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AD991 Stream Source

Introduction and Tutorial

for Release 2.1 of the Stream Source Product

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AD991 Stream Source Introduction and Tutorial

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Outline

- Introducing the AD991
- Operational Overview
- Tutorials
- Other Tools

Click on a section title

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Introducing the AD991

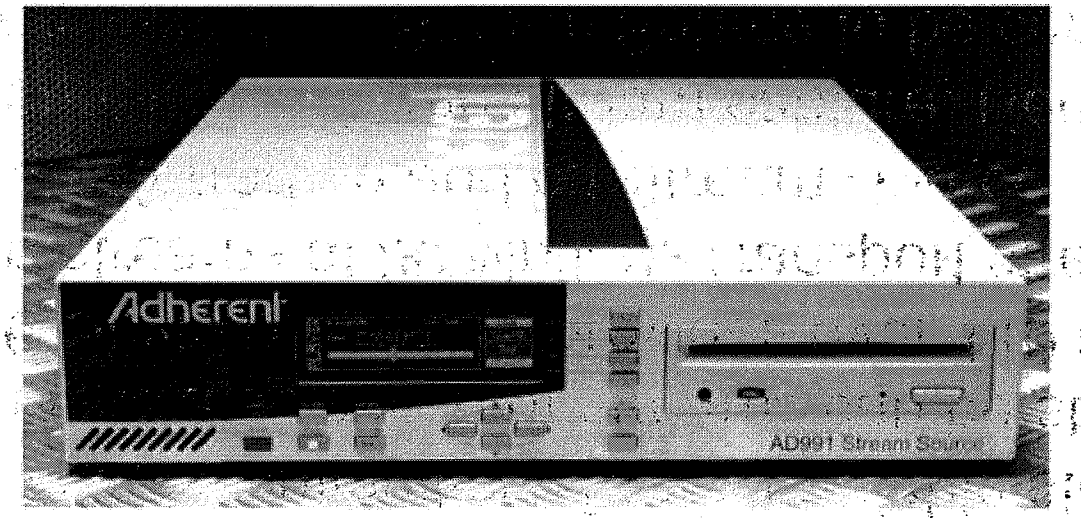
This section introduces the AD991 and provides a high level overview of its functionality

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The AD991 Stream Source



Adherent's flexible and cost effective record and playout source for compressed digital video signals

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Which means...

Stream Source provides the ability to playout transport streams within a range of applications, repeatably and without timing discontinuities. The extendable storage capacity means a selection of streams can be stored on the unit (16 Gbyte of storage provides over 110 minutes of transport streams at 20 Mbit/s). Transport streams can be easily transferred on and off Stream Source, and recording enables real time stream capture. Remote control interfaces allow Stream Source to be controlled within automated environments (such as manufacturing).

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Applications for the AD991

- Test stream playout for development and manufacturing environments
- Testing and commissioning of DVB/ATSC transmission chains
- Playout of pre-encoded transport streams
- Standby signal source for use during equipment failure

