SVS-2101
User's Manual

January 2009

Contents

Revision History

Revision #	Change logs
1.0	First manual release

Frequently used references

Please fill in the following data for future reference.

MODEL	
SERIAL (COA):	
SET UP USER NAME*:	
SET UP PASSWORD*:	
MAC ADDRESS:	
DEVICE IP:	
The device IP may change after player restart. The actual IP can be seen on your display for 10-20 seconds during player start-up.	

*Denotes a case-sensitive field (paSSwOrd≠PASSword)

1 Introduction to the SVS-2101 Network Media Player

The SVS-2101 Network Media Player is an industrial-grade digital signage system suitable for remote and local management use.

Essential digital signage software included

Signage Manager Express lets you harness the full signage potential of the Network Media Player. This bundled PC application is designed to deliver dynamic DVD-quality videos, photos, and PowerPoint slides (stills) for public viewing anywhere on a network. For details on management features such as day-parting and content distribution, please see the Signage Manager Express User's Manual.

USB or CF card content synchronization for stand-alone operation

USB/CF

The SVS-2101 Network Media Player is fully functional with or without a network, using a USB mass-storage device or a removable CF card to sync your contents where network is unavailable. A built-in clock plays your program on the schedule even during network outages.

1.1 Package Contents

SVS-2101

Netlwork Media Player

AC Power Adapter 5V DC output

CF Card Slot Protective Plate and Screw

Signage Manager Express CD

Ethernet Cable

Audio Adapter Cable: RCA to 3.5 mm

Audio Cable: 3.5 mm to 3.5 mm

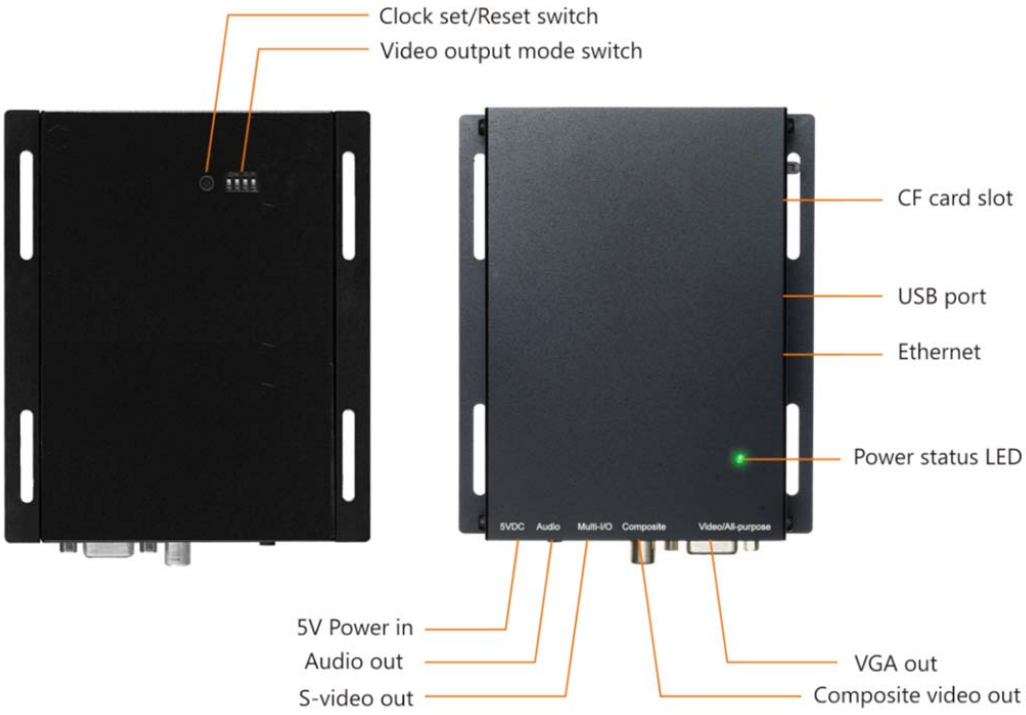
Quick Start Guide

Not Supplied

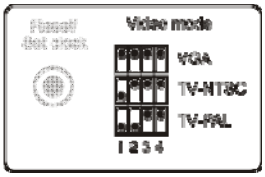
A Compact Flash (CF) card is required, available separately.
A 4GB card holds approx. 180 minutes of video content.

