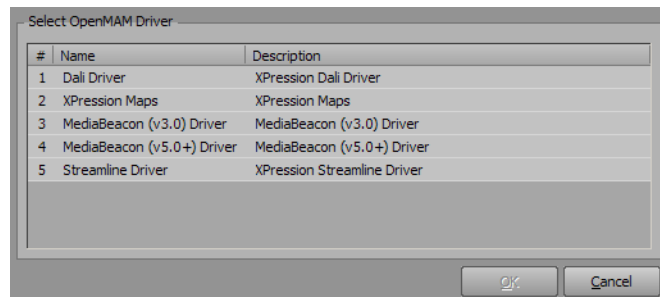

9. Select an OpenMAM driver. The options are:
    *   **Dali Driver**
    *   **XPression Maps**
    *   **MediaBeacon (v3.0) Driver**
    *   **MediaBeacon (v5.0+) Driver**
    *   **Streamline Driver**

10. Click **OK**.

    The selected OpenMAM driver configuration dialog box opens.

Dali Driver
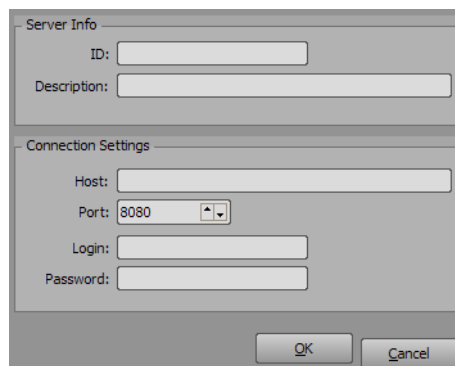

a. In the **Server ID** section of the **Dali Server Configuration** dialog box, use the **Server ID** box to enter the MOS ID.

b. Use the **Description** box to enter a brief and unique descriptor to easily identify the driver.

c. In the **Connection Settings** section, use the **Server URL** box to enter the URL address of the host connection.

d. Use the **Path to Dali Plugin** box to enter the file path to the Dali client executable file.

XPression Maps Server

a. In the **Server ID** section of the **XPression Maps Server** dialog box, use the **ID** box to enter the MOS ID.

b. Use the **Description** box to enter a brief and unique descriptor to easily identify the driver.

c. In the **Connection Settings** section, use the **Server URL** box to enter the URL address of the host connection.

d. Use the **Plugin App** box to enter the location of the computers where the XPression Maps web client is located.

MediaBeacon (v3.0) Driver

a. In the **Server Info** section of the **MediaBeacon Driver Configuration** dialog box, use the **ID** box to enter the MOS ID.

b. Use the **Description** box to enter a brief and unique descriptor to easily identify the driver.

c. In the **Connection Settings** section, use the **Host** box to enter the address of the host connection.

---

d. Use the **Port** box to enter or select the port number of the connection. The default is 8080.

e. Use the **Login** box to enter the login name for the MediaBeacon server.

f. Use the **Password** box to enter the password for the login.

MediaBeacon (v5.0+) Driver

a. In the **Connection Settings** section of the **Configuration** tab, use the **Plugin ID** box to enter or select an ID number for authentication with MediaBeacon. The ID number is user configurable.

Click the **Register Plugin** button to login into MediaBeacon and register the plugin.

b. In the **Server Settings** section, use the **ID** box to enter the MOS ID.

c. Use the **Description** box to enter a brief and unique descriptor to easily identify the driver.

d. Use the **IP Address** box to enter the IP address of the connection.

e. Use the **Port** box to enter or select the port number of the connection.

Streamline Server

a. In the **Server ID** section of the **Streamline Server** dialog box, use the **MOS ID** box to enter the MOS ID.

b. Use the **Description** box to enter a brief and unique descriptor to easily identify the driver.

c. In the **Connection Settings** section, use the **Server URL** box to enter the URL address of the host connection.

d. Use the **API Key** box to enter an API key to communicate with Streamline from XPression. The API key is generated by Streamline.

e. In the **Miscellaneous Settings** section, select the **Allow use of unapproved assets** box to allow unapproved assets to be taken online.

f. Use the **Streamline Version** menu to select the version of the Streamline openMAM server that is being used.