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Features of the AD991

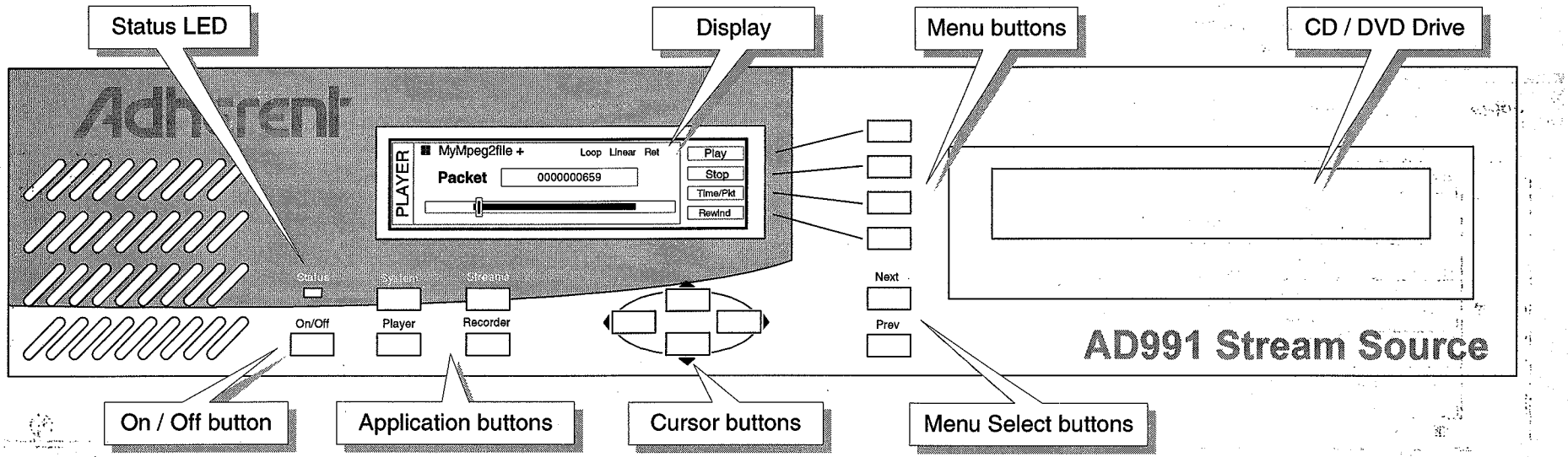
- Playout of transport streams (DVB and ATSC)
- Recording of transport streams
- Time stamp updating
- Make Seamless stream processing
- Remote control
- Scheduling application
- Off line software tools (e.g. Multiplexer)
- Range of transport stream interfaces
- Extendable storage (external SCSI)
- Ethernet 10/100baseT
- CD/DVD drive for stream input
- Rack mount unit (2U)

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Front Panel

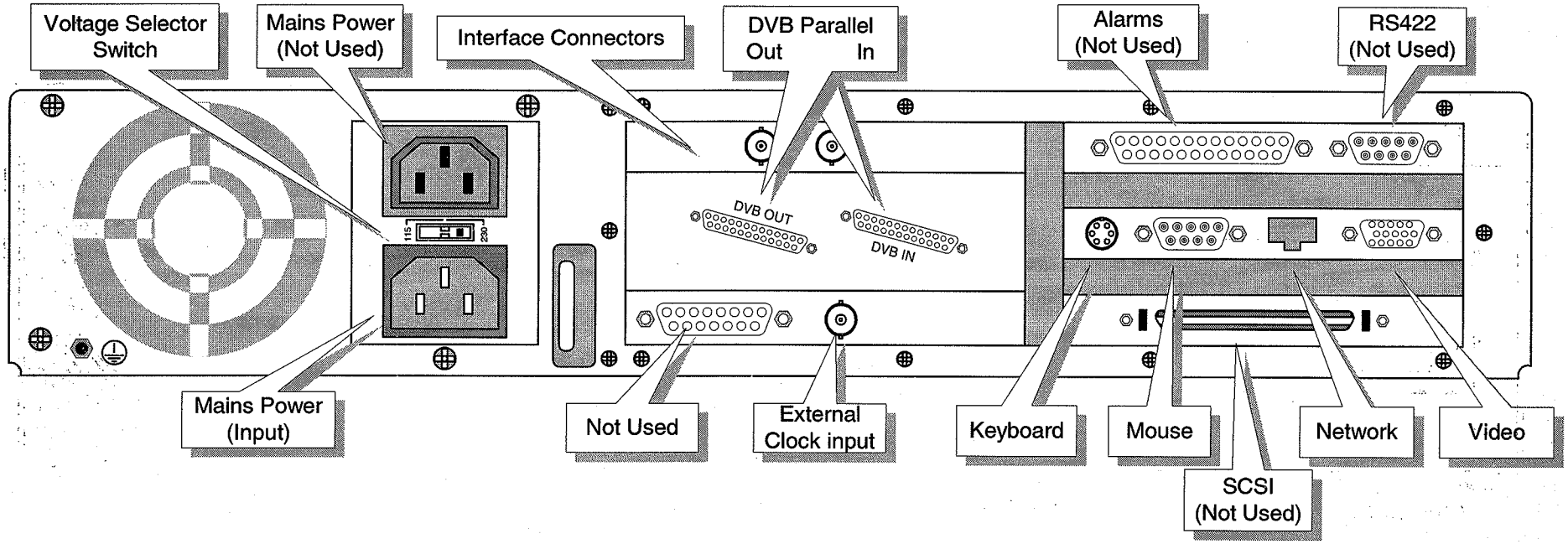


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Rear Panel



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Operational Overview

This section covers the general operation of the AD991

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Warning!

