

XPression

Desktop Preview Server User Guide

VERSION 12.5

ROSS

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If anything at all with your Ross experience does not live up to your expectations be sure to reach out to us at solutions@rossvideo.com.



David Ross

CEO, Ross Video

dross@rossvideo.com

Ross Video Code of Ethics

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1. We will always act in our customers' best interest.
2. We will do our best to understand our customers' requirements.
3. We will not ship crap.
4. We will be great to work with.
5. We will do something extra for our customers, as an apology, when something big goes wrong and it's our fault.
6. We will keep our promises.
7. We will treat the competition with respect.
8. We will cooperate with and help other friendly companies.
9. We will go above and beyond in times of crisis. *If there's no one to authorize the required action in times of company or customer crisis - do what you know in your heart is right. (You may rent helicopters if necessary.)*

XPression Desktop Preview Server User Guide

- Ross Part Number: 3500DR-012-12.5
- Version: 12.5
- Date/Time: 9/4/2025 12:00 PM

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Patents

Patent numbers US 7,034,886; US 7,508,455; US 7,602,446; US 7,802,802 B2; US 7,834,886; US 7,914,332; US 8,307,284; US 8,407,374 B2; US 8,499,019 B2; US 8,519,949 B2; US 8,743,292 B2; GB 2,419,119 B; GB 2,447,380 B; and other patents pending.

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2. **DEFINITIONS.** In this Agreement, in addition to the terms defined elsewhere in this Agreement, the following terms have the meanings set out below:

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- (c) Licensee shall refrain from further use of such Confidential Information; and
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22. **AMENDMENT AND WAIVER.** No amendment, discharge, modification, restatement, supplement, termination or waiver of this Agreement or any Section of this Agreement is binding unless it is in writing and executed by the Party to be bound. No waiver of, failure to exercise or delay in exercising, any Section of this Agreement constitutes a waiver of any other Section (whether or not similar) nor does any waiver constitute a continuing waiver unless otherwise expressly provided.
23. **SEVERABILITY.** Each Section of this Agreement is distinct and severable. If any Section of this Agreement, in whole or in part, is or becomes illegal, invalid, void, voidable or unenforceable in any jurisdiction by any court of competent jurisdiction, the illegality, invalidity or unenforceability of that Section, in whole or in part, will not affect (a) the legality, validity or enforceability of the remaining Sections of this Agreement, in whole or in part; or (b) the legality, validity or enforceability of that Section, in whole or in part, in any other jurisdiction.
24. **ENTIRE AGREEMENT.** This Agreement, and any other documents referred to herein, constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties relating to the subject matter of this Agreement and supersedes all prior written or oral agreements, representations and other communications between the Parties.

Updated: November 1, 2023

Warranty and Repair Policy

Ross Video Limited (Ross) warrants its XPression Desktop Preview Server systems to be free from defects under normal use and service for the following time periods from the date of shipment:

- XPression Desktop Preview Server Server — 12 months
- XPression Desktop Preview Server Software Upgrades — 12 months free of charge
- System and Media hard drives — 12 months

If an item becomes defective within the warranty period Ross will repair or replace the defective item, as determined solely by Ross.

Warranty repairs will be conducted at Ross, with all shipping FOB Ross dock. If repairs are conducted at the customer site, reasonable out-of-pocket charges will apply. At the discretion of Ross, and on a temporary loan basis, plug in circuit boards or other replacement parts may be supplied free of charge while defective items undergo repair. Return packing, shipping, and special handling costs are the responsibility of the customer.

This warranty is void if products are subjected to misuse, neglect, accident, improper installation or application, or unauthorized modification.

In no event shall Ross Video Limited be liable for direct, indirect, special, incidental, or consequential damages (including loss of profit). Implied warranties, including that of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose, are expressly limited to the duration of this warranty.

This warranty is TRANSFERABLE to subsequent owners, subject to Ross' notification of change of ownership.

Extended Warranty

For customers that require a longer warranty period, Ross offers an extended warranty plan to extend the standard warranty period by one year increments. For more information about an extended warranty for your XPression Desktop Preview Server system, contact your regional sales manager.

Environmental Information

The equipment that you purchased required the extraction and use of natural resources for its production. It may contain hazardous substances that could impact health and the environment.

To avoid the potential release of those substances into the environment and to diminish the need for the extraction of natural resources, Ross Video encourages you to use the appropriate take-back systems. These systems will reuse or recycle most of the materials from your end-of-life equipment in an environmentally friendly and health conscious manner.

The crossed-out wheeled bin symbol invites you to use these systems.



If you need more information on the collection, reuse, and recycling systems, please contact your local or regional waste administration.

You can also contact Ross Video for more information on the environmental performances of our products.

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Introduction

Thank you for choosing a Ross Video XPression Desktop Preview Server system.

Ross Video designed XPression Desktop Preview Server with the needs of live production in mind. The XPression Desktop Preview Server offers an IP based preview server for multi-channel and MOS Remote Sequencer workflows.

We appreciate your business and sincerely hope that you have a great experience with your new XPression Desktop Preview Server system. As always, if there is anything we at Ross Video can do to assist you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

About This Guide

This guide covers the use of the XPression Desktop Preview Server system.

If, at any time, you have questions pertaining to the operation of XPression Desktop Preview Server, please contact us at the numbers listed in the section [Getting Help](#)³. Our technical staff is 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 sub-menus that must be followed to reach a particular command.

