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Opening Shot

PRSS to Transition to Combined Carrier

As part of the PRSS initiative to transition to a combined carrier, we will be performing definition changes to all receivers installed at interconnected stations on Monday, November 6, 2017, at 3:15 pm ET. What this means is that we'll be sending definition changes that will force all station receivers to retune to acquire files traffic from XPDR 1.

3:00 pm ET - PRSS will begin the process.

3:07 pm ET - Messaging will go out to the system that the switch process is about to start

3:10 pm ET - PRSS engineers wait for NOC to clear the last LWSF segment. Once it has been delivered, we will pause all file traffic and confirm no file traffic is in cue.

3:15 pm ET - PRSS sends carrier definitions for new Combined Carrier L-Band 2. Carrier A is changed to Freq: 1427.1 | SymR: 9090.0 | Mod: DVB-S2

3:20 pm ET - PRSS checks L-Band 2 definitions on receivers in Washington and at the BuNOC to verify new updates.

3:24 pm ET - If all looks well, PRSS drops legacy files carrier. All receivers will revert to the new combined carrier.

3:28 pm ET - The PRSS manually pushes test files to all stations.

3:30 pm ET - The NOC will verify the presence of files at both the D.C. NOC and the BuNOC.

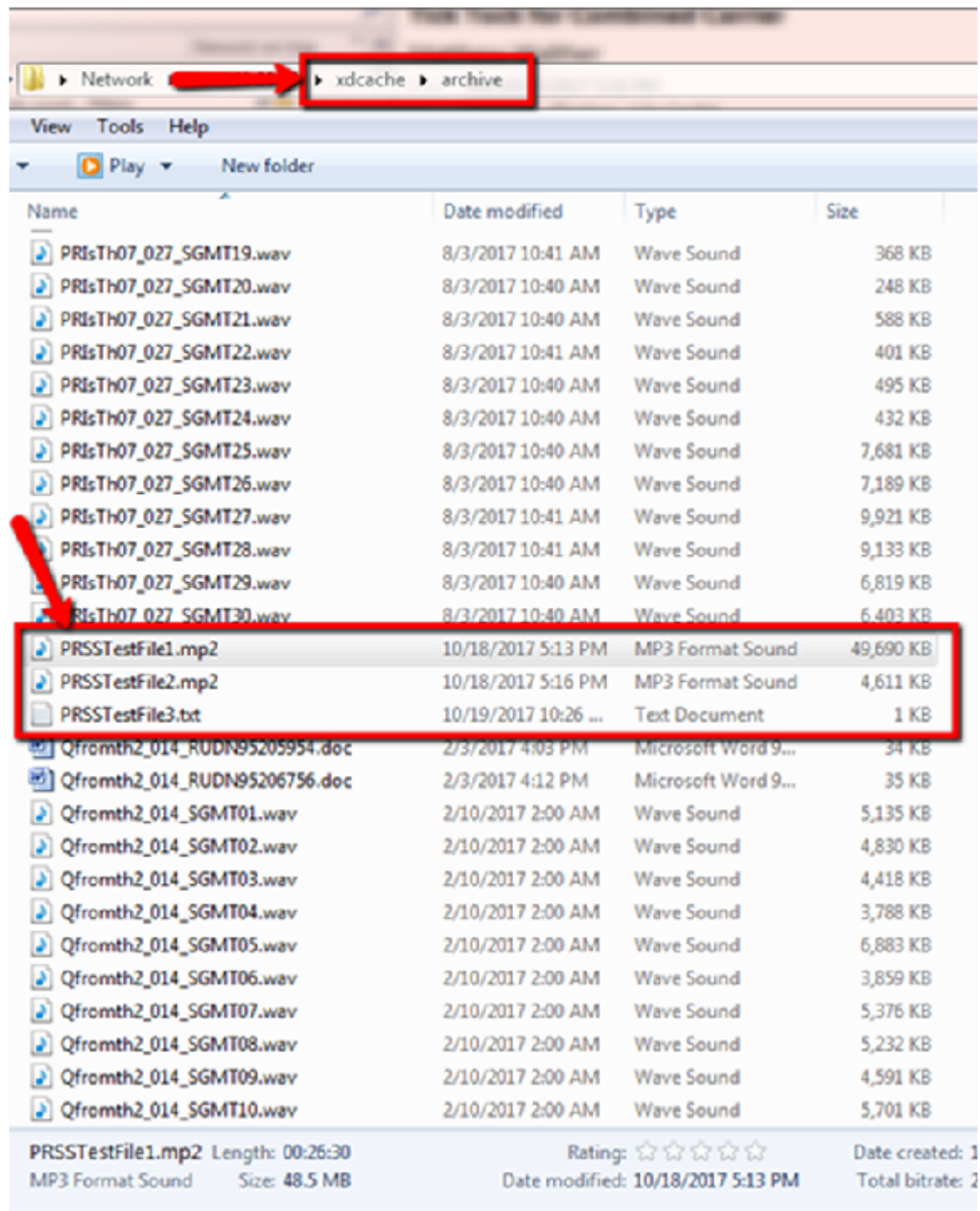
3:34 pm ET - The PRSS will bring up the legacy files carrier

3:35 pm ET - The PRSS will re-verify power levels for all carriers.