2. Hardware Setup

2.1 Physical Features

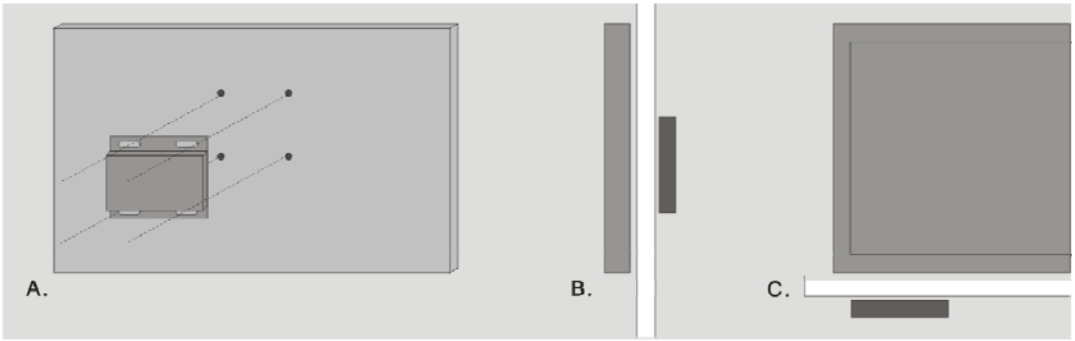


2.2 Setting the display output mode



Set the Video mode using the DIP switches on the back side of the unit.
Switch positions per video mode are provided on the product label.
For **traditional TV**: set to PAL or NTSC, depending on your region
For **LCD TV**, **Plasma**, **computer monitors**, and **projectors**: set to VGA

2.3 Suggested hardware installations



The player enclosure features VESA-compliant screw-slots for convenient attachment:

A. directly behind self-standing monitors using the standard VESA mounting

B. inside partition walls

C. below counters

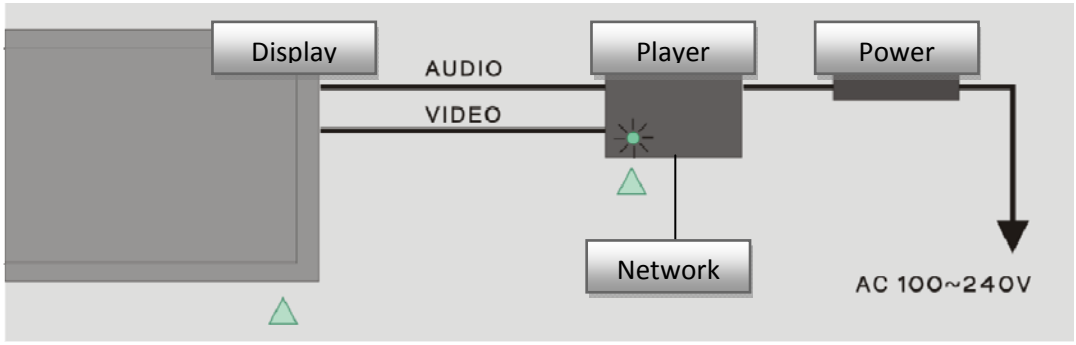
Notes on security features

The **Reset/Set clock button** and **Video mode switches** are located on the player's back panel to avoid tampering. If you don't need to change display types often, you can cover both panels by fixing the player to a flat surface to lock settings. Clock settings can be performed from your web browser.

You can prevent the player's CF card from being removed from its slot. Locking the CF card inside the player with the bundled **CF protective plate and screw set** discourages unauthorized removal.

2.4 Connecting power and signal cables

Connect the player to a screen and a computer using the supplied cables and adapter.



Connect the media player to a screen and AC power as shown above.
Turn on your display monitor and switch it to the corresponding video mode: VGA (sometimes referred to as "RGB"), S-video, or Composite.