Bold text

Bold text identifies a user interface element such as a dialog box, menu item, or button.

For example:

In the **Slug** column, type a slug name for the story.

Italic text

Italic text is used to identify the titles of referenced guides, manuals, or documents.

For example:

For more information, refer to the *DashBoard User Guide*.

`Courier text`

Courier text identifies text that a user must type.

For example:

In the **Username** box, type `postgres`.

Menu Sequences

Menu arrows are used in procedures to identify a sequence of menu items that you must follow.

For example:

If a step reads **Server > Save As**, you would select the **Server** menu and then select **Save As**.

[Hypertext](#)

Identifies a hyperlink to a related topic.

Getting Help

XPression Desktop Preview Server documentation is available online at [Product Documentation](#) and is also accessible on the product USB key and by selecting the **Help** icon in the user interface.

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. 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.

Technical Support:

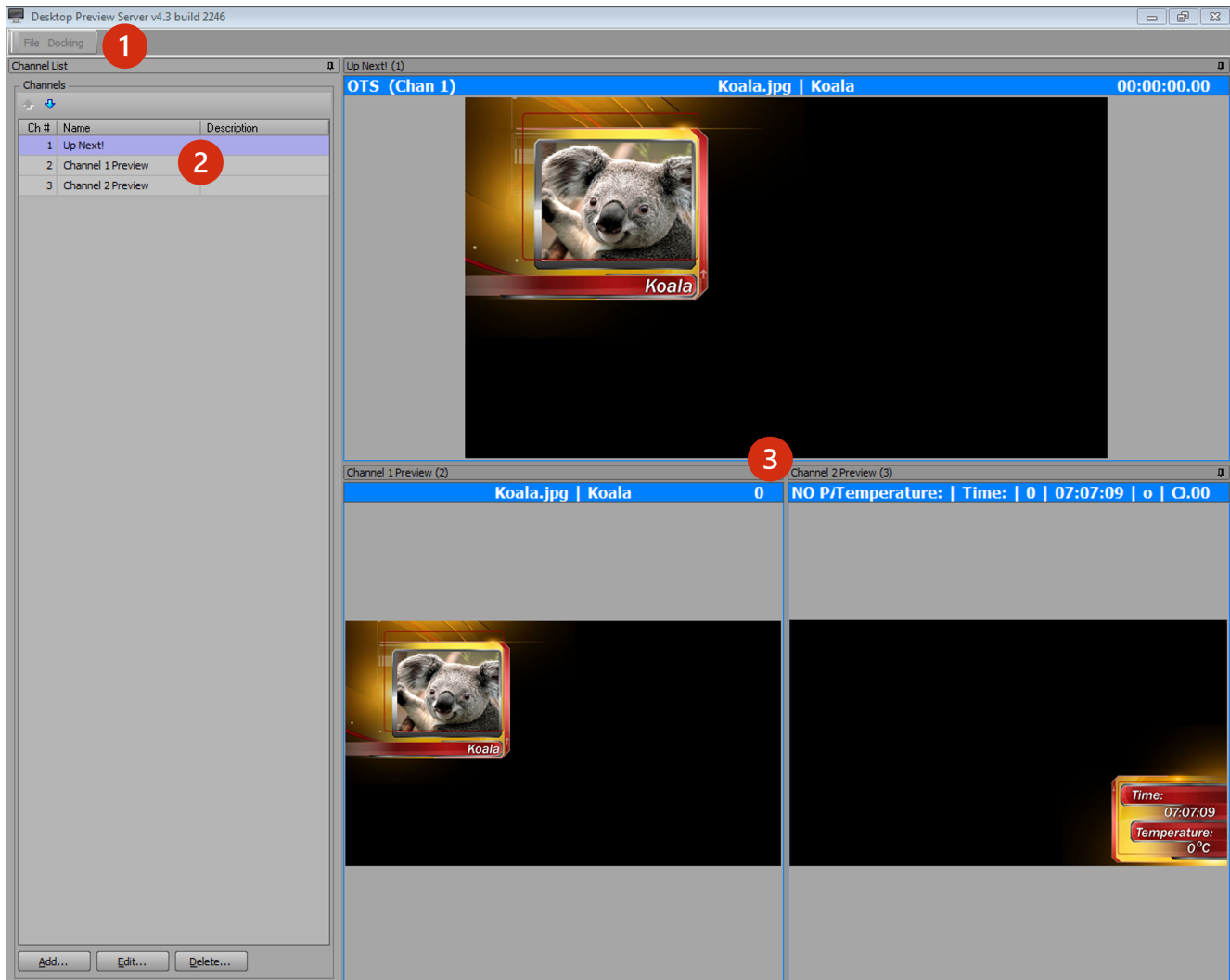
- 1-844-652-0645 (North America)
- +800 3540 3545 (International)
- After Hours Emergency: (+1) 613-349-0006
- E-mail: techsupport@rossvideo.com
- Website: <http://www.rossvideo.com>

User Interface Overview

The XPression Desktop Preview Server interface is used for preview of multi-channel and MOS Remote Sequencer workflows.

The XPression Desktop Preview Server

The following screen capture displays the main elements of the XPression Desktop Preview Server user interface. Descriptions of individual elements are contained in the legend below the diagram.



- 1) **Menu Bar** — access the **File** and **Docking** menus.
- 2) **Channel List** — add, edit, and delete preview channels.
- 3) **Preview Area** — display the preview channels. The preview channel boxes can be resized, arranged, and docked.