3:40 pm ET - The PRSS will send out messaging to report that the switch has been completed.

The transition is expected to be seamless, with no anticipated impact for any station.

** It is very important that once the process is complete, all stations go into their receivers and confirm that they have received the test messages. See below for an illustration of what you should see. **



If you see these test files, then you are all set and you can delete them. If you do NOT see the files, please contact the PRSS Help Desk (800.971.7677 or prsshelp@npr.org) and we will try to assist you.

The PRSS has also created a more detailed document to help guide stations through the changes made to the file delivery carrier. It is intended to review carrier definitions, provide guidance on obtaining readings and serial numbers from station receivers, and demonstrate how to verify the reception of test files that will be delivered to all receivers after the carrier switch. It can be found at the following link: <http://prss.org/sites/prss/files/documents/customer-support/PRSS%20Combined%20Carrier%20-Files.pdf>

An archived copy of the Combined Carrier webinar, held on Tuesday, October 24, 2017, is also available. Due to the size of the file, we are unable to post it directly on PRSS.org but it is available for download from the following link: <https://goo.gl/8ea4En>

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the PRSS Help Desk at 800.971.7677 or prsshelp@npr.org.

PRSS October Metrics Show Quality and Consistency

The PRSS strives to be a reliable and consistent partner to interconnected stations and program producers. In order to gauge how we're doing, we produce internal metric reports listing a variety of data. This past October, we enjoyed a solid month of service. For a perspective on how we did, please see a sample of our data below.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| File episodes delivered: | 1,990 |
| Live hours transmitted: | 5,620 |
| Total Impaired Time: | 00:00:00 |
| Live Uptime %: | .9999 or better |
| File Segments Impaired Count: | 0 |
| On-Time File Delivery %: | .9999 or better |
| MetaPub-enabled Hours: | 2,274 |
| MetaPub-enabled Programs: | 58 |

The News

Current and Future Status of Squawk Channel

The PRSS has received questions from stations regarding the current and future status of the Squawk channel. The PRSS is committed to providing numerous options for stations to access Squawk. In an effort to provide details around our plans, the below bullets represent the numerous options that stations will have to continue access to this service.

Also, please note that those stations that are using the legacy SR2000pro receivers to access Squawk will be able to continue doing so until June 2019 at the earliest.

- On November 6, 2017, when migration to Combined Carrier FILES ONLY is completed, Squawk will remain as Stream 22 and able to be decoded by the SR2000.
- In December of 2017, Squawk will be available as a SCPC (Single Channel Per Carrier) on Transponder 1, as DVB-S (Frequency 1432.4, Symbol Rate 262) and can continue to be decoded by a SR2000.
- By January 2018, stations will be able to receive Squawk via a subscription to a dedicated port on the SFX 4104 receiver.
- In Q1/Q2 2018 when migration to Combined Carrier w/ LIVE STREAMS is completed, an SR2000 will be able to decode the Squawk Channel from TX 3 ContentDepot Streams as long as the Legacy Carrier remains up.
- In June 2018, Squawk on Stream S022 will go away when the PRSS drops the Legacy Carrier. Squawk will no longer be available on Legacy Transponders TX3.
- Stations can either tune to SCPC SQUAWK Channel to Transponder 1 or subscribe to the Squawk program via the ContentDepot portal using the SFX 4104 Pro Audio receiver and a dedicated port.
- The following year, the SCPC created for Squawk on Transponder 1 will be removed in order to continue with bandwidth efficiencies on Transponder 1. We are targeting an approximate timeframe of June 2019 for this action.

Also, as a reminder, the PRSS has created a document to help guide stations through the changes made to the file delivery carrier for ContentDepot. It is intended to review carrier definitions, provide guidance on obtaining readings and serial numbers from station receivers, and demonstrate how to verify the reception of test files that will be delivered to all receivers after the carrier switch.

The document can be found at the following link: <http://prss.org/sites/prss/files/documents/customer-support/PRSS%20Combined%20Carrier%20-Files.pdf>

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If you have any questions or comments, please contact the PRSS Help Desk at 800.971.7677 or prsshelp@npr.org.