★Before using your AD991 for the first time refer to the installation section in the User Guide

★Check the voltage selector on the power supply before connecting to the mains

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Using the AD991

The main functions of the AD991 are:

- Playing out a transport stream
- Recording a transport stream
- Managing your streams
- Managing the unit

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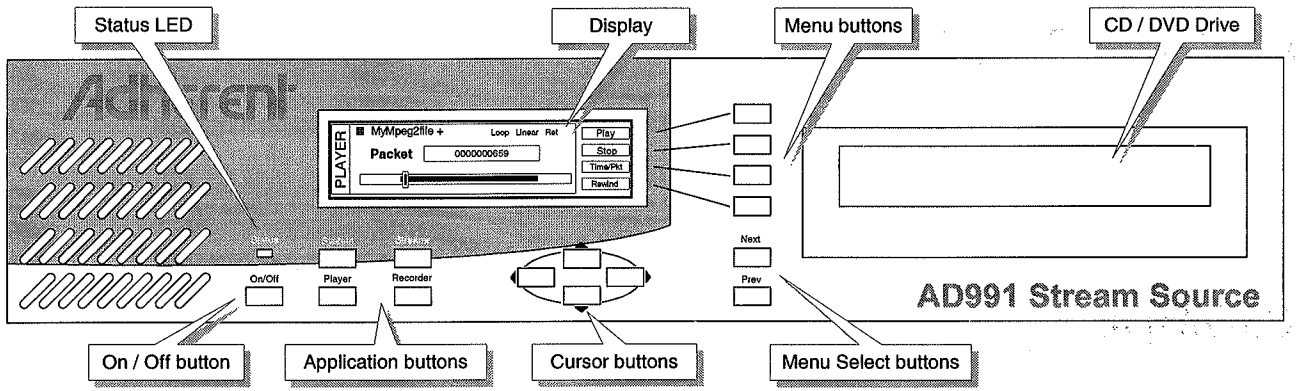
Key Concepts

- On/off button
- Applications
- Application overviews
- Modes
- Streams
- File types
- Storage
- Interfaces

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Front Panel UI



The user interface has several key areas, highlighted above.

- **Application buttons** - switch between the four main applications (Player, Recorder, Streams, System)
- **Cursor buttons** - navigate between the various fields presented on the display
- **Menu buttons** - activate the soft menu items, and scroll between different sets of menu items

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On/Off Button

- Press and release to switch on
  - Status LED will turn steady green
  - Display scrolls “Adherent AD991”
  - Player application displayed once powered up
- Press and hold for ~3 sec to switch off
  - Status LED will flash red whilst powering down
  - Display scrolls “Adherent AD991”

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Applications

There are four main applications:

- Player
- Recorder
- Streams
- System

Pressing the appropriate application button passes control of the display to that application. Note that when one application controls the display the other applications remain in the state in which they were in when they lost control of the display (e.g. renaming a file in the Streams application).

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Navigation

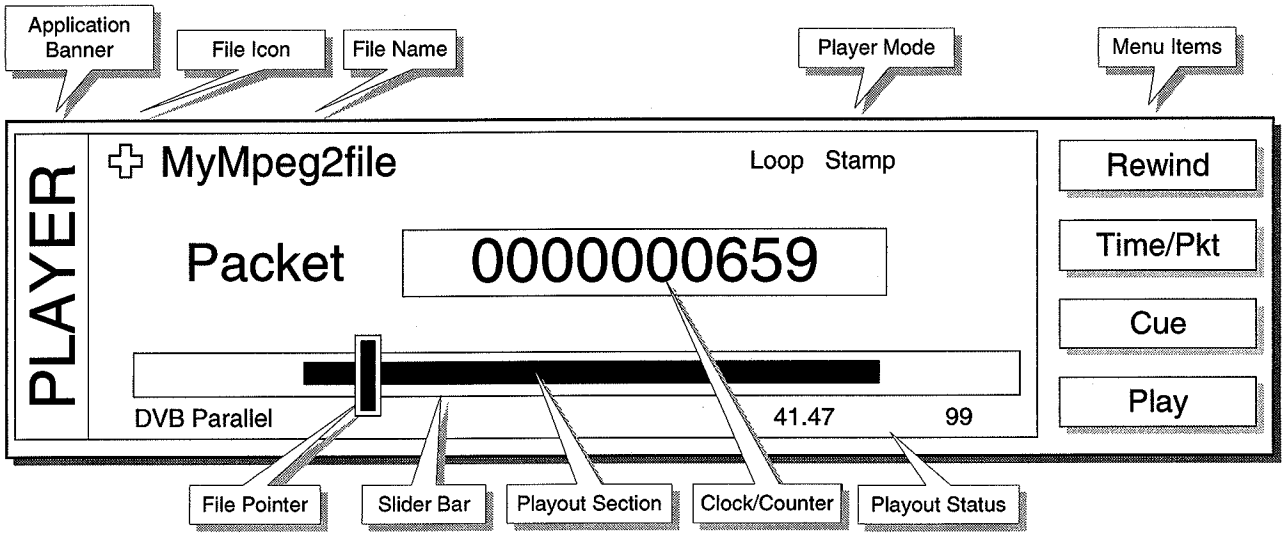
❑ Between applications:	Use the application buttons
❑ Within the display:	Use the cursor keys to move between fields and within fields
❑ Activate a menu item:	Use the associated menu button
❑ Display other menu items:	Use the 'Prev' and 'Next' keys to display other available menu items