Setup

This section describes how to set up the Desktop Preview Server, and how to use it locally with the **Sequencer** in XPression or with a MOS workflow.

The following topics are described in this section:

[Setting Up the Desktop Preview Server](#)  6

[Using the Desktop Preview Server in XPression](#)  9

[Using the Desktop Preview Server in a MOS Workflow](#)  12

[Disabling the Channel Flash On Image Change](#)  16

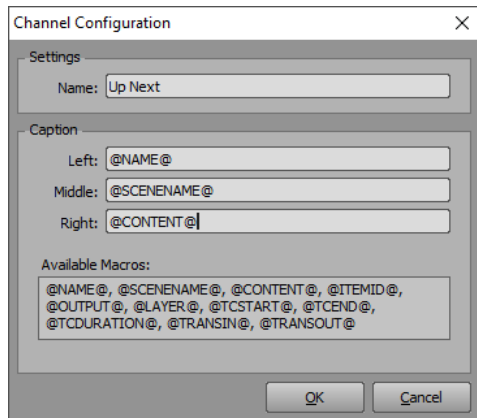
Setting Up the Desktop Preview Server

Follow these procedures to set up the Desktop Preview Server.

To create channels in the Desktop Preview Server:

1. Open the **XPression Desktop Preview Server**.
2. From the **Channel List**, select **Add**.

The **Channel Configuration** window opens.



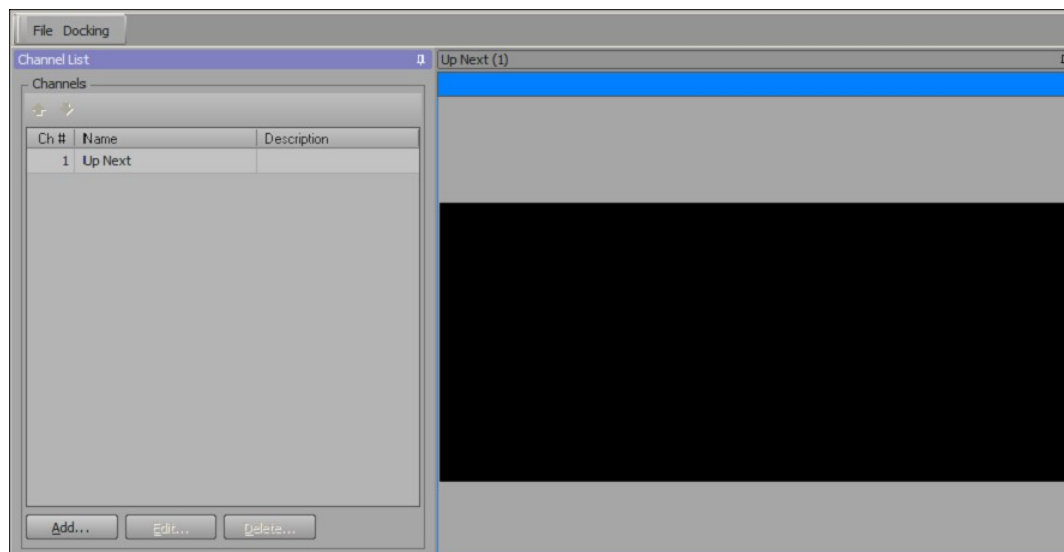
3. In the **Settings** section, in the **Name** field, enter a name for the preview channel.

It is recommended that a meaningful name is entered for the first preview channel (for example, **Up Next**).

4. In the **Caption** section:
 - In the **Left** field, enter a macro from the **Available Macros** to display a caption on the left side of the **Preview Channel** box heading.
 - In the **Middle** field, enter a macro from the **Available Macros** to display a caption in the middle of the **Preview Channel** box heading.
 - In the **Right** field, enter a macro from the **Available Macros** to display a caption on the right side of the **Preview Channel** box heading.
- ★ Multiple macros can be used together to build a descriptive string.

5. Select **OK**.

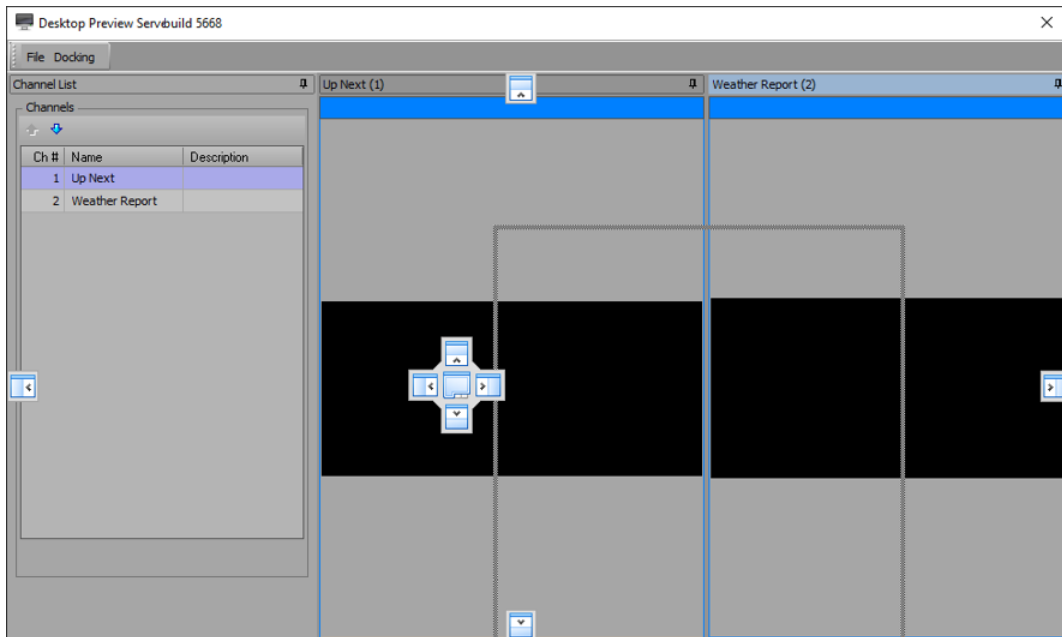
The **Channel Configuration** window closes and the preview channel is added to the **Channel List** and the **Preview Area** (the area highlighted in blue in the image below).



