

Radio World

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USER REPORT

Record 16 Stereo, 32 Mono Streams at Once

iProFiler Uses Ethernet Connection to Axia Network Instead of Sound Cards to Deliver Audio to PC

by **Iain Grant**
Manager of Broadcast Operations
XM Canada

TORONTO Elton Trueblood said, "Faith is not belief without proof, but trust without reservation." For me Axia isn't a broadcast audio solution, it's more of a religion, offering answers, solutions and peace of mind — isn't that half the requirement?

I was sold on the Axia platform from the moment I saw it. Throughout my career I've worn many hats, including host, producer, technical producer and engineer, and I knew I was on to a solu-

tion that would benefit everyone. During our system design phase, I listened to requirements and knew that I could confidently agree to meet any build request with the combination of Axia and Pathfinder, the system's routing software.

Confidently, I should say, right up until our "audio logging" discussion.

Preparing for launch

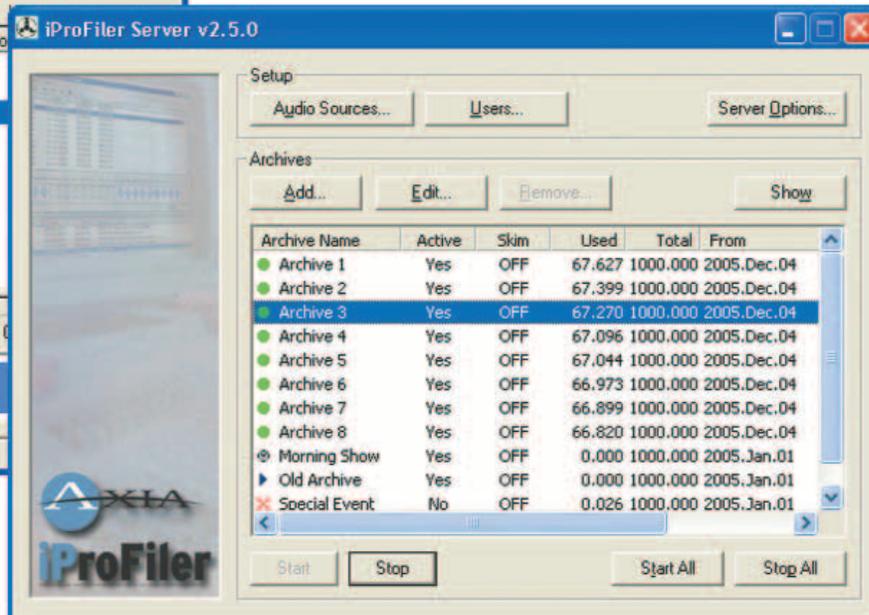
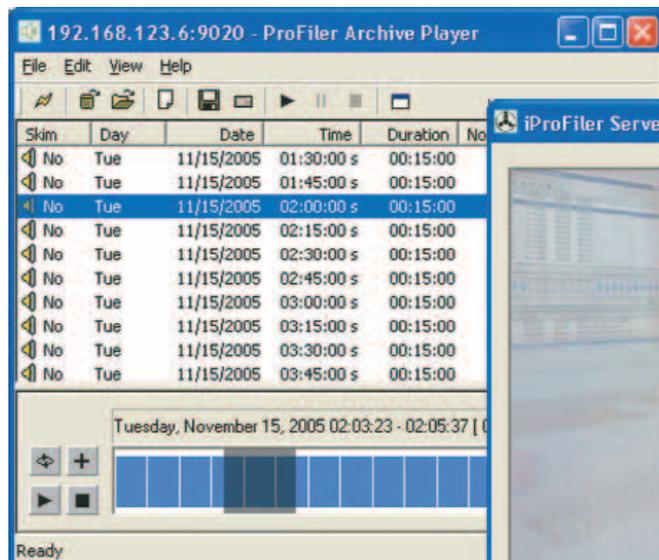
Stop me if you've heard this one before: Budgets are tight, space is at a premium, deadlines are measured in minutes, not weeks and you assumed the request made in the latest meeting was a joke and started laughing, only to realize everyone else

around the table has a straight face. Sound familiar?

As we prepared to launch XM Canada, it became apparent that satisfying our license and programming requirements would necessitate the continuous capture of at least 32 channels of audio, plus archiving them for a month or more. With most logging software able to log two or four streams of audio, I found myself considering a wall of eight or 10 PCs running multiple software copies with multiple sound cards, hard drives, wiring harnesses and more.

For our initial launch I chose Telos ProFiler. Using four streams per server I captured our eight Canadian channels on two PCs, but I needed more.

Tyler Everitt at our supplier, Pippin Technical, offered a heads-up that Axia had a project on the back burner called



iProFiler — similar to Telos ProFiler, but this product used an Ethernet connection to an Axia network instead of sound cards to deliver the audio to the computer. This allowed for 16 stereo or 32 mono streams to be recorded simultaneously.

This was exactly what I needed, and because I needed it yesterday Axia came to the table and rapidly stepped up the development process. XM prides itself on being leaders at the forefront of technology, and we quickly knew we had partnered with an infrastructure provider able to respond to unique needs and listen to customer feedback.

From the moment the software arrived it was obvious the loggers would be a production tool as well as a means of archiving. I configured three copies of the software on three PCs. Our Toronto and Montreal broadcast facilities weren't finished by the time we launched so the loggers acted as stand-alone units, three PCs, one router and 24 radios all in a corner of the building covered by a tarp. There was no real wiring involved so it all fit in a 3 foot rack unit.

From a configuration standpoint, the

software is limited only by your imagination. As well as logging our off-air channels 24/7, we also record skimmer streams from each studio. The configurable recording schedule captures streams like network newscasts, and by using the configurable GPIO on each channel you also can activate the recording with closures.

Using multiple log-in configurations, our programming and traffic department can access the time-stamped MP3 off-air audio; program directors can go through specially configured on-air skimmer streams; the newsroom can monitor various captured news broadcasts; and engineering can pinpoint on-air anomalies at a moments notice. And because the entire system is IP-based, this can all be done from the office, home or anywhere in the world.

Channel audio is stored in time-stamped MP3 blocks. The length of these blocks is user-configurable, from one minute to 24 hours, independently, for each channel. The software also will FTP files to a server for backup or distribution.

Three modes of logging are offered:

Continuous, Skimming (records only when activated) and Smart Skimming (changes bit rate when activated). The Skimming options also offer a configurable pre- and post-roll time delay feature, so you don't lose audio due to a last-minute mic activation.

Is it reliable? Our iProFiler servers have now been up and running (aside from the time spent to perform periodic free software upgrades) for 2-1/2 years. Two of my audio streams have been logging content since Jan. 1, 2006.

Axia iProFiler has become an integral tool in meeting many of XM's unique challenges. What was originally intended as a way of meeting licensing commitments has become a flexible center for program archiving that evolved into many other uses as well. Having these kinds of resources available from a company like Axia makes heading into those project meetings a lot easier.

Axia Audio's iProFiler retails for \$1,095.

For more information, contact Axia Audio at (216) 241-7225 or visit www.axiaaudio.com. 