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Player Application

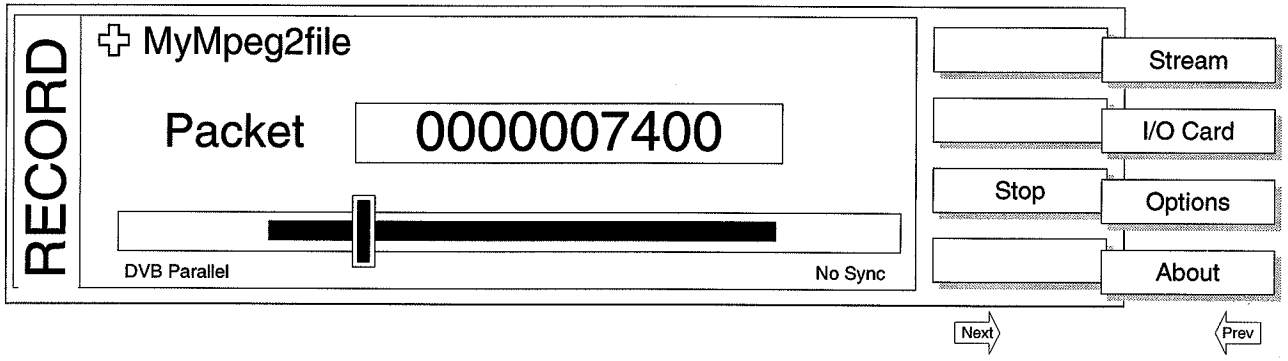


This application is used to control the playout of streams and modify player interface properties.

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Recorder Application



This application is used to control the recording of streams, to create empty streams for recording into, and to modify recorder interface properties.

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Modes

When playing or recording streams there are four modes:

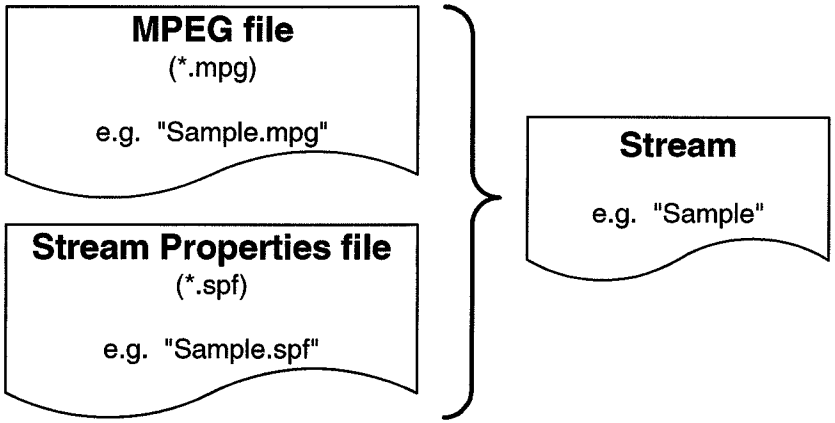
❑Idle	No stream open
❑Stream open	A stream has been selected
❑Cued	A stream has been cued up ready for playout/recording
❑Playing/Recording	A stream is playing, or being recorded

The mode is normally indicated by the state of the display (e.g. no stream name on playout/recorder means ‘idle’). The menu items available depend on the state the application is in (e.g. play menu item is only available in the player when it has a ‘stream open’ or ‘cued’).