Tips 'n' Tricks

PRSS to Query Stations on Equipment Status

As long-time members of the PRSS are aware, we aim to upgrade station broadcast equipment every ten years or so, an effort that involves presenting new receivers to stations and providing upgrades and assistance to stations whose satellite equipment may be deteriorating.

The process of doing so again has begun in earnest, with NPR Distribution working with the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) to plan the future of the interconnection system. In the coming months and into 2018, EsPRSSo will highlight different pieces and components of this process as it rolls out. It is our hope that each station is aware of what is happening, when, and why.

This month, the PRSS takes an important step forward by asking stations to fill out a survey assessing the quality and status of their satellite equipment. This will help us to assess, at an individual level and across the system as a whole, the state of the technology being used by stations. It will inform our plans for a system refresh, and it will allow our engineers to determine which stations have more technical issues and/or needs than others. The survey is scheduled to be delivered to general managers and engineers the week of November 6, 2017.

One note to keep in mind, with your current equipment as well as any new hardware and software you receive from the PRSS, is that once you take possession, it becomes the property of your station. (The one caveat is that a station must stay interconnected for seven years after the completion date - if not, the station must either return the equipment or pay its fair market value.) The benefit of this is that you owe nothing for it and are free to do with it as you wish. The flip side is that it is your station's responsibility to keep the equipment in good working order.

To help stations maintain their equipment, PRSS engineers have developed the following list of tips.

- Equipment must be regularly and consistently inspected. It is very easy for a small problem to grow into a major outage if equipment is left untended.
- Keep a close eye on satellite antennas to be sure there has been no damage to the dish surfaces, such as cracking, warping or dirt build-up.
- Ensure that no obstructions arise in front of your antenna, such as tree growth or new building construction.
- Consistently observe the general condition of the hardware that secures the dish, including checking for rust or corrosion.
- Regularly examine visually all connections, conduits, and how the cables are secured.
- Observe weather-proofing of all joints and outside connectors for integrity.
- Consistently check the LNB at the front of the dish for damage, such as from wind, ice, birds, or bees, which can degrade the received signal.
- Regularly record and log receiver measurements such as signal level, C/N and Eb/No readings and note how they change over time.
- If you discover anomalies or abnormal readings, contact the PRSS Help Desk. We can help determine if equipment needs to be repaired or replaced.

Be sure to check with EsPRSSo each month for continued updates on the technology refresh. If you have any questions, or you'd like assistance with your station's system, please contact the PRSS Help Desk at 800.971.7677 or prsshhelp@npr.org.

What's New in the ContentDepot?

There are several new programs (both recurring and one-time-only) appearing in the ContentDepot this month. Listed below are details on a sampling of new regularly occurring programs that your listeners may enjoy:

The New Standards Holiday Special - A one-hour, one-time-only special from **American Public Media** that presents one part variety show, one part homage to the season, one part irreverent, free-wheeling spectacle.

Semper Fi, Presented by Terrible, Thanks for Asking - A one-hour, one-time-only special from **American Public Media** that tells the story of a daughter investigating the experiences in the Vietnam war of her late father.

Passage to the Middle Kingdom - Chinese Musical Traditions - A one-hour, one-time-only special from **Creative PR** that spotlights Chinese musicians who bring the sounds of an ancient art form to the western tapestry.

Left, Right and Center Presents: One Year Later - A six-week series from **PRI** that explores the issues and ideas at the heart of American's hyper-partisan cultural divides.

African American Sports Legends - A weekly, 30-minute series from the **African American Public Radio Consortium** that invites African-American professional athletes to tell their stories, challenges, triumphs and defeats.

Live Wire! Lamedusa Special - A one-hour, one-time-only special from **PRI** that features a number of top musicians discussing what motivated them to participate in Lampedusa: Concerts for Refugees tour.

Stay in Touch

We Want to Hear From You!

EsPRSS-O welcomes and encourages your questions, comments, suggestions and ideas.

- Have you or your team developed a particularly unique and/or nifty technique in operating ContentDepot?
- Are you facing any new challenges and want to get the perspective of others who might be in a similar situation?
- Are you seeing any technology or business developments on the horizon that your pubradio colleagues ought to know about?
- Got a notion on your mind that you want to share with the PRSS?

If so, don't hesitate, write in today!

Send any and all correspondence to PRSSCommunications@npr.org along with info on the best way to get in touch with you.

Stay in touch! Send your questions, comments and ideas to PRSSCommunications@npr.org. As always, the PRSS Help Desk is also available 24/7 at 800.971.7677 or email PRSSHelp@npr.org.



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