6. Repeat this procedure for as many **Preview Channels** as needed.

To arrange the Preview Channel boxes:

1. Select a channel to open in the **Preview Area**.
2. Select and hold the box label, and then drag the box to an area within the **Preview Area**.
When you move the channel box, you'll see a set of directional controls.
3. Move the channel box to the control that matches where you want to dock the box.



4. To resize the **Preview Channel** boxes, select and hold an edge of a box and then drag the edge until the desired size/dimension is achieved.
5. To pin the **Channel List** or a **Preview Channel** to the side of the **Preview Area**, select the **Pin** button (📌).
6. To open a pinned **Preview Channel** or the **Channel List**, select its label.

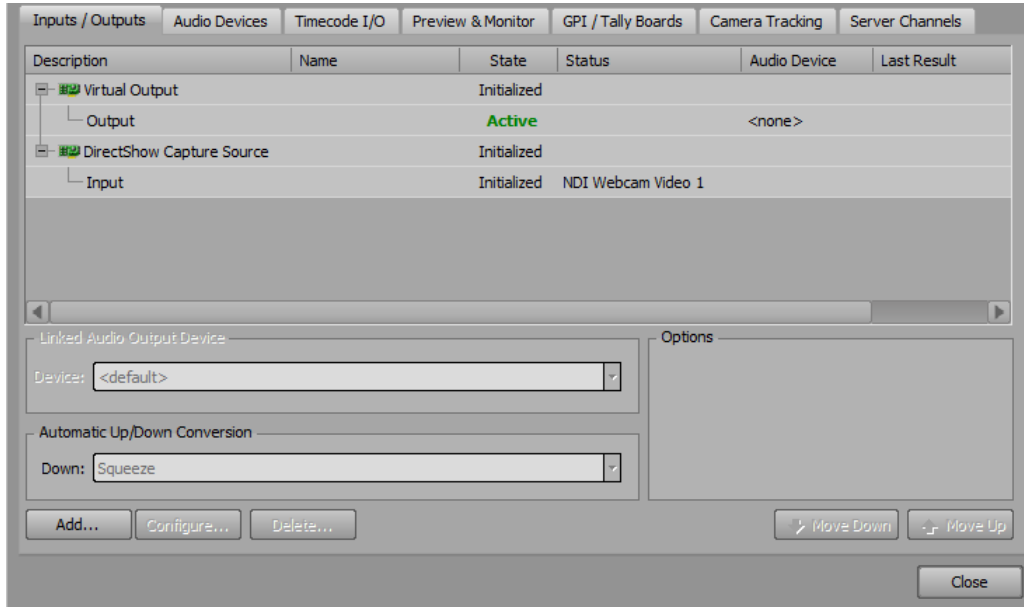
Using the Desktop Preview Server in XPression

Follow these procedures to use the Desktop Preview Server in XPression.

To configure preview outputs in XPression:

1. Open **XPression** and select **Edit > Hardware Setup**.

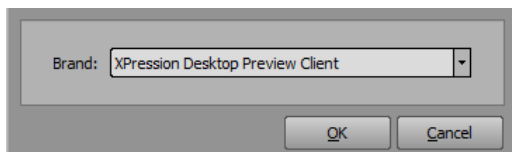
The **Hardware Setup** window opens.



2. Go to the **Inputs / Outputs** tab, and select **Add**.

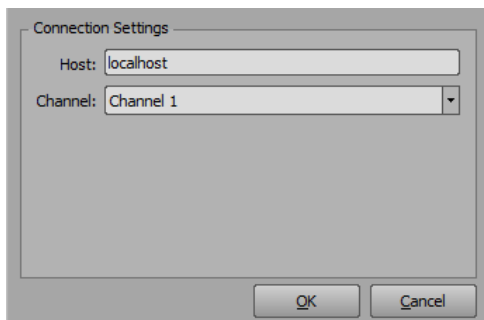
The **Add New FrameBuffer Board** window opens.