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Streams



The AD991 maintains information about MPEG video files (MPEG files, *.mpg) that it uses. This information is stored in a properties file (Stream Properties File, *.spf). The combination of a .mpg and a .spf file is termed a “Stream” by the AD991.

Note: The AD991 will only play/record Streams (.mpg with associated .spf file).

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File Types

ICON	
	Stream (*.mpg and *.spf)
	MPEG file (*.mpg)
	Player Interface Properties (*.ipp)
	Recorder Interface Properties (*.ipr)
	Executable (*.exe)
	Folder
	Unknown file type

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Storage/Drives

- The AD991 comes with internal storage (SCSI drive). This is currently 7, 16 or 34 Gbyte.
  Sixteen Gbyte of storage provides over 110 minutes of transport streams at 20 Mbit/s.

- A SCSI port is provided, enabling external SCSI drives to attached. This could be an external RAID controller, or simply extended SCSI disk storage. Refer to the user guide for further information on this.

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Interfaces

Currently supported interfaces include:

- DVB Synchronous Parallel Interface
- Asynchronous Serial Interface (ASI)
- SMPTE 310M Serial Interface

Note: Only one interface can be supported in addition to the DVB Parallel interface. The DVB Parallel interface is always available.

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Tutorials

This section provides worked examples in operating the AD991

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Tutorials

1. Copy a transport stream onto the internal video drive
2. Playout a stream and view its properties
3. Create an empty stream, set-up the interface and record into it

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Using the Tutorials

- Try and follow the instructions provided by the tutorials
- It is suggested that you perform the tutorials in the order given
- If at any time you need help, or want further information refer to the appropriate section of the AD991 User Guide

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Copying a Stream

This tutorial covers the following:

- ❑ Start the AD991
- ❑ Create a new folder
- ❑ Locate a file on a CD/DVD disc
- ❑ Copy the file to the Video drive
- ❑ View the Stream Properties file
- ❑ Other Streams functions

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Start the AD991

- ❑ Power up the AD991 using the On/Off button.
- ❑ Wait until the Player application screen is displayed. This indicates that the unit has finished initialising.
- ❑ Press the Streams application button on the front panel to activate the Streams application. It should show the contents of the Video root folder the first time it is activated after a power up.

Create a new folder

- ❑ Press Next until the 'New Folder' menu item is available, and press the associated menu button.
- ❑ The dialog asks for a name for the folder. Use 'Value +' (or 'Value -') to choose a letter, then press ➔ to enter the next letter. Name the folder 'temp' then select the 'Ok' menu item.

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Locate a file on a CD/DVD disc

- Insert the CD into the CD/DVD drive, and wait until the "Busy" light on the drive is not continuously on (this can take approx. 10s). The supplied AD991 Installation CD should be used, as it contains a file for this purpose.
- Find the 'Drive' menu item (using the Next/Prev keys), and select it.
- Use the ↓ and ↑ keys to highlight the 'CD/DVD' drive.
- Select 'Ok'. A view of the root folder of the CD/DVD disc contents should be displayed.
- Use the cursor keys (←→↑↓) to locate the 'Client' folder, and select the 'Open' menu item to view its contents. Repeat this for the 'Tutorial' and 'Samples' folders.
- Use the cursor keys to locate the 'Sample.mpg' file that is to be copied onto the Video drive.
- If another CD is used then use the above instructions as a guide for finding the file that is to be copied.

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Copy the file to the Video drive

- Find and select the 'Copy' menu item.
- Find and select the 'Drive' menu item.
- Highlight the 'Video' drive and select 'Ok'.
- Use the cursor to navigate to the 'temp' folder created earlier.
- Find and select the 'Open' menu item to view the contents of the folder. It should display <<Empty Folder>>, as there are no files/folders within the 'temp' folder.
- Find and select the 'Paste' menu item.
- Wait until the file has been copied onto the Video drive. Note that a progress bar is displayed, and the user can cancel the operation if required.
- Once completed the 'temp' directory now has the 'Sample.mpg' file in it.
- Note that in copying the file, the Stream Properties file is automatically created. (Only when copying MPEG files 'outside' Stream Source, will Stream Property files need to be copied manually.)

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View the Stream Properties file

- Highlight the 'Sample' stream, then find and select 'Open'.
- Use the cursor keys to navigate to the 'View or edit the stream properties' option and select 'Ok'.
- The stream properties for 'Sample.mpg' are displayed. Note that read only fields are indicated by a lock symbol.
- Use the cursor keys to navigate to the 'Content standard' field. Change this field to 'DVB' using the 'Value +' menu item.
- Select 'Ok' to return to the file/folder view, and then find and select 'Close' to return to the root folder.

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Other Streams functions

- Find and select the 'Info' menu item to see how much free disk space there is on the currently selected drive (Video).
- Find and select the 'About' menu item to see the version number of the Streams application.
- Other functions include renaming files/folders, deleting files/folders.
- Refer to the AD991 User Guide for further information on the AD991 and the Streams application.

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Playing a Stream

This tutorial covers the following:

- ❑ Start the AD991
- ❑ Open a stream
- ❑ View the Stream Properties file
- ❑ Modify player interface properties
- ❑ Modify player parameters/options
- ❑ Play the stream
- ❑ Other Player functions

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Start the AD991

- ❑ Power up the AD991 using the On/Off button.
- ❑ Wait until the Player application screen is displayed. This indicates that the unit has finished initialising.

Open a stream

- ❑ Press Next until the 'Open' menu item is available, and press the associated menu button.
- ❑ Use the cursor keys (←→↑↓) to locate the 'Test Streams' folder, and find and select the 'Open' menu item to view the contents of the folder.
- ❑ Use the cursor keys to locate the 'Sym1' stream (indicated by the Stream icon ✣).
- ❑ Find and select the 'Open' menu item.
- ❑ The Player application now has this stream opened, as indicated by the name of the stream in the top left corner.

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View the Stream Properties file

- Find and select the 'Stream' menu item.
- The stream properties for 'Sym1.mpg' are displayed. Note that read only fields are indicated by a lock symbol.
- Use the cursor keys to navigate through the various fields.
- Select 'Ok' to return to the Player application.
- Note that if any of the stream properties needed changing (such as the content standard or mark start/end) they could be modified at this stage.

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Modify player interface properties

- Find and select the 'I/O Card' menu item.
- Find and select the 'Open' menu item (press Next to get to it).
- Use the cursor keys to locate the 'Default' player interface properties file ( ), and select 'Open'. Note that the 'Settings file name' field is now set to 'Video:\Default.ipp'.
- Find and select the 'Change' menu item to change the 'Available interfaces' field. Change it until it says 'DVB Parallel'.
- Find and select the 'Settings' menu item to view/edit the settings for this interface.
- Use the cursor keys to navigate to the 'Clock settings' field and use 'Value +' to change it to 'From Source'. Note that the 'Manual bitrate' field is now marked as read only.
- Navigate to the 'Playout bitrate' field. This bitrate is read only, and is based on the PCRs from the source file and the packet size selected.
- Find and select 'Ok', and then 'Ok' again to return to the Player application screen.

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Modify player parameters/options

- ❑ Find and select the 'Loop' menu item. This toggles the looped playout of the stream. Note that a 'Loop' indicator is displayed on the Player display. Leave the loop indicator on.
- ❑ Find and select the 'Stamp' menu item. This opens a dialog with the various continuous time stamping options. Set each option to 'Yes' using the cursor keys and the 'Value +' menu item. Select 'Ok' when finished.

Play the stream

- ❑ Find and select the 'Play' menu item.
- ❑ Note that the stream starts playing out, and the progress bar and time/packet indicators are updated. The playout bitrate is also displayed.
- ❑ Find and select the 'Time/Pkt' menu item. This toggles the progress display units.
- ❑ Find and select 'Stop' to end the playout of the stream.
- ❑ Find and select 'Rewind' if you wish to start playing from the start of the stream rather than the point at which you stopped.

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Other Player functions

- A sub-section of a stream can be played out using the mark start and mark end markers.
- Different sets of player interface properties can be saved to files for later recall.
- There are options for automatically saving the interface settings on exit, and automatically playing a file after initialisation.
- Refer to the AD991 User Guide for further information on the AD991 and the Player application.

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Recording a Stream

This tutorial covers the following:

- ❑ Preparation
- ❑ Start the AD991
- ❑ Create an empty stream
- ❑ Open the stream for recording
- ❑ View the Stream Properties file
- ❑ Modify recorder interface properties
- ❑ Record the stream
- ❑ Other Recorder functions

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Preparation

- Before a recording can be made a suitable transport stream must be connected to the DVB parallel input or to the input of the fitted interface card. This tutorial assumes a suitable transport stream input is available.

Start the AD991

- Power up the AD991 using the On/Off button.
- Wait until the Player application screen is displayed. This indicates that the unit has finished initialising.
- Press the Recorder application button on the front panel to activate the Recorder application.

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Create an empty stream

- Press Next until the 'New File' menu item is available, and press the associated menu button.
- A 'New stream properties' dialog is displayed. Before an empty stream can be created the AD991 needs to know some information.
- Use the cursor keys (←→↑↓) to highlight the 'File name' field. Use 'Value +' (or 'Value -') to choose a letter, then press → to enter the next letter. Name the file 'rec'.
- Highlight the 'Folder' field. Select 'Value +' to change the target folder.
- Use the cursor keys to navigate to the 'temp' folder (created in the first tutorial), and select the 'Open' menu item to view its contents. Select 'Ok' to return to the 'New stream properties' dialog.
- Highlight the 'Packet size' field, and select 'Value +' to change the packet size to that used by the transport stream to be recorded.
- Highlight the 'No. of packets' field, and use the cursors and 'Value +' and 'Value -' menu items to change enter the desired number of packets to be recorded.
- Note the read only 'File size' and 'Disk space' fields.

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Create an empty stream (continued)

- Select the 'Ok' menu item to create the empty stream.
- The display indicates the progress through the process of allocating and initialising the stream. Once completed the Recorder application is displayed.

Open the stream for recording

- Find and select the 'Open' menu item.
- Use the cursor keys to navigate to the 'temp' folder, and select the 'Open' menu item to view its contents.
- Navigate to the 'rec' stream, and select 'Open'.

View the Stream Properties file

- Find and select the 'Stream' menu item.
- The stream properties for 'rec.mpg' are displayed.
- Use the cursor keys to navigate through and view the various fields.
- Select 'Ok' to return to the Recorder application.

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Modify recorder interface properties

- Find and select the 'I/O Card' menu item.
- Find and select the 'Open' menu item (press Next to get to it).
- Use the cursor keys to locate the 'Default' recorder interface properties file ( ), and select 'Open'. Note that the 'Settings file name' field is now set to 'Video:\Default.ipr'.
- Find and select the 'Change' menu item to change the 'Available interfaces' field. Change it until it is set to the approriate interface for the recording that is about to be made (e.g. 'DVB Parallel').
- Find and select the 'Settings' menu item to view/edit the settings for this interface.
- Use the cursor keys to navigate through the fields and make any changes required for the interface that is being used.
- Find and select 'Ok', and then 'Ok' again to return to the Recorder application screen.

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Record the stream

- Find and select the 'Record' menu item.
- The recording starts, and the progress bar and packet indicators are updated.
- Note that if no valid transport stream is detected a 'No sync' indicator will be displayed. This could be caused by the input not being connected, being connected to the wrong interface, or being an invalid transport stream.
- Find and select 'Stop' to end the recording of the stream.
- Note that partial recordings are possible. The portion of the file recorded is stored in the recorded packets field within the stream properties file.
- Find and select 'Close'. The stream must be closed before it can be used by other applications such as the Player.

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Other Recorder functions

- Different sets of recorder interface properties can be saved to files for later recall.
- There are options, such as an option to automatically saving the interface settings on exit.
- Refer to the AD991 User Guide for further information on the AD991 and the Recorder application.