2.5 Completing Hardware Setup

When you see on screen text messages on your display, you have properly completed the hardware setup. The next step is to configure player software settings such as time and date from your Internet browser.

If you do not have a network capable computer at hand, please refer to Appendix 1 to set up your player for playback without a network.

3 Managing player contents with Signage Manager Express

Once you have set up your signage player and display system, you are ready to load content into the player for playback on a schedule.

4.1 Management options using Signage Manager Express

You have the following playback options when using Signage Manager Express:

Looping playback

You can select files, re-order them, and export via LAN, USB drive, or CF card for auto-repeating playback.

Weekly schedule playback

This mode plays specific files exported via LAN, USB drive, or CF card at specific times of the week.

Please refer to the **Signage Manager Express User's Manual** on content scheduling and publishing functions of your SVS-2101 Network Media Player.

4.2 Synchronize playlists over the Ethernet network

Once you have completed scheduling your playlist, export it to the player by selecting the Export to network option. If network failure occurs, or if you are managing the player using physical media, see the next section to *Synchronize playlists without an Ethernet network.*

4.3 Synchronize playlists without an Ethernet network

Using a USB drive

You can use the SVS-2101 Network Media Player in areas without Ethernet connections by synchronizing contents from a USB device.

1. From Signage Manager Express, export your scheduled programming to a USB drive (instead of selecting the Export to network option).
2. Insert the drive to the USB port of the Network Media Player.
3. Check the instructions displayed on screen. The screen will go black during file transfer; playback will be resumed once all files are copied to device. All previous existing media clips will be removed in this process.
4. After the update is completed (from minutes to hours, depending on file size), the device will reboot and start to play the new program.
5. Remove USB drive.

Using the removable CF card

You can also remove the CF card from your player and synchronize it at your computer using a card reader. Reinsert the card to your player and reboot the player to begin playing the new playlist.

5 Specifications table

Video codec support	MPEG 1 MP@ML 480P MPG MPEG 2 MP@ML 480P MPG MPEG 4 ASP@L2 480P AVI
Image codec support	JPEG 640x480
Management options	Signage Manager Express LAN mode API for development
I/O ports	VGA out S-Video out Composite out 3.5mm stereo audio jack 10/100 BASE-T Ethernet port USB port 2.0 host (for mass storage devices) CF card slot
Local storage	CF card required, not supplied (a 4GB card holds approx. 180 minutes of video @3Mbps)
Power requirements	AC Power adapter output: 5V, 2A DC Power consumption: 10W max, 5W avg.
Environmental	Operating Temperature: 0 to 40deg C Humidity: 5-85%RH @40deg C
Dimensions	133.5 x113.5 x25 (mm) (excluding projections) 5.3 x4.4 x1 (inches) (excluding projections)
Weight	1.8 lbs. 0.8kg

Appendix 1: Setting up the player without network

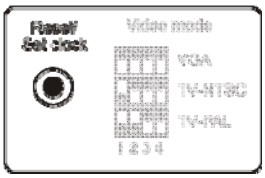
The following operations are alternative methods of operation for your device.

Setting the clock manually

The clock settings run on built-in battery for up to several years, but initially you will need to set it to your time zone for properly scheduled playback.

After powering on both the player and the display, "PLEASE WAIT..." appears on the screen for 10 seconds. After video appears on screen, set the clock by pressing and holding the RESET/SET CLOCK button. You will see the following on screen display:

YYYY/MM/DD



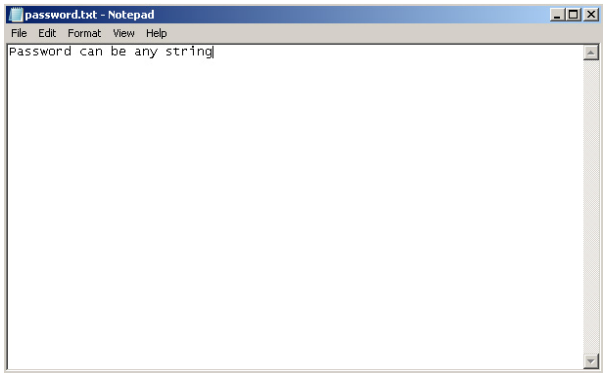
- Press RESET/SET CLOCK button BRIEFLY to increase each digit value
- Hold button to advance to the next digit