3. From the **Brand** drop-down, select **XPression Desktop Preview Client**.



4. Select **OK**.

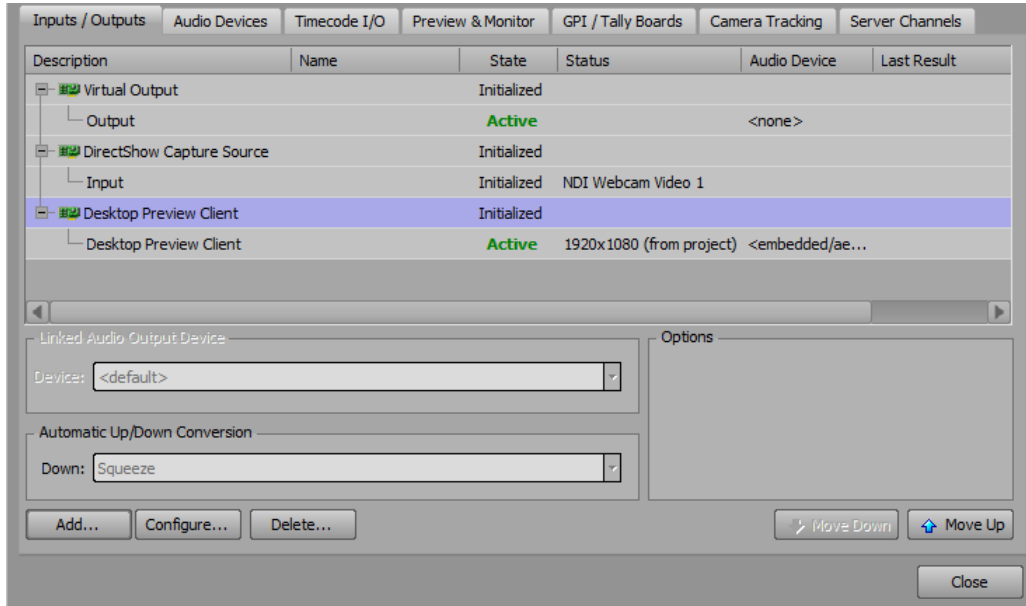
The **Desktop Preview Client - Setup** window opens.



5. In the **Host** field, enter the host information of the **Desktop Preview** client.

- From the **Channel** drop-down, select the channel number for the **Desktop Preview** client, and then select **OK**.

The **Desktop Preview Client - Setup** window closes and the connection is added to the **Inputs / Outputs** tab list.

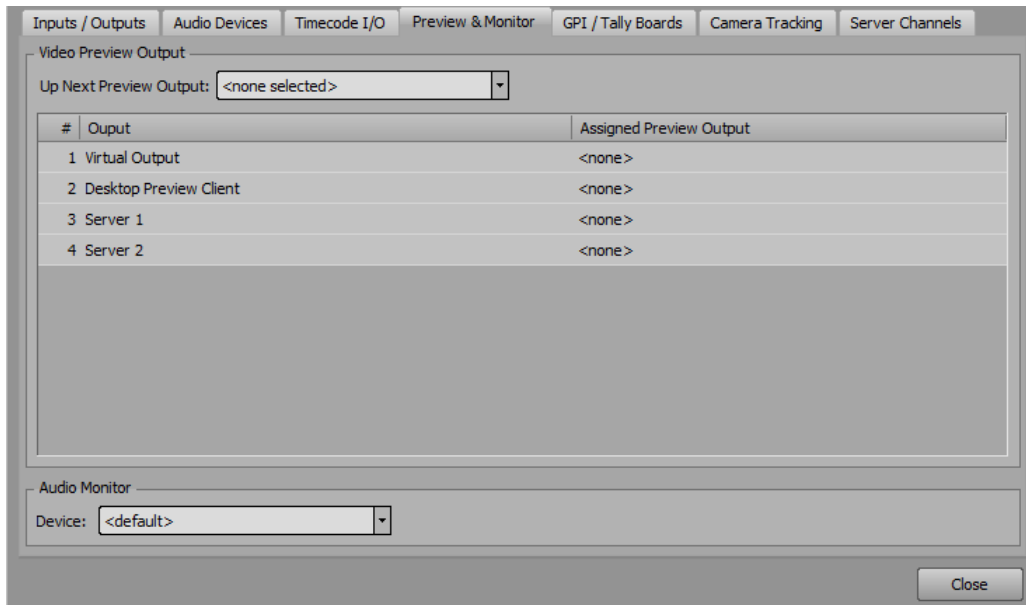


- Repeat steps 1 to 6 for any remaining channels in the **Desktop Preview Server**.

Ensure that the channel numbers in XPression are configured to correspond to the channels added to the **Desktop Preview Server Channels** list. For example, the second **Desktop Preview Client** output can be assigned to **Channel 2** in the **Connection Settings** window.

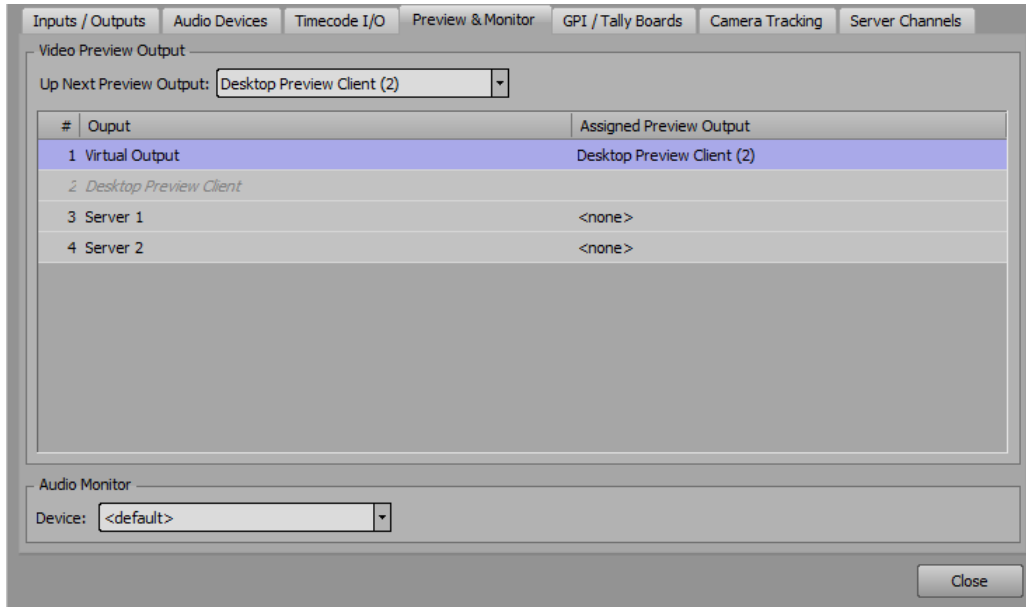
To configure the Desktop Preview Server:

- In **XPression**, in the **Hardware Setup** window, go to the **Preview & Monitor** tab.



- From the **Up Next Preview Output** drop-down, select the **Desktop Preview Client** as the primary preview output.

- For each XPression output, assign a **Desktop Preview Client** channel as the preview for the output.



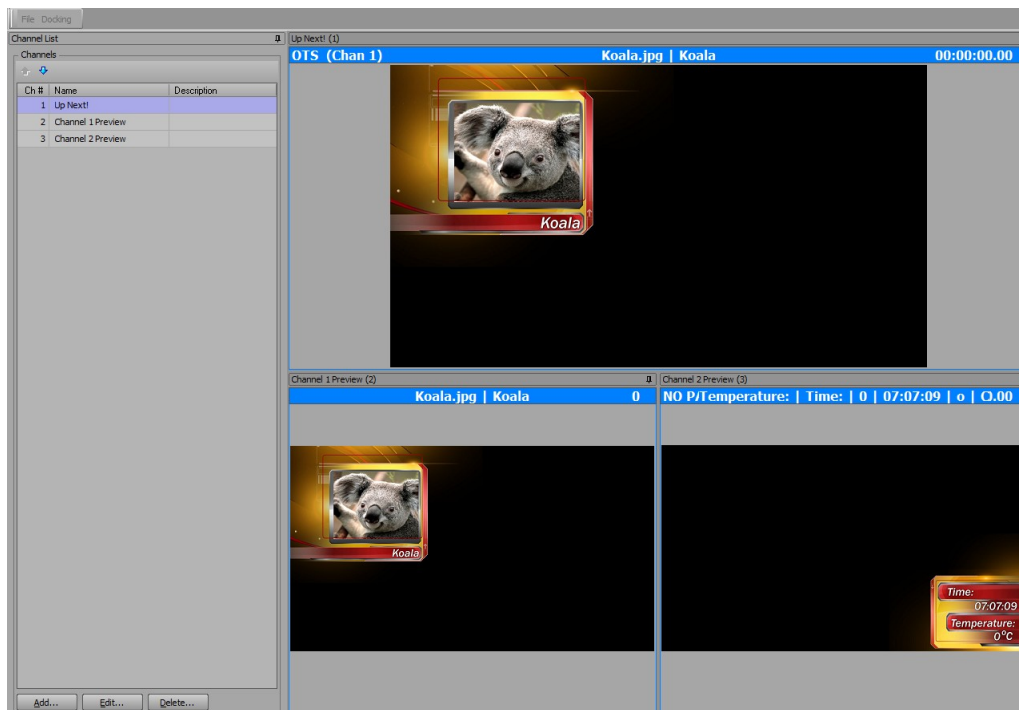
- Select **Close**.

The **Hardware Setup** window closes.

- On the **XPression Menu** bar, select the **Sequence** button to enter **Sequencer** mode.

★ In the **Sequencer**, the list must reflect all framebuffers assigned to **Desktop Preview Clients** to get proper previews in the **Desktop Preview Server**.

In the **XPression Desktop Preview Server**, the **Preview Channels** contain take items from the rundown opened in the **XPression Sequencer**.



XPression Desktop Preview Server

Using the Desktop Preview Server in a MOS Workflow

Follow these procedures to use the Desktop Preview Server in a MOS workflow.

To configure the preview engine in the XPression MOS Gateway:

1. Open the **XPression Gateway** and select **Gateway**, and then **Settings**.

The **XPression Gateway - Settings** window opens.

Gateway

MOS Server

Media Object Port: 10540

Running Order Port: 10541

Primary MOS ID: XPN-DOC

Secondary MOS ID:

NCS ID: NCS

MOS Objects & Messages

☐ Parse roStorySend Messages (recommended to leave off)

☐ Accept Items With Incorrect MOS ID

☒ Don't Send Status Messages

MOS Message Encoding

☐ Use UTF8

☐ Encode MOS Payload

☐ Strip Unicode Chars from MOS Abstracts

OK Cancel

2. From the **Settings** list, select **Preview Engines**.

The **Preview Engines** window opens.

Preview & Offline Render Engines

ID	Name	Host	Description
1	Preview / Offline ...	localhost:8001	

Add... Edit... Delete...

Desktop Preview Server

Enabled ☐

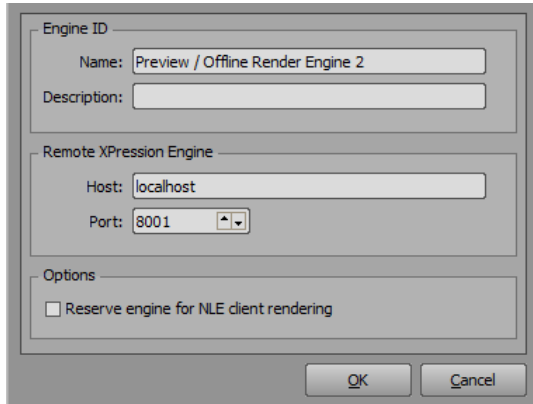
Host: localhost

Port: 7070 Up Next Channel: 1

OK Cancel

3. In the **Preview Engines** panel, select **Add**.

The **XPression Preview Engine** window opens.



The screenshot shows the 'XPression Preview Engine' configuration window. It is divided into three sections: 'Engine ID', 'Remote XPression Engine', and 'Options'. In the 'Engine ID' section, the 'Name' field is filled with 'Preview / Offline Render Engine 2' and the 'Description' field is empty. In the 'Remote XPression Engine' section, the 'Host' field is filled with 'localhost' and the 'Port' field is filled with '8001'. In the 'Options' section, the checkbox 'Reserve engine for NLE client rendering' is unchecked. At the bottom right, there are 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons.

4. In the **XPression Preview Engine** window:
 - a. In the **Engine ID** section, enter a **Name** and **Description** for the preview engine.
 - b. In the **Remote XPression Engine** section, configure the network information for the remote XPression engine.
5. In the **Options** section select **Reserve engine for NLE client rendering** if this is needed (optional).
6. Select **OK**.

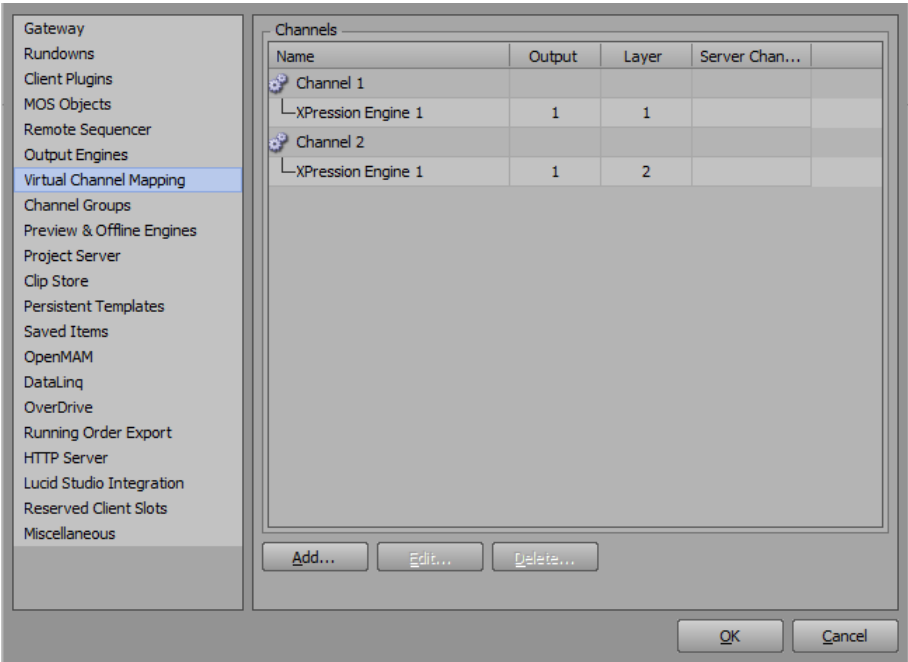
The **XPression Preview Engine** window closes and the preview engine is added to the **Preview Engines** list in the **XPression MOS Gateway - Settings** window.

7. In the **Desktop Preview Server** section:
 - Select the **Enabled** checkbox to use the **Desktop Preview Server**.
 - In the **Host** field, enter the host information of the **Desktop Preview Server**.
 - In the **Port** field, enter the port number of the **Desktop Preview Server**.
 - In the **Up Next Channel** field, set the preview channel that the **Desktop Preview Server** will use as the primary ("up next") preview channel.

To configure the Virtual Channel Mapping in the XPression MOS Gateway:

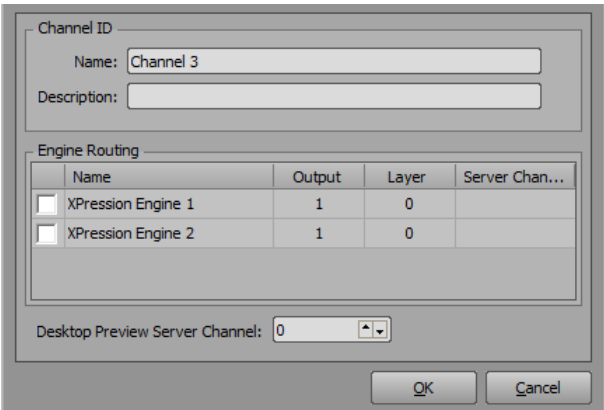
1. In the **XPression MOS Gateway - Settings** window, select **Virtual Channel Mapping**.

The **Virtual Channel Mapping** window opens.



2. In the **Virtual Channel Mapping** panel, select **Add**.

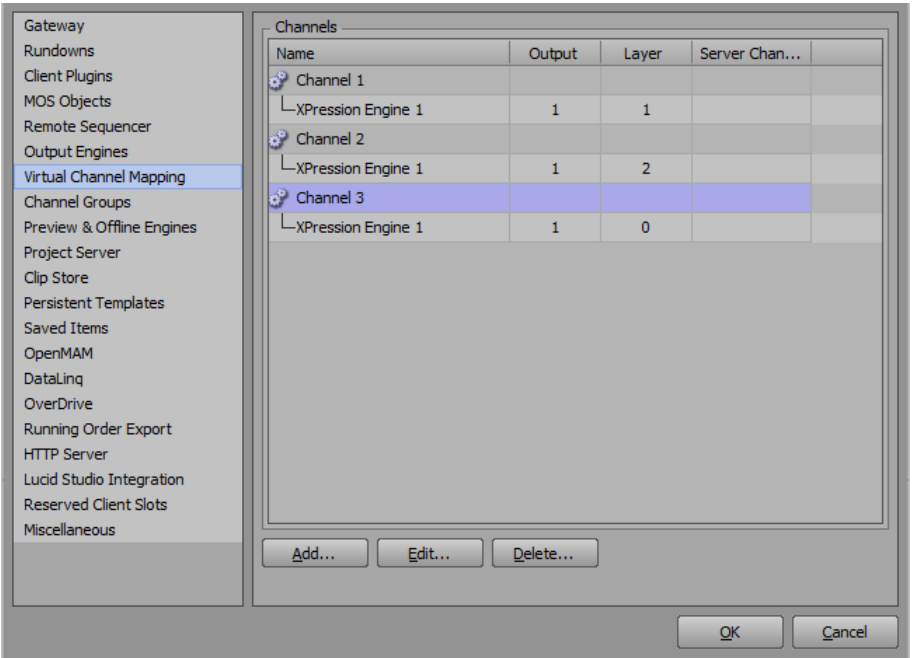
The **Virtual Channel Routing** window opens.



3. In the **Engine Routing** section, if virtual routing has not yet been set up, configure the virtual channel mapping.

4. In the **Desktop Preview Server Channel** window, enter or select the preview channel in the **Desktop Preview Server** for each virtual channel, and then select **OK**.

The **Virtual Channel Routing** window closes and the channel is displayed in the **Channels** list.

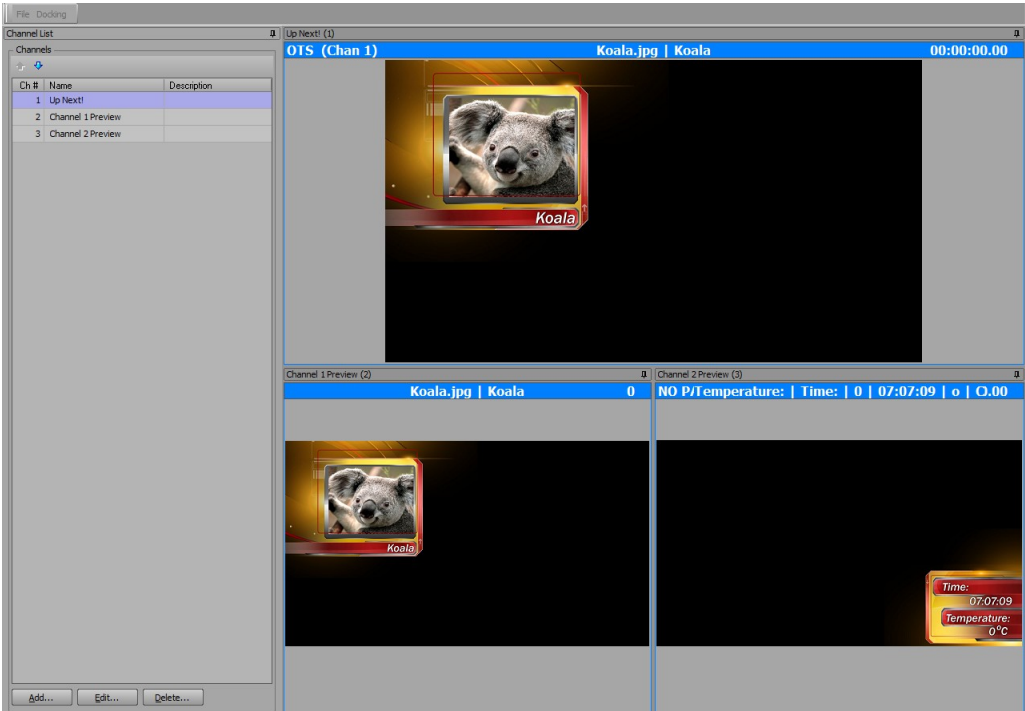


5. Select **OK**.

The **XPression Gateway - Settings** window closes.

6. Open the **XPression Remote Sequencer** and open a rundown.

In the **XPression Desktop Preview Server**, the **Preview Channels** contain take items from the rundown opened in the **XPression Remote Sequencer**.



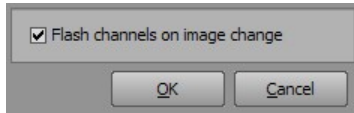
Disabling the Channel Flash On Image Change

The XPression Desktop Preview Server has an option to disable the blue channel flash when an image is changed.

To disable the channel flash on image change:

1. In the **XPression Desktop Preview Server**, go to the **File** menu, select **Settings**.

The **Desktop Preview Server Settings** window opens.



2. Clear the **Flash channels on image change** checkbox to disable the blue channel flash when an image is changed (it is selected by default).
3. Select **OK**.

The **Desktop Preview Server Settings** window closes.

Contact Us

Contact our friendly and professional support representatives for the following:

- Name and address of your local dealer
- Product information and pricing
- Technical support
- Upcoming trade show information

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