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Other Tools

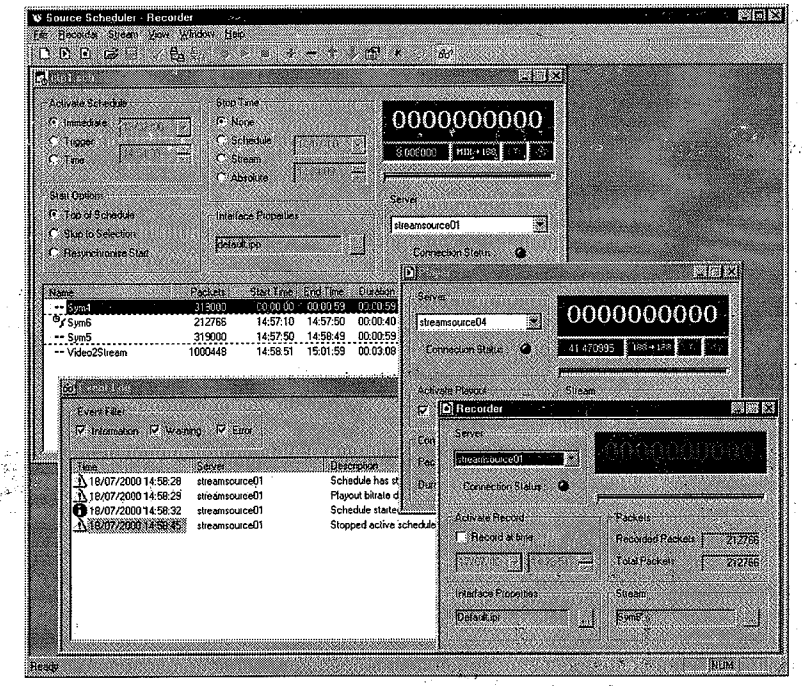
This section covers the other tools/options available with the AD991

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Source Scheduler

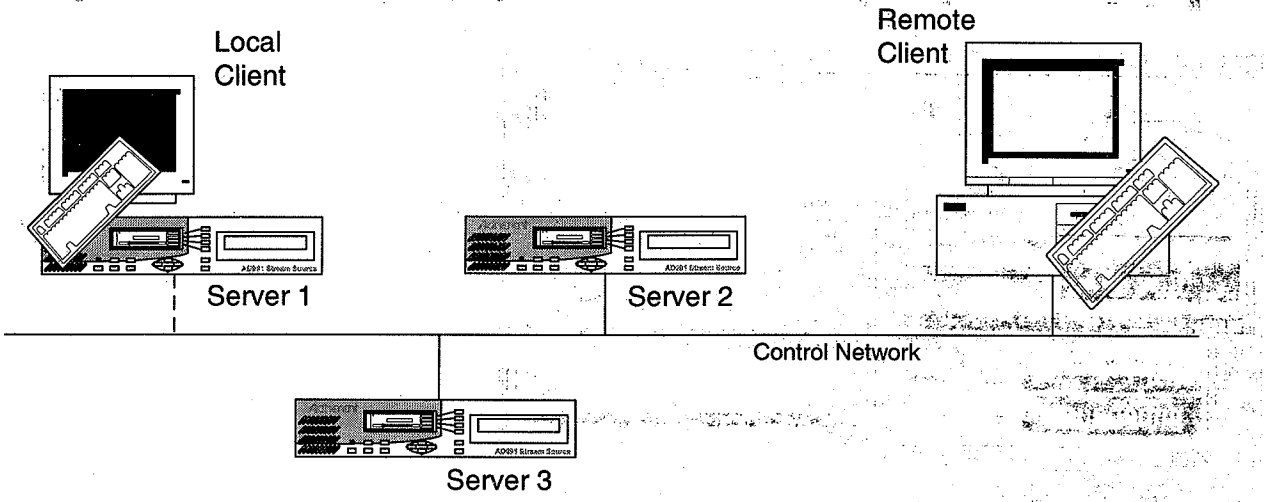


Source Scheduler is an application which enables remote and scheduled control of an AD991. Refer to the Source Scheduler user guide for more information.

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Remote Control Architecture



The Scheduler can control an AD991 in several ways:

- Local client - running on the AD991
- Remote client - running on another PC and controlling the AD991 over an Ethernet network

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Other AD991 Tools

Other tools available with the AD991:

- Multiplexer - editing and building transport streams.
- TS Packet Editor - editing transport stream packets.
- Make Seamless - processing files for subsequent looped playout.
- BSD Multiplexer - editing and building ISDB transport streams.
- Other tools such as Stream Maker and Stream Cutter for creating and trimming transport streams.

Note: The above software tools are available for use on a separate PC (dongle protected).

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Other Adherent Equipment

Other equipment available from Adherent:

- AD953-II Stream Station II - MPEG-2 protocol analysis
- AD951-II Stream Player II - Transport stream playout/record
- SV/AT970 Stream View - Real time transport stream monitor
- SV/AT975 Stream Manager - Remote control for Stream View
- AD954 Stream Grabber - Portable transport stream capture and analysis
- AD992 SlipStream - Transport stream time shifting server

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Need further information?

Refer to the User Guide

or

Contact your local Agent or Adherent

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