11. Click **OK**.

The selected OpenMAM driver configuration dialog box closes and the driver is added to the **OpenMAM Servers** list. Repeat steps 8 to 11 to add any other OpenMAM servers if necessary.
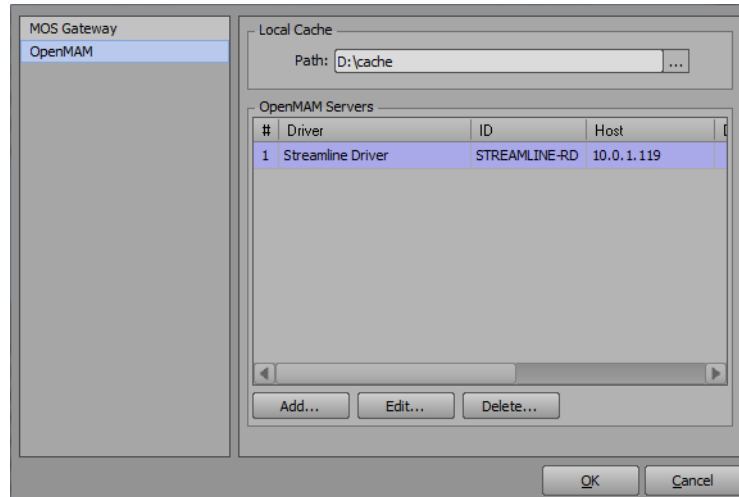
12. Click **OK**.

The **XPression Asset Cache Server - Settings** dialog box closes and the connection to MOS Gateway is established.

The Asset Cache Server will monitor the rundowns for graphics and automatically download them to the cache as required. The status of all openMAM assets is visible in the **OpenMAM Queue** section.
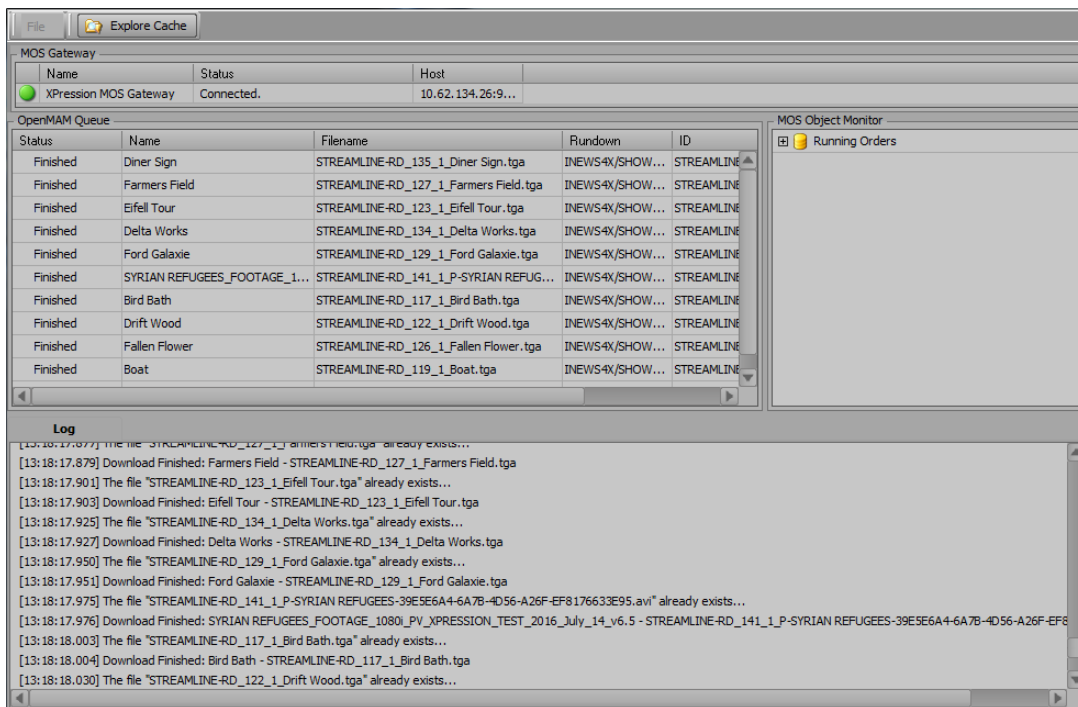
Using the XPression Asset Cache Server

The following topic is discussed in this section:

• XPression Asset Cache Server Interface

XPression Asset Cache Server Interface

Use the XPression Asset Cache Server interface to manage connections to the MOS Gateway and openMAM servers, monitor assets being downloaded to the cache, and view the current activity log.
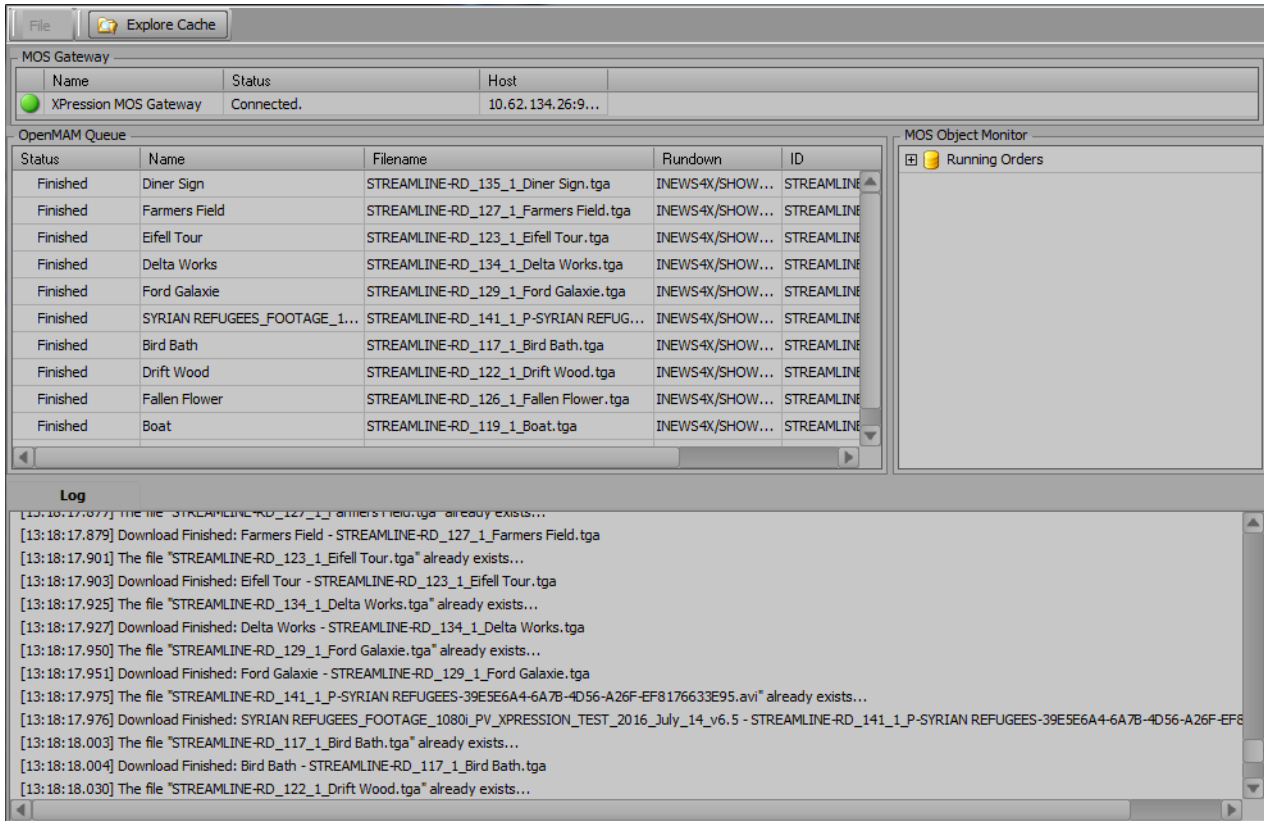

Figure 4.1 *XPression Asset Cache Server Interface*

Menu Bar

Use the menu bar to access the **File** menu and the asset file cache.

File > **Settings** — select this to open the XPression Asset Cache Server - Settings dialog box to configure the connection to the MOS Gateway, the cache location, and the openMAM settings.

File > **Exit** — select this to close the XPression Asset Cache Server.

Explore Cache — click this button to open the folder that contains the downloaded assets.

MOS Gateway

This section lists the status and details of the connection of the Asset Cache Server to the MOS Gateway.

Connection Icon — three possible connection icons indicate the current status of the connection to the MOS Gateway:

- ● — green indicates that the Asset Cache Server is connected to the MOS Gateway.
- ● — blue indicates that the Asset Cache Server is attempting to connect to the MOS Gateway.
- ● — red indicates that the Asset Cache Server is not connected to the MOS Gateway.

Name — displays the name of the MOS Gateway.

Status — indicates the current state of the connection to the MOS Gateway.

Host — displays the IP address or hostname.

OpenMAM Queue

This section displays the items from openMAM servers that have been downloaded or are queued to be downloaded to the asset cache.

Status — indicates the current status of the file download.

Name — the name of the file.

Filename — the name of the file in the asset cache folder.

Rundown — the name of the rundown for the file in the Running Orders of the MOS Object Monitor.

ID — the MOS ID.

MOS Object Monitor

This section lists the rundowns from the MOS Gateway.

Running Orders — expand this to view the rundowns from the MOS Gateway.

Log

This section displays the activity of the Asset Cache Server.

★ Logs are available in the installation folder. The default location is `C:\Program Files (x86)\XPression Asset Cache Server\logs`.

Notes:

Notes:

Notes:

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