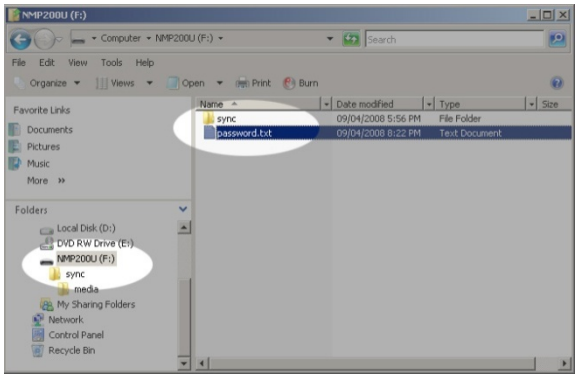
REMINDER: You should set the clock before you physically mount the player or keep the button accessible if you are not planning the network clock set feature.

Setting a player password and resetting forgotten passwords

Network Media Player also features password protection to prevent unauthorized USB drive updates.

1 From a computer, create a file named “password.txt”.





2 Enter desired password and save the file.

3 Copy the password.txt file to USB device’s top level (root) folder.

4 Remove the device's CF card and copy password file to the CF card’s top level (root) folder.

5 Once device is inserted with CF card that contains password.txt file, only a USB storage device with the same password file can perform updates to the device.

Note

USB drive content authentication password and the web configuration password are 2 distinct sets of user names and passwords. You cannot reset the content authentication password using the reset button. You can, however, retrieve the content authentication password from the CF card if needed.

USB update using Signage Manager Express

You will need an Ethernet connection to your PC to set your player to **USB mode** for this method. Please refer to the previous section to change device mode.

1. From Signage Manager Express, export your scheduled programming to a USB drive.
2. Insert the drive to the USB port of the SVS-2101 Network Media Player.
3. Pay attention to the instructions on screen, waiting until the whole update process is completed before removing the USB drive.

4. After the update is completed, the device will start to play the media.
5. Remove USB drive.

Appendix 2: FAQ

Do CF card speed ratings affect playback performance?

No, the CF card speed won't have a significant impact on device playback. Standard definition videos (480p) play at relatively low data rates, typically 3 Mbps, therefore a standard speed CF card should be sufficient.

Is there limitation on CF card size?

The CF/Network Media Player accepts CF cards up to 32GB in capacity. However, since an 8GB CF card can play up to 6 hrs, a 4GB CF card should be enough for most situations.

What is maximum file size for a single video file?

For CF/Network Media Player, the maximum video file size is 1GB. We recommend reserving a safety margin to avoid exceeding the limit (i.e. limiting files to 990MB for CF/Network Media Player).

How to restore device back to factory default?

1. Disconnect all power.

2. Press and hold reset button at the back of device.

3. Power on device and release the button until "Reset" appears on screen.

How do I manage playback of my contents?

Playback on a schedule is one of the main functions of your SVS-2101 Network Media Player. It is managed via the easy to use Signage Manager Express software.

Unlike the difficulty of programming our VCRs from a remote control, the Signage Manager Express software is designed to be simple by leveraging the power of your personal computer. Anyone with basic computer skills can quickly create or modify schedules, delivering the right message to the right audience at the right times. Please refer to the Signage Manager Express User's Manual for detailed operations and techniques.

Could the player display Flash or Microsoft PowerPoint presentations?

The player features limited PowerPoint support, but not Flash support.

While PCs can play many formats with varying degrees of success, RISC-based media players are designed to play a limited number of high quality video formats (Please see spec for details). While MS PowerPoint native files could not play directly on a RISC-based player, the file is converted thru other software (i.e. Signage Manager Express) into an image format to be played as an image slideshow.

Why won't some media files play smoothly?

The video data bit-rate may be higher than the recommended bit rate of 3~5 Mbps.

The video data bit-rate is the amount of video or audio data used per second to store or play the contents, usually expressed in Mbps (mega-bits per second). Video encoded with excessive bit-rates will not playback smoothly in the media player, likely due to storage i/o bottlenecks. You can try using a faster CF card or recompressing unplayable video files at lower bit rates using the free and open source Handbrake tool at http://handbrake.fr/. Once you have found the right output settings for size and quality, save them in Handbrake **profiles** for future use. Then you can easily recompress any unplayable files you encounter in the future.

Why won't some media files play at all?

Even though (Our company) player license and conform strictly to industry standard video formats, sometimes the videos you acquire may fall outside the compatibility matrix.

If the files can play on your PC but not on your player, you should **recompress** the file to ensure playback. For greatest compatibility, we recommend outputting to the MPEG2 format (3 to 5 Mbps bit-rate). You can recompress unplayable video files with recommended file formats and bit rates using the free and open source Handbrake tool at http://handbrake.fr/. Once you have found the right output settings for size and quality, save them in Handbrake **profiles** for future use. Then you

can easily recompress any unplayable files you encounter in the future.

The media playback looks different on a PC compared to the media player's screen. (Wrong aspect ratio)

There are 2 major aspect ratios (width-to-height ratios) for video content, but many kinds of displays. If you play 4:3 video on a 16:9 display (or vice versa), a circle becomes oval, and the picture takes on a squeezed or stretched look. To avoid this distorted look, adding black bars are a common technique.

Network Media Player players always stretch the video to the full extents of your display. If you wish to correct the distortion this introduces, you need to add black bars into the video file itself, using a video editing program such as Windows Movie Maker, which is included free with Windows XP or Vista OS. Refer to the extensive help system and search for the keywords "aspect ratio."

Some JPEG images cannot play on media player.

Progressive JPEG are not supported. Please convert to baseline JPEG for maximum compatibility.

JPEG images can be either of 2 types: baseline or progressive compression. Baseline JPEG offers greatest compatibility, while progressive JPEGs are suitable for web site images. Progressive images are downloaded and displayed "progressively," being rendered more clearly as more data is received over the internet. Devices with local storage such as the Network Media Player are usually incompatible with the latter type. Make sure to save images as baseline JPEG in your photo editor, or resave them as baseline JPEGs using free tools such as Paint.net (http://www.paint.net/).

Does my media player support video streaming?

No, all media files are designed to play from local storage (CF card).

(Our company) media player downloads entire contents to player's local storage before presenting them on screen. This ensures the best possible presentation and delivery of your video message. Video streaming raises many playback quality issues such as image freezing, blocking, or blue-screens, costing you valuable "air time" and losing your audience's attention.

Could the media player be controlled by external input devices or interfaces?

No, unless specifically developed for.

Touch panel, bar code scanner, and motion sensors are popular input devices for PC based digital signage media players, but RISC based players require considerable effort to develop special hardware drivers for each I/O device.

Can I use a password-enabled USB drive to update a non-password-protected media player?

No, the password.txt on USB flash drive must be identical to the one on device's storage, or absent if the password.txt .

If there is no corresponding password file on device side, the files will not be updated. In this case, delete or rename the password file on your USB device to continue updates.

The media player is not playing. What should I do?

Check the player's messages on the display (OSD, or on screen display) for status information.

Since RISC-based media player usually lack of input devices such as keyboard or mouse like PC does, troubleshooting are usually based on user's knowledge and experience with the specific media player. First check the on screen message and stats reports. Bad play list and timing issue are two major causes of playback problems. To determine if the problem is caused by a bad play list, simply delete the play list and restart player. The player should loop through all media files, indicating a fault with the play list. If the playback is scheduled to play at specific time, check to see if the device is set to the right time zone on the world clock. When nothing seems wrong, the time zone settings may be the reason the